

Public Comments for East Wing Modernization Project

Total comments: 165

February 27, 2026

Name: Lisa Nemeth

Date: February 27, 2026 12:22:19 am

We all know that this is just another way for trump to destroy our culture and remnants of history just to 'remake it' with his name stamped on it as if he made any contributions. The money going towards this so called 'modernization project' could go to causes that actually matter, like education or healthcare or infrastructure. But instead, trump wants to waste taxpayer money on pointless projects because his ego is so fragile that if he's not praised, he's throwing tantrums online.

Name: Susan August

Date: February 27, 2026 12:49:06 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Michael Kertok

Date: February 27, 2026 12:52:41 am

I fully support President Trump's Big Beautiful Ballroom

Name: Karin McGaughey

Date: February 27, 2026 1:07:33 am

Dear Sirs-

This prospective plan for the East Wing Ballroom is much more suited to a second rate Las Vegas hotel than to the White House. It is vastly out of scale with the existing White House. It's tacky. It's trashy. It is the product of an imagination that has no knowledge of classical proportions. It's disrespectful to the history of our capitol. The White House is part of our history, not meant for the aggrandizement of one person.

Name: Loretta Vavrick

Date: February 27, 2026 1:23:54 am

Dear Committee Members,

Please stop all construction for the east wing of the White House. There is no need for a huge ballroom that stands out more than the actual White House.

Please protect the integrity of the White House grounds and don't allow the administration to build monuments for the current president. It was heartbreaking when the east wing was torn down. I would personally like it rebuilt the way it was before President Trump decided to demolish it to create his ballroom. I oppose the modernization of the east wing of the White House. Please don't let this travesty to continue to move forward, instead protect the historical integrity of the White House and its grounds.

Sincerely,
Loretta Vavrick

Name: Jennifer Prats

Date: February 27, 2026 5:42:12 am

I am submitting my comments to convey that I do not support the East Wing Modernization Project. The White House is the building for the American people, not just the person who resides in it. This national treasure and symbol of democracy was demolished at a whim, without the input of the American people. It should be restored to its former glory. The modernization of a ballroom seems a completely unnecessary expense to the American taxpayer since the average American taxpayer does not have access to this resource.

Name: Grace Morsberger

Date: February 27, 2026 5:58:33 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this proposed ballroom project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Courtney Schreiner

Date: February 27, 2026 7:00:22 am

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the ongoing construction of a new ballroom and the associated demolition of the historic East Wing of the White House. As a citizen concerned with the preservation of American heritage, I believe this project violates the public trust and bypasses essential federal oversight.

The East Wing, standing since 1942, is a critical part of our national history, acting as a workspace for the First Lady and a site of national memory. Replacing this structure without appropriate, transparent public review—and utilizing private funding—creates the appearance of undue influence and undermines the integrity of the "People's House".

I urge you to:

Immediately pause all construction activities on the East Wing.

Ensure full transparency regarding the sources of funding, as reported in various accounts.

Comply with the National Historic Preservation Act and allow for full, independent review by the National Capital Planning Commission.

Name: Anne Flounders

Date: February 27, 2026 7:05:44 am

The East Wing of the White House must be restored to its original design and intent. The current administration was absolutely in the wrong to destroy this historic structure without going through proper channels and permissions and must therefore be held accountable. A ballroom is not in keeping with the intent of the White House and calls to mind wealth and privilege rather than a "people's house" — which is what the White House is (or was, and should be again).

Name: George Hewlett

Date: February 27, 2026 7:12:05 am

I don't believe that any new structure on the White House grounds should be larger than the White House itself. The president's position is not to enjoy to "all ends" as he or she serves their term in that position. This idea for a grand oversized, "biggy" menu style ballroom is out of character of the American people. A billionaire's fantasy like needing to experience outer space personally. Why is this impractical thrill, that would overwhelm the symmetry that evolved there over time being approved by anyone with a sense of respect for our past and appreciation for that beauty?

Name: Julie Gardner

Date: February 27, 2026 7:39:19 am

I am writing to submit a formal public comment in opposition to the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House.

The White House is not only a functioning government building, but a nationally and internationally significant historic site. Its architectural scale, landscape setting, and historical integrity are central to its meaning and symbolism. A ballroom of this magnitude would represent a substantial and irreversible alteration to the character of the complex, undermining the carefully balanced proportions and historic context that have been preserved for generations.

Such a large addition raises serious concerns regarding historic preservation, visual impact, security complexity, and long-term precedent. Once the scale of the White House is fundamentally expanded for non-essential purposes, it becomes difficult to justify limits on future alterations. Preservation standards exist precisely to prevent this type of incremental erosion of historic sites.

Moreover, there are already numerous appropriate venues in Washington, D.C. capable of hosting large ceremonial events without compromising the integrity of one of the nation's most important landmarks. Functional convenience does not outweigh the responsibility to steward irreplaceable public heritage.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the responsible authorities to reject the proposed ballroom addition and to pursue alternatives that preserve the historic character, scale, and dignity of the White House for future generations.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Name: Donna Weinstock

Date: February 27, 2026 8:09:09 am

It is a disgrace that history has been dismantled by tearing down the east wing without any permission or feedback . In its place will be a gigantic monstrosity that looms larger and taller than the White House and will be the gaudy, gilded vision of one man's vision and no longer representative of the people's house. Do not allow this this illegal eyesore will be an affront to America for centuries to come

Name: Carol McKeen

Date: February 27, 2026 8:18:07 am

I am writing to ask that the NCPC reject the current proposed architectural plan for the East Wing construction and require assessment of alternatives that would better balance the size and design of the addition relative to the current building and retain the integrity of classical principles and L'Enfant's, Hoban's and Olmstead's designs for the White House. I support the National Trust for Historic Preservation's suggestions as set forth in their February 23 comment to the NCPC. There is no reason for unusable structures (South Portico), above-ground service areas (kitchen) and spaces that are oversized relative to architectural standards. All of these can be modified to result in a smaller, but still impressive building that would not overshadow the people's house - a house that has been the most important home in our nation, and with the Capitol, the most recognizable symbol of our history and heritage for centuries.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for the important work you do. I do believe this is the most important, critical building project to take place in Washington D.C. in decades and we, the people, fervently hope you get it right.

Name: Laura Schlachtmeyer

Date: February 27, 2026 8:19:59 am

The presidency is not a reward for work done. It is an assignment to serve the people.

A ballroom by definition is for pleasure and entertainment. Every minute spent in a ballroom is a minute not working for the people.

At a time when executive branch agencies are being stripped down to their bare statutory functions, it is inappropriate for the head of the executive branch to install a facility that does not support its responsibilities as spelled out in the law.

I propose leaving the detritus of the east wing exactly as it is for a term of 10 years, as a monument to the ugliness of impulsiveness, entitlement, and contempt for due process.

Name: Danielle Bizzarro

Date: February 27, 2026 8:31:29 am

I oppose the spending \$300 million on the East Wing Modernization project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review—as required by law. It is not a modernization project but rather a destruction of property belonging to the American people as well as an erasure of American history. I wholeheartedly want this project canceled, and strongly support rebuilding and restoring the East Wing to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without thwarting and penalizing all those who broke the law would be an affront to all American citizens who respect American democracy and abide by the law every day of their lives.

Name: Mary Fairgrieve

Date: February 27, 2026 8:39:38 am

The People's White House deserves to be kept as planned by our first President George Washington. The ballroom is too large and creates a very unbalanced piece of architecture that does not serve the people of our country. If it must be added, it must conform to the size and height of the main White House. The landscaping cannot be disturbed due to its original design by Olmsted. History matters and we cannot allow one man's dreams overrule our history of the look and feel of the People's House.

Name: Holly Cory

Date: February 27, 2026 8:53:12 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project, but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project cancelled and the East Wing restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go forward without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Nancy Maddox

Date: February 27, 2026 9:09:15 am

The destruction of our country's presidential building has proceeded without regard for US laws and regulations, without regard for US history, and without input from the US public and subject matter experts (such as architects or historians). Please make it stop. And please restore what was lost.

Name: Anne Brock

Date: February 27, 2026 9:13:14 am

The East Wing did not need to be knocked down. Any modernization needed could have been done in the existing structure. Since it has been, it should be replaced with a building like the one that was already there, not the monstrosity the president has in mind.

Name: RJ Thorne-Spellman

Date: February 27, 2026 9:14:02 am

Most tacky, gawd-awful, ridiculous undertaking I've ever seen in the 35 years that I've had the utmost displeasure of

being alive. That ballroom needs to be shoved as far up Donald Trump's ASS as his and his cronies' heads are. Are they going to hang a 10' tall portrait of Jeffrey Epstein in it also?

Name: Kate Washton

Date: February 27, 2026 9:14:14 am

This project is an abomination and should not be allowed to go forward.

Name: C D

Date: February 27, 2026 9:18:07 am

The destruction of the East Wing is an atrocity and never should have happened. Any design going forward should replicate the White House architecture, not overwhelm the existing structure, and be dedicated to the welcoming of and use for all Americans, and not be built for personal pleasure and glorification of the President and his cronies.

Name: Mary Rust

Date: February 27, 2026 9:19:06 am

I strongly oppose spending \$300 million on this project which was initiated without proper authorization, permits or design review.

It is not a modernization project but rather a vanity project as well as a complete razing of our history. I want this project cancelled and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design.

Name: Kathleen Bizzarro

Date: February 27, 2026 9:20:05 am

The destruction of a historically important monument for the personal use of a temporary resident without obtaining legal permission or documentation is an insult to the American people. Future generations deserve better than a guided age ballroom.

Name: Joseph Baker

Date: February 27, 2026 9:21:17 am

Retire the lawsuit against the President immediately. There's no doubt the ballroom will be anything other than splendid. You people in DC would strain on a gnat and swallow a camel.

Name: Margaret Bridges

Date: February 27, 2026 9:23:44 am

I personally think Trump should have gotten permission before tearing down the East Wing of the White House. We do not need a huge ballroom, and I will only believe that the taxpayers won't pay for it when I see it being paid for by private sources. I think this is a loss of historic proportion. There should be a penalty for this unapproved action.

Name: Lou Benson

Date: February 27, 2026 9:24:19 am

I am writing to ask that the NCPC reject the current proposed architectural plan for the East Wing construction and require assessment of alternatives that would better balance the size and design of the addition relative to the current building and retain the integrity of classical principles and L'Enfant's, Hoban's and Olmstead's designs for the White House. I support the National Trust for Historic Preservation's suggestions as set forth in their February 23 comment to the NCPC. There is no reason for unusable structures (South Portico), above-ground service areas (kitchen) and spaces that are oversized relative to architectural standards. All of these can be modified to result in a smaller, but still

impressive building that would not overshadow the people's house - a house that has been the most important home in our nation, and with the Capitol, the most recognizable symbol of our history and heritage for centuries.

Thank you. Lou Benson

Name: Chris Tucker

Date: February 27, 2026 9:34:32 am

Stop the modernization of the former East Wing, but rather restore it to it's previous footprint. The people's house was bulldozed without foreknowledge much less planning commission approval. You hold the power to stand up to this authoritarian behavior. Don't miss your chance to do the right thing.

Name: Eugene Haymes

Date: February 27, 2026 9:37:17 am

Trump illegally destroyed the east wing. He should pay with his own money to undo the damage that he did. He does not own the White House. It needs to be restored the same as it was before.

Name: Susan Deihl

Date: February 27, 2026 9:41:52 am

I am writing in regards to the proposed East Wing construction. To first share about my background, I have a masters degree in historic preservation from the University of Georgia, an undergraduate degree in History and Architectural History from the University of Virginia, and I have worked in the historic preservation field at both the state government level and state nonprofit level in Massachusetts and North Carolina.

I write to implore you to reconsider the design and impact of the proposal. In all professional contexts, the design is highly inappropriate, disrespectful, distasteful, and unacceptable in its current form: the White House takes precedence as the most historically- and nationally-significant structure on the grounds, and any other proposed structures or changes to the existing architecture or gardens should not dwarf or detract from the existing building. This is Preservation 101, as all architectural professionals would agree—it is clear as a bell to see how damaging this East Wing design will be to our national (and frankly, international) landmark, for now and forever. Please do not approve this design, and please demand new downsized and architecturally-appropriate revisions to protect the American people's White House—it belongs to the people, not a singular person/president. Please make a conscious choice to land on the right side of history in this moment.

Name: kitty roedel

Date: February 27, 2026 9:44:31 am

The White House and its grounds belong to the American People. It is the People's house. Not built as a castle, but a modest capitol building. The East wing was historically used by the First Lady and as a grand entrance for functions. There is no reason nor rhyme why this out of scale new East wing should be built. It is horribly out of scale. The White House is the seat of our government. It is not a hospitality venue for grand events for thousands of people. Americans dont want or need grand buildings for events for the rich and famous or billionaires. We will never attend these events. What we do want is for the current President to respect our historic structures, not to tear them down to build an excessive "Trump" ballroom. Its not too late to stop this monstrosity! Let's rebuild the original East wing and stop the egoistic insanity of this vile man. Thanks!

Name: RUTH REEVE

Date: February 27, 2026 9:44:44 am

I am writing to express my strong resistance to the proposed White House Ballroom. I grew up in Bethesda, MD and my father worked for the Government in the Executive Office Building on the other side of the White House, The proposed Ballroom is a travesty... does not fit in with the style of the entire town and is, more importantly, not needed.

Name: Sharon Anderson

Date: February 27, 2026 9:54:52 am

I'm vehemently opposed to the ballroom construction. The unauthorized destruction of the East Wing is a crime against the nation. No president is entitled to turn the White House into a personal playground because it is public property, period, just that simple. Allowing this abuse of power would be a travesty and another giant step toward fascism.

Name: Katharine Mulcahy

Date: February 27, 2026 9:57:42 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Paula Marks

Date: February 27, 2026 9:59:25 am

I agree with Anara Guard on this ill-conceived endeavor:

"I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans."

Name: Virginia Shultz-Charette

Date: February 27, 2026 10:03:11 am

Please stop this desecration of the White House. From what I understand, there was no advance permission given to take down the East Wing. One day it was up, the next day it was torn down in order to construct a God-awful ballroom that dwarfs the White House. The tacky golden adornment in the President's office will, undoubtedly be done on a larger scale in the ballroom. We are not Versailles. The White House is the "People's House". That seems to be lost in translation. Please do not allow this gift and order the East Wing replaced as it was.

Name: Patricia Mehls

Date: February 27, 2026 10:04:26 am

This renovation should respect the primary historic importance of the original Executive Residence. The ballroom addition should be subordinate in scale to the Executive Residence.

We don't want some monstrous addition that substantially changes the original plan of the East Wing!

Stand with the National Trust for Historic Preservation guidelines!

Name: Patricia Mihalic

Date: February 27, 2026 10:05:59 am

I would like the East Wing modernization project to be modern and classy at the same time. No gaudy, gold filigree stuff. Just something that will stand the test of time and not be trendy or outdated in 1 year.

Name: Christina Seeborg

Date: February 27, 2026 10:08:26 am

Keep Trump's hands of the East Wing, and the White House as a whole! He's demolishing history!

Name: Allison Alter

Date: February 27, 2026 10:08:31 am

East Wing Modernization Project is a really fancy way of saying that Trump recklessly destroyed our history for a vanity project. Not only should this tacky ballroom not happen, but the Party preventing waste and fraud should go about restoring what Trump demolished. I'm assuming in the short-term that can't happen, but at the very least the situation shouldn't be made worse.

Name: Maura Gibney

Date: February 27, 2026 10:18:52 am

I oppose the East Wing Modernization Project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete erasure of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.
<https://www.ncpc.gov/participate/guidelines/>

Name: Leah Foster

Date: February 27, 2026 10:23:32 am

There must be an opportunity for the public to participate in the reshaping of OUR White House. Our tax dollars should not be used to fund an unnecessary and tacky project to serve the ego of a would-be king. Allow the public to meaningfully participate in the (unnecessary and illegal) redesign of the People's House.

Name: molly z schnitzius

Date: February 27, 2026 10:24:36 am

this is not your house to tear down! it's the people's house! and we do not consent!

Name: Linda Farrelly

Date: February 27, 2026 10:26:52 am

I am submitting comments which are against the current design for the East Wing Modernization project. I don't know the credentials of the architect that designed this project, but they did not consider many of the historical attributes of the White House when designing this new ballroom. The scale, balance and symmetry of the design are not aligned with the classical architecture of the White House. The ballroom is oversized to meet the 1,000 person occupancy requirement (you only need 15,000 sq. ft. , not 22,000 square ft as proposed). The symmetrical classical design of the White House would be forever undone. The axial connection of the White House to the Capital would be blocked. Even the columns proposed (Corinthian versus Ionic) are not in accordance with the historical and classical design of the White House. Remember, the White House is the People's House, not the current president's house. The current design is a dire threat to the most important House in America!

Name: Linda Straub

Date: February 27, 2026 10:27:05 am

On the 250th birthday of our country we should be CELEBRATING our history, not DEFENDING it. The uninterrupted connection between the White House and Capitol - both visual and symbolic - carries us from Washington and L'Enfant to every inauguration day in my 80-year lifetime. Please scale project to preserve our history.

Name: nancy niebur

Date: February 27, 2026 10:31:19 am

Tearing down the East Wing sickened me. I think a ballroom would be a travesty and if it is built I hope that when a new administration is in place that the people gather and tear it down board by board and load the debris onto to trucks and then dump it on the grounds of Mar-a-Lago. That would be the only cathartic way to heal from this insult. The East Wing should be rebuilt exactly as it was although what has been lost can never truly be replaced. That would be the best we can hope for. A gaudy ballroom would be not only an eyesore but a horrific reminder of what has been done to our Country by this lawless administration. It would be like if the Nazi death camps were to be glorified in that it would glorify the death of our freedom and democracy.

Name: Sally Van Duzer Fulton

Date: February 27, 2026 10:36:27 am

I have been visiting Washington DC most of my life. My best friend and I did the White House tour when we were young people. We are in our 60's now. We had our eighth grade class trip in Washington. My big brother has lived in Washington since the 70's. I have been spending time in Washington since the 60's. Every building has a rich history that means so much to many Americans. Just seeing the monuments lit up at night elicits awe.

When Donald Trump tore down the East wing, he ripped the hearts out of many Americans. Done without permission. Done without a plan.

The only real fix for this is to rebuild the East Wing. Exactly as it was. And Donald Trump should pay for it with his own money. He and his family have made almost \$4B since taking the office. I made \$12,000 from social security that same year. Should taxpayers like us foot the bill for some ridiculous ballroom? No. He tore it down, he should pay to rebuild it. Stop this maniac before he destroys another piece of history in Washington DC. First the Capitol on January 6th, then the East Wing, now the Kennedy Center. Enough is enough

Thank you for your time.

Name: Roberta Egelston

Date: February 27, 2026 10:41:34 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. It is an attempt to endorse an authoritarian rule of law with one person making all the decisions. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Suzanne Sorkin

Date: February 27, 2026 10:42:16 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Susan Bandes

Date: February 27, 2026 10:45:21 am

To retain the integrity of the design of the city, the City Beautiful movement and the White House itself, I urge you not to approve the East Wing proposal. The wing is way out of scale to the existing White House and compromises the historical and stylistically balanced design of the building. I have visited Skopje in North Macedonia, which was devastated by an earthquake in the 1980s and was rebuilt as a neoclassical city. All of the buildings are oversized, use inferior materials (wood and plaster rather than stone), with multiple columns and uncalled-for pediments. The proposed East Wing reminds me of these buildings which can only be described as "Disneyfied." A smaller, more functional building that complements rather than dominates the existing White House would be a much better approach than the gargantuan structure that is proposed.

Name: John Mix
Date: February 27, 2026 10:49:40 am

Dear Commissioners,

Like almost all Americans, I am greatly saddened by the recent wanton destruction of the East Wing. Please ensure that whatever is built in its place preserves the republican spirit of the original. That would mean, at a minimum, rejecting any grandiose, baroque design more appropriate to a royal palace. Instead, strive for the sort of elegant simplicity and dignity that our founders would have expected.

Respectfully,

John Mix

Name: Diana Julca
Date: February 27, 2026 10:57:46 am

I am submitting comments which are against the current design for the East Wing Modernization project. I don't know the credentials of the architect that designed this project, but they did not consider many of the historical attributes of the White House when designing this new ballroom. The scale, balance and symmetry of the design are not aligned with the classical architecture of the White House. The ballroom is oversized to meet the 1,000 person occupancy requirement (you only need 15,000 sq. ft. , not 22,000 square ft as proposed). The symmetrical classical design of the White House would be forever undone. The axial connection of the White House to the Capital would be blocked. Even the columns proposed (Corinthian versus Ionic) are not in accordance with the historical and classical design of the White House. Remember, the White House is the People's House, not the current president's house. The current design is a dire threat to the most important House in America!

Name: Dawn Ellis
Date: February 27, 2026 11:01:17 am

The size of this new building is completely out of balance with the White House and the West Wing. The proposed building will block historic vistas. The layout of these grounds and structures are important historic landmarks, present from the earliest days of this nation. To make such a drastic change during our 250th year celebration is a travesty. Those buildings belong to the people and substantial changes to them should not be made without considerable input and oversight. This design does not reflect the will of the people, does not respect our history as a nation, and it disregards the wishes of our Founding Fathers. Please have a more reasonable, appropriately-sized design to replace the destroyed East Wing.

Name: Marilyn rosen
Date: February 27, 2026 11:18:31 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Anne Deards
Date: February 27, 2026 11:19:35 am

The president's decision to eliminate the historic East Wing of the People's House to build a gilded monstrosity of a ballroom is unconscionable. This is not his house to destroy and I oppose this project. He is allowed to occupy this space for four years, not to take a wrecking ball to it. Respectfully, I would ask that this situation be reversed, the space restored to the traditional version and new rules established so this will not happen in the future without the required input from We the People and the legal powers that be. No one is above the law.

Name: David Fiedler

Date: February 27, 2026 11:21:40 am

As a US citizen that cares about our nation's history I am deeply concerned over how the ballroom project will impact the historic city plan as laid out by L'Enfant. The size and dimensions of the edifice will dwarf the White House and make it look like an extension of the ballroom rather than the other way around. The inaccessible, mostly decorative, portico with faux doors is irrelevant and contributes to the structure being far larger than it needs to be. The height of the building (due to overly-high ceilings) needs to be scaled down along with its overall size. The square footage per guest for 1,000 guests is significantly higher than industry norms for similar types of banquet space, giving way to a building that's more of a monstrosity than an appropriately sized space. Building this ballroom structure seems like it's a done deal given that the sitting president seems to get his way on just about everything, and the historic East Wing has already been demolished. However, this current design can't be allowed to undermine the White House, the "People's House," and/or compromise the historical integrity of and carefully designed views within the Nation's Capitol.

Name: Mark Manas

Date: February 27, 2026 11:22:00 am

It is a disgrace that this part of an iconic structure, a symbol of all The US stands for, a ballroom is not needed at all and only strokes the ego of Trump. All other construction (the arch) and other projects should not be permitted. Trump will not be satisfied until every monument bears his name. The East wing should be rebuilt and legislation past to remove any presidents from making changes to the people's property.

Name: Steve Mayman

Date: February 27, 2026 11:31:23 am

Please stop this inappropriate, unnecessary, grossly out-of-scale, and generally atrocious, project!

Steve Mayman, AIA
Principal, Ergo Architecture

Name: William Wenk

Date: February 27, 2026 11:32:42 am

I oppose the construction of the proposed new ballroom as part of East Wing Modernization without significant downsizing and other modifications to the proposed facility for the following reasons.

- 1.The proposed Ballroom is roughly 30 to 40% larger than required for the proposed capacity of 999 people, assuming a generous 1500 square feet per person.
 2. As proposed its large size will block a critical view corridor between the White House and the Capitol, an Important concept of the L'Enfant Plan for the city.
 - 3.The historic Olmsted oval of the South Lawn landscape will be significantly compromised by changing the form of the oval walkway. Downsizing the ballroom will allow the oval to be retained intact.
- I strongly urge the commission to adapt these and other modifications to honor the Classical traditions of the White House - the People's house - as one of the most important symbols of our country.
-

Name: Tristan Bassingthwaighte

Date: February 27, 2026 11:36:44 am

The East Wing was illegally torn down to begin with, and as a historical landmark, should be replaced exactly as it was. Additionally, the current price for the new "Ballroom" is a hundred times what would be reasonable; it is inconscionable that we are wasting so much money on something that should only cost ten million at most.

Name: Mary Veitch Gridley PhD
Date: February 27, 2026 11:43:29 am

It is a travesty! Now that the East Wing is destroyed, go back and start again. Make it in keeping with the existing White House and the spirit of the nation's capitol.

Name: Donna Hydorn
Date: February 27, 2026 11:46:04 am

No President owns the White House or the grounds or any of the Nation's Capital. It is Our Property and Our Government and Our Democracy and Our Country. Trump should never have been allowed to tear down the East Wing. There's a lot he should never have been allowed to do! No one has power unless people give it to him. We need to stop him. No ballroom, no arch, no statue.

Please do something while we still can.

Donna Hydorn
Retired Elementary Teacher
Grand Rapids, MI

Name: Beverly Fleming
Date: February 27, 2026 11:46:20 am

[Attachment](#)

Name: Kathryn Travers
Date: February 27, 2026 11:49:27 am

I can still remember the shock and unbelievable pain at hearing about and then actually seeing the demolition of the East Wing of the White House. All of it was done without any consideration that the public might not want their house, THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE, altered without their consent. And it was violently destroyed illegally. No planning, no permits were sought or given as I understand it.

This historical building needs to be restored back to its humble original design and not turned into a golden, glossy, obscene ballroom that reflects the wanton greed and frail ego of the nasty tyrant currently in the office of president. His residency is temporary even though he might think otherwise. And donations from billionaires and wealthy leaders of foreign governments, etc. is just another blatant gift this current president is so easily inclined toward and another slap in the face to the American People.

So, I am opposed to the proposed ballroom and want OUR East Wing back!

Thank you for giving the public a chance to comment
Sincerely,
Kathryn Travers

Name: Richard Keleher
Date: February 27, 2026 11:52:33 am

I think that this project is too big for the site and destroys the symmetrical balance of the current historic design. Please request the applicant to resubmit more appropriate plans. Thank you!

Name: Richard Foley

Date: February 27, 2026 11:54:34 am

Ask about public use for non-government group events

Get pledge that requests from civic organizations could be given firm calendar dates and times to hold their events in the WH Ballroom .

Name: Abigail Roth

Date: February 27, 2026 11:57:15 am

Thank you for considering my comments on the East Wing Modernization Project. I opposed the current plan for the new ballroom. Its massive size would dwarf the rest of the White House complex, destroying the beautiful symmetry that used to exist. It also will harm the beauty of the Treasury Building next door.

I loved walking by 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, for over a decade as part of my work commute, both because of the beauty of the building and its grounds and because of its historic character. Similarly, people from around the country and around the world visit Washington, DC, because of its beauty and history. Proceeding with the current plan will harm this experience for millions of people, replacing beauty and history with an unnecessarily oversized modern building.

While it is too late to preserve the East Wing, please ensure it is replaced with something that is appropriately scaled to the White House, which is a historic and architectural treasure.

Sincerely,

Abigail Roth
Connecticut

Name: Deniese Newman

Date: February 27, 2026 12:02:36 pm

Hello, government officials.

I hope this note finds you well!

Along with others, I am saddened by the destruction of the East Wing to build a new ballroom.

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I vote to have this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design with recommended upgrades. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Thank you for your time and efforts, your dedication.

Take Care of yourselves and of our country's projects with your best judgment and wisdom.

Deniese Newman
Columbus Ohio

Name: sabra daly

Date: February 27, 2026 12:06:11 pm

Dear Sir/Madam:

This monstrosity of a building deserves condemnation by all who love our country.

The project was illegal from the start: no approval, no reviews. No plans even, until after the demolition, which was timed to be a retaliation against public protest.

If we are lucky enough as a country to survive this assault against all our institutions and the rule of law, everything associated with this illegal regime will be destroyed.

Don't build this Monument to Pedophiles in the first place.

Thank you.

Name: Nicole Plett

Date: February 27, 2026 12:12:34 pm

Dear National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC),

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the recent demolition of the East Wing of OUR White House. I am also strongly opposed to the proposed scale and design of a new ballroom addition.

First and foremost, the White House belongs to the American public, not our current President. The White House is a National Historic Landmark and a National Park, owned by the American people and home to our presidents since 1800. It is we the people who should determine any and all changes to this vital part of our national heritage.

Legally speaking, public review is also required under federal law. All proposed remodelling must undergo review by the NCPC and the Commission of Fine Arts. It must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and receive congressional approval.

The scale of the proposed addition is completely unacceptable. This proposed 90,000 square foot addition would actually dwarf the 55,000-square-foot Executive Residence.

Notwithstanding our current President's disregard for the judicial and legislative branches of government, the American people deserve an opportunity to provide their input and determine what changes are made to OUR White House.

Yours sincerely,

Nicole Plett

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Name: Nathan Knecht

Date: February 27, 2026 12:17:54 pm

Cheeky title 'east wing modernization project'. The president is elected by the American people and the White House belongs to the American people. As an architect who works daily with planning & building departments, review boards and inspection services it is incomprehensible to me that any demolition of the White House went forward without proper review and approvals. No one likes for their project to be delayed while following the proper channels but this is exactly why we have rules in place, so some rich, entitled and totally selfish human being can't do whatever the hell they want to do. I work with those people on a regular basis and there are plenty of times I'm glad to see the safety rails in place to stop their insatiable appetites born out of years of privilege and getting whatever they want. They are asking for forgiveness rather than permission and it should not be given. This project should not move forward until the illegal demolition of the East Wing is fully addressed.

thank you for your consideration,

Nathan Knecht, AIA

Name: Katherine Arnold

Date: February 27, 2026 12:25:00 pm

I object to the size and scale of the ball room project plans. I do not believe it should be larger in scale than the White House or Capital Building. It should conform to the current buildings classical design in size and scale. It should also be designed so as not to obscure current views from the White House and Capital Building or interfere with Olmsted's landscape design. I vehemently object to the proposed plans.

Name: William Grayson

Date: February 27, 2026 12:25:28 pm

It is unfortunate how the destruction of the previous East Wing was conducted, and how the permitting, planning, and review for the future East Wing has been conducted up to the present time.

The plans for the East Wing replacement are not in line with environmental planning, DC planning and zoning, or historic preservation guidelines for the city. Please try again with a better plan for this critical Washington DC landmark.

Name: Marjory Keenan

Date: February 27, 2026 12:28:14 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled. No one is above the law; and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Carl J. Handman

Date: February 27, 2026 12:32:15 pm

To the NCPC,

As a Preservation Architect, I am opposed to the continuation of this project in its present form.

Over the past 50 years, numerous review procedures have been established to prevent the wanton destruction of historic buildings.

The White House (the Presidents House, plural "s", not possessive "s") is an historic building that belongs to the people of the United States, not one individual President.

None of these preservation procedures were followed prior to the demolition of the East Wing of the White House.

True, since the structural reconstruction of the White House in the late 1940's, several exterior & interior modifications have been made, the most visible being the modest "Truman Balcony". These were minor & handled according to established architectural & environmental review procedures.

None of these architectural & environmental reviews were followed prior to the demolition of the East Wing.

As an Architect I recognize that renovations, modifications, & even additions will be required to any building over a period of time.

As a Preservation Architect I believe that these projects must be handled with extreme care & architectural sensitivity.

Unfortunately, the various renderings, from the several architects credited, show that architectural care & sensitivity was not part of their design brief & process.

I am not a "Classical" architect so I will avoid the question of style & the choice of Doric, Ionic or Corinthian columns.

What I will criticize is the overwhelming architectural scale of the proposed East Wing Addition which is totally inappropriate to its relationship with the existing White House Complex.

Over the past 40+ years, many of my colleagues, when faced with a similar project, designing a major addition to an existing historic building, have chosen to go underground & put most of the "bulk" of the building below grade. The most famous example that comes to my mind is I. M. Pei's 1984-89 addition to the Louvre in Paris. There are many colleagues who might be able to compile a more complete list.

I urge you to send this proposed project go back to the "drawing board" with the mandate to respect the scale of the existing White House Complex by putting a vast majority & bulk of the building below grade.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carl J. Handman, AIA

Name: Jean Mullins

Date: February 27, 2026 12:44:24 pm

I am a voter in WV, im opposed to Trumps ballroom.

Im opposed to spending 300 million on a ballroom vanity project that did not follow the proper channels of design review, permits, or prior authorization!

This isn't a modernization project but the rating and erasure of THE PEOPLES HOUSE, and American history!

I would like the east wing rebuilt, and restored to its former design, Noone is above the law and to permit this project to proceed is an affront to all law abiding citizens in this country. Please stop this construction.

Thank you

Name: Rosemary Gillen

Date: February 27, 2026 1:06:40 pm

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,

I am absolutely against the proposed ballroom.

Here are my reasons why this project should not go forward as planned:

The ballroom building will protrude into the current sightline between the U.S. Capitol and the White House, as laid out in L'Enfant's 1791 plan for Washington DC. The symbolic visual joining of these two important buildings has been respected for over 200 years by all subsequent building in Washington, until now.

In another intrusion on the classic design of the White House, the ballroom will require the relocation of a portion of the driveway in front of the White House. The symmetry of the drive, as designed by Frederick Law Olmstead for the White House grounds, will be lost.

By all industry standards the ballroom will be about 50% larger than is required for comfortable attendance by the stated capacity of 1,000 people. The building as designed is out of size, scale, and proportion to the White House and other nearby buildings. The ballroom does not include a means to host smaller events, so it will either sit empty except for the largest events, or will host events that use a fraction of the space.

Portions of the building such as the portico, seem to have been designed for show alone. The portico will not be accessible from the ballroom itself, nor has it been designed in compliance with the ADA.

Please do not let this project move forward.

It is our house, not a single president's house. Please listen to our voices. We do not want this project as it is planned at the moment.

Name: Kathryn Hargrave

Date: February 27, 2026 1:08:02 pm

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the East Wing Modernization Project.

The White House is very personal for most Americans. It is our house. It has provided the setting for many national, international, and Presidential family occasions. I'll always remember John John playing under his father's desk, Jackie Kennedy's televised tour of the White House, and Michelle Obama's garden. Oh, and Jenna Bush Hager's sharing with the Obama girls how to slide down the banister!

Fortunately, my husband and I visited the White House in 2024 and saw the Christmas decorations and East Wing historic areas. That was really special. It's hard to imagine all of that wing gone now.

The East and West wings complemented the White House and supported the First Family. Appropriately, the dominant part of the complex was the house itself. The wings provided balance and symmetry in addition to functionality.

The NCPC provides a critically important role in preserving the beauty, spirit, and elegance of our Nation's Capital. Please do not approve the East Wing Modernization Project. The rationale for it leaves many of us puzzled. Approval would set a dangerous precedent and let our Capital fall to the whims of individuals. No single person should be allowed to make such a significant and permanent change without oversight and approval.

The proposed ballroom would completely dominate the landscape. If the case for it were made and approved, it should be built elsewhere, not overpowering the White House. Rebuilding the East Wing in the location would bring such a sigh of relief for so very many and bring back a sense of normalcy. Please do not approve the project.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hargrave

Name: Linda Thompson

Date: February 27, 2026 1:13:09 pm

I am totally opposed to the trump plan for the expansion of the White House. The fake portico, the blocked axis to the Capitol, the unbalanced proportions, the overly tall colonnade and the exorbitant cost are elements which are fueling my opposition. Not to mention the columns as presented do not match those of the White House. This is a vanity project for an uneducated man who couldn't care less about the history of the site or its meaning to the American people. Trump's plan for funding the monstrosity also has potential for graft and grift as they may be buying favors from him.

Now that the east wing is gone, something must be done to restore the functions in a balanced edifice.

Sincerely,

Linda B. Thompson

Name: Chris Harmon

Date: February 27, 2026 1:16:17 pm

I am an architect currently working in Madison Wisconsin, however I was born and raised in Takoma Park Maryland, and my father had a law firm on the 10th floor of 1275 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington D.C. from 1955 to 1965 when he died. I was 11 and 13 years old and watched the inaugural parades and funeral processions of JFK on Pennsylvania Ave from the windows of his offices that looked due West past the Willard Hotel, Pershing Park, the General Sherman Statue toward the Presidents Park on the South side of the Whitehouse. I worked as an intern architect with Keyes, Lethbridge and Condon Architects at Dupont Circle in the early 1970's. This firm worked with NCPC on numerous projects. The NCPC suggestions for reducing the scale/volume/ proportions of this new Trump Ballroom at the Whitehouse grounds are spot on. The sight lines as you move down Pennsylvania avenue from the the Capital will be preserved. The functionality of the addition will be tremendously improved per the NCPC proposal.

Has a building permit been issued? Doesn't any new building project in Washington D.C. require NCPC approval, much less a National Landmark?

I would like to attend the meeting on March 5 and testify in person but I did not see this article until yesterday.

Thanks to NCPC for their careful and considerate work on this proposal.

Chris Harmon, Architect



Name: Jack McReynolds

Date: February 27, 2026 1:17:28 pm

I strenuously object to the destruction already committed, and against any plans which have not been openly discussed and reviewed by a bipartisan committee. No approval should be given without consideration of the historical and architectural merits. Penalties should be assessed on those who assisted in the destruction of the original structure.

Name: Ann Bermingham

Date: February 27, 2026 1:17:31 pm

I am opposed to the spending of \$300 million plus on this project to turn the East Wing of the White House into a disgusting ballroom. The project was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. The proposed ballroom is out of scale with the rest of the White House. It overshadows the historic central house and the west wing. It is an abomination and an insult to the American People. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Dennis Crumbine

Date: February 27, 2026 1:19:59 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Marsha E Barnes

Date: February 27, 2026 1:22:51 pm

5002 Brookeway Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20816
February 26, 2026

Dear NCPC Commissioners:

Next Week the Commission will be asked to approve a major addition to one of our country's most iconic structures. I respectfully ask that the Commission decline to approve the current plans for a ballroom addition on the east side of the White House.

Preservation of historic structures is important to our sense of history. Additions are permitted so that they can enable historic structures to adapt and continue contributing to our country. What is proposed in the plans before you is the antithesis of historic preservation which requires additions to defer to the historic structure.

The massing and scale of the ball room structure dwarfs the White House. The height of the proposed new structure is out of proportion to the height of the historic White House. The proposed pediment exacerbates this problem. It is also wildly out of proportion with the pediments on the White House, or the much larger nineteenth century Treasury building.

The plan's inclusion of a second floor passage on the east colonnade will either remove or obscure the Palladian window, which is a prominent feature in Hoban's original design. It will also detract from the classical balance of the White House with its one story west colonnade. Further, in terms of deference to the historic structure, detail is also critical. Rather than taking its cue from the White House's sober ionic capitals and restrained window details, the new structure proposes far more ornate capitals, capricious columns, and larger windows with a more contemporary effect.

It is argued that the ballroom is needed in order to permit dinners larger than those that can be accommodated in the State Dining Room or the East Room and to avoid the substantial costs of erecting a tent on the South lawn to accommodate such an event. Yet what is being proposed is not a ballroom in which to host a State Dinner for 350, a number often found at tented dinners, but a 22,000 square foot room to accommodate 1,500. This is not a space that will be readily welcoming for smaller groups.

Foreigners often express surprise that the White House is so modest. Nothing pleases me more than to hear this. I feel it captures what was intended at our founding. We eschewed grandiose palaces in favor of a sober and dignified residence for our chief executive.

As you consider a request to seriously distort this vision, I ask that you decline to approve the plan before you.

Sincerely yours,
Marsha E. Barnes

[Attachment](#)

Name: Maraja DiFazio

Date: February 27, 2026 1:30:23 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: David Cecchi

Date: February 27, 2026 1:33:19 pm

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW
Suite 500N
Washington DC 20004

re: Executive Wing Modernization Project | NCPC File Number: 8733

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Executive Wing Modernization Project.

I request you not permit the Executive Wing Modernization Project to proceed as presented at the 8 January 2026 meeting of the NCPC.

Is there a need to host 1,000 guests frequently enough to justify a 90,000 SF structure?

If so, could the building be resized to industry standards of 10 -15 SF per person, reducing its square footage and overwhelming visual impact?

Though the White House and its grounds have been much-altered over the centuries, past changes seem to have been more historically-sympathetic than the current proposed project.

Historical disregard and shortcomings of the current plan include:

- Scale and massing out of proportion to the existing structure
- A purely decorative, non-functioning, and overwhelming south portico
- Obstruction of sight lines from the Executive Mansion to the Capitol building, in disregard of Pierre L'Enfant's original axial plan for the capital city
- Loss of symmetry, in disregard of Frederick Law Olmsted's landscape plan
- Demolition of East Room Palladian Window
- Use of decorative Corinthian order that overshadows humbler Ionic order of original structure

Please do not permit this project to proceed as presented.

I am confident the architects can modify the plans to both meet the practical needs of the modern White House and respect the visual and architectural history of the White House, its grounds, and the capital.

Respectfully submitted
David Cecchi

Name: Helen Hubbard-Davis

Date: February 27, 2026 1:38:36 pm

As a DC native, American, and current Washingtonian, I write with concerns about the following, if the plans as currently submitted are approved:

- loss of important visual and symbolic axial communication between the White House and the Capitol

-the creation of inaccessible and nonversatile spaces in the People's House-- the proposed ballroom does not appear to be ADA compatible and the ballroom itself is larger than industry standard
-the disruption of the historic classical architecture and Hoban's design
-the destruction to the landscape, grounds and pre-eminent historic Olmstead design of the South facade

It does appear that there are some modifications that would create a more balanced addition. I am deeply saddened at the thought of seeing the current plans come to fruition.

I understand that this project is especially challenging, controversial, and historic. I urge the Commission to hear the concerns of your fellow Americans and residents of the District.

Name: Jacqueline Parks

Date: February 27, 2026 1:40:40 pm

I oppose spending \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is a razing of American history. I demand that the East Wing be rebuilt and the president be held accountable for destroying public property.

Name: Katherine Beysselance-Erler

Date: February 27, 2026 1:42:40 pm

I am writing to express my concerns about the planned East Wing Ballroom design. As an engineer who has worked on many of the buildings on the National Mall, I have always treasured the design of the city and its buildings. I object to the current design of the ballroom based on its scale, its location, and issues with its functionality. It is out of proportion to the main White House building, which should be the focus of the campus. Also, it is located so that it interrupts the symbolic connection between the Capitol Building and the White House itself, which represents the importance of connection and partnership between those two branches of our government. The current design also has some large features that are apparently not well-considered and detract from other aspects of the building, like non-functioning doors and the large columns that block the views of the grounds from inside and interfere with functionality of the terrace.

All of the exterior projects I have worked on over the years, from Smithsonian buildings to the National Gallery of Art to the Washington Monument, all required extensive design reviews to assure that they were appropriate for the city. I am concerned that this design has not undergone the rigorous review that the American people deserve.

Name: Carolyn Hoeschele

Date: February 27, 2026 1:51:02 pm

It was against the law to tear down the East Wing without approval from agencies. In rebuilding it is paramount that the owners of this building have a say. This building is not owned by Trump or the Republicans.... all Americans must be given a say!!!

It must be rebuilt so it does not overshadow the White House. It must NOT be larger than the White House. It must not be built with gold all over it....that is garish, in bad taste, and very tawdy looking for a part of the White House. There should be an architectural contest to get lots of opinions and designs. This is not about one person, but must be an improvement on the usefulness of the past building. It should look modest, as it is for offices. If it is built in bad taste.... it will be torn down as soon as tRUMP is impeached.

Name: Emily Thompson

Date: February 27, 2026 1:51:51 pm

Please see the attached comments from the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Gabrielle Prandoni

Date: February 27, 2026 1:59:21 pm

I am writing to express my grave concern about the proposed addition to the East Wing of the White House that will include a Ballroom, kitchen and some other areas that are not yet assigned a function. The proposed structure is completely out of balance with the existing structure. Very simply the propose ballroom it TOO LARGE. When looking at the plan for the addition it appears that little consideration was given to the historic nature of the existing structure, the architectural period that it represents and the original placement of the Presidents residence in relationship to other government buildings. The design of the structure adds different architectural elements that will visually muddle the impression of unity that a new addition needs to bring cohesion to the overall property after construction is completed. It is most important to remember that The White House is not only the Presidents residence but the 'People's House' and should not be allowed to become the vanity project that disregards the historic nature of the property. I am very much apposed the proposed plans.

Name: Lisa Haddox

Date: February 27, 2026 2:04:42 pm

The proposed ballroom project is extremely inappropriate for the President's Park historic site.
SCALE: The proposed ballroom space dwarfs the rest of the buildings on the site and will be infrequently used. The exterior massing is imbalanced and awkward. The interior spaces are oversized, both in floor plan and section.
VIEW TO US CAPITOL: The view from the White House to the Capitol will be completely obstructed. This is both a physical and a metaphorical break between the executive branch and the congressional branch. It violates the layout of the city which was developed at the time of our country's founding.
FROM MY PERSPECTIVE: I was an architect with the National Park Service and had projects reviewed by NCPC. The reviews were thorough and rigorous, and in alignment with NCPC's role to preserve historical, cultural, and natural resources. The organization and the process have become politicized. Do not let politics determine the course of action that is in the best interest of the citizens of the United States. It should not matter whether the executive who is driving this project is a Republican or a Democrat. Think of what your response would be to a President who is an Independent. Let your conscience guide you.
Thank you.

Name: Emily Kellndorfer

Date: February 27, 2026 2:06:21 pm

I am writing to oppose spending \$300 million on the East Wing "modernization." This is a complete razing of American history and was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. The project should be cancelled and the East Wing restored as it was.

Name: Sarah Riley

Date: February 27, 2026 2:09:50 pm

I'm a citizen of CT with no stake in this, but I am concerned by the absolute disrespect our President has shown to the White House, the people's house, with his brazen and unpermitted destruction of a historic property. His vision for a Ballroom is gaudy and embarrassing, a reminder of his extremely fragile ego, and I hope we can stop any further damage.

Name: Krista Hanson

Date: February 27, 2026 2:11:59 pm

I did not support the removal of the East Wing of the White House. I do not support the large ballroom addition on the White House.

I am a teacher, writer and historian. I am a proud American. I first visited the White House when I was in 6th grade in 1982. I returned to Washington D.C. with my family in 2015 to tour historic sites and museums.

I also believe we have laws and public processes for a reason. The laws in place guide and inform the correct processes to

remodel a historic property.

We need to remember that the White House is the people's house. It belongs to all Americans. It is not the home and property of a specific president. It is a historic, shared space.

The destruction of the East Wing was wrong, illegal, and should not have happened.

The fundraising for the ballroom addition without complete oversight and accountability is wrong and likely illegal at present. However, if the project is going to be funded with donations that is certainly legitimate but it needs to be done properly with correct accountability.

The planning process needs to be done under the current legal system. It can not be done under the advisement of the president's personal friends and family. Actual, certified architects and historic preservationists need to be part of the planning process.

Now the East Wing has been removed. We can not bring it back. However, this now is an opportunity to use archaeology to help us learn more about this historic site.

Additionally, this is an opportunity to build better and build green. Use eco-friendly materials, utilize renewable heating and cooling sources, and consider using architectural salvage where necessary especially when that can include the pieces removed from the original East Wing.

****The greenest building is the one that is already built!**

Please put the history of this building and it's preservation and conservation at the top of mind during this process. This is not a house that belongs to one president for his sole wishes.

Thanks so much!
Krista Hanson

Name: raymond scott AIA

Date: February 27, 2026 2:13:37 pm

Greetings

Where do I begin?

This project was not programmed, reviewed, approved, by the agencies governing such a major project. It is a dream of the president, who took action without the proper approvals. This is the peoples house and not the Presidents who are residing there for a four-year term.

It is out of scale, funded by whom, with zero regard to proper approvals and as a nation with a huge deficit, it is ill conceived at this time.

It would be best to delay it until the proper agencies review the program and achieve a sense of scale and budget.

While an enlarged ballroom, national Trump Arc, new Kennedy Trump Center are all major program embellishments to Washington DC, our capital. The projects I have worked on for the last fifty years all require programming, planning, budgets that are approved and permits. Never have we torn a building down that we do not own. This process just has all the wrong ingredients. We need functional and well programmed spaces, not monuments to a sitting president.

Raymond L Scott AIA

Name: Mark Peterson

Date: February 27, 2026 2:25:32 pm

Modernization is not even a word.

Modernization in architecture is the adaptive reuse of historic structures. When you remove a historic structure to below grade, including it's foundation, it is no longer an adaptive reuse. All resemblance of the historic building ceases to exist. Replacing the historic structure with a 90,000 square foot golden temple is an obliteration of the past. Specifically, the need for such a temple has not been justified. The National Building Museum Great Hall fulfills this space requirement and has since the Pension Building opened in 1887. As a matter of functionality it is far more efficient for 900 people to access F Street than the White House grounds. Construct a true modernization of the former East Wing as a re-creation in

size and scale. Hold the 900 person banquets in an existing government building. Any other action is simply waste, fraud and abuse of public funds. Thirty plus years as a licensed architect backs up my position.

Thank you.

Name: Dana Mintsiveris

Date: February 27, 2026 2:31:48 pm

The proposed ballroom addition to the White House amounts to an act of architectural terrorism. As a licensed architect with 30 years of design experience, I can confidently say it is bombastic and completely out of scale within the context of the White House. And to have demolished the sacred and historic East Wing of the People's House and symbol of our democracy essentially in the dead of night for this monstrosity should be a crime against the nation. It would be a travesty of justice for the NCPC to approve the project.

Name: Robert Smith

Date: February 27, 2026 2:36:54 pm

My preference would be to restore the East Room to its former conditioning and function.

To state the obvious, the White House does not need to become an American version of the Palace of Versailles. I suspect that there would be much gold in the decorations. That would not be appropriate but would also look tacky. My question is, where did this idea come from in the first place? Are there not other parts of the White House in which to hold large meetings and banquets and such? I expect to someday see the TRUMP name plastered all over the Executive Mansion perhaps starting with this so called ballroom.

This thing is not needed and is a disgrace to the USA. Please do all you can to stop it!

Name: Luminita Serbanescu

Date: February 27, 2026 2:57:41 pm

I am an architect (retired)

Architecture is very important to me

Any addition, renovation, HAS TO RESPECT THE EXISTING BUILDING

The suggested "modernization" is out of character, out of proportion, and soulless

Also, unnecessary!

It does not speak to the viewer, does not represent the power of the institution and not merit respect, as a symbol of this powerful country!

Thank you

Luminita Serbanescu

architect

Ottawa, Canada

Name: Susan Lutzker

Date: February 27, 2026 2:59:03 pm

I have lived in Washington DC for more than 50 years, and my husband and I raised our family there. One of our daughters and her family now live in our house near the Cathedral. The city has changed dramatically since we arrived in 1971. But the beauty of its historic layout and its public architecture, including the White House, has been the constant we have always cherished. The current East Wing modernization proposal threatens this building, beautiful in its intentional and symbolic simplicity. The National Trust has put forward suggested modifications to the proposed plans that would still allow for a ballroom addition while retaining the primacy of the Executive Residence and without destroying L'Enfant's Pennsylvania Avenue Capitol to White House view or altering Olmstead's landscape plan. We urge NCPC to consider the National Trust's recommendations and work with it to arrive at a plan that will enhance rather than overwhelm this precious resource.

Name: Kelly Krick

Date: February 27, 2026 2:59:55 pm

The ballroom and associated changes negatively impact the overall aesthetic of the White House and surrounding areas. The scale of the addition is dwarfing the area. The ambition to host 1000 guests can be done with a much smaller scale than currently proposed. The profile for the overall building can be lowered by placing kitchens underground, lowering ceiling heights, and resizing the East entrance to a smaller scale. Also, "florishes" that have no useful purpose such as the south portico should be removed.

The addition should not encroach on the site line from the White House to the Capitol. This has been a day one design principle from the L'Enfant layout for DC. The new building should also maintain the oval drive and respect the views of the South Lawn. Listen to the people such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation. They have a lot of experience preserving and improving our historic spaces. As this project continues, it is my hope that design considerations of the people of the United States play into the decisions of final product.

Respectfully,
Kelly Krick

Name: Susan Uhl

Date: February 27, 2026 3:01:54 pm

I am writing to ask you to please not build anything on the site of the now destroyed East Wing of the White House. The White House belongs to me and all other American taxpayers. Mr. Trump had no right to tear it down. I can not believe there was nothing to stop this wild and ridiculous thing from happening.

Name: Dawn Drozd

Date: February 27, 2026 3:16:51 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without proper authorization, permits, or design review.

It is not a modernization project, but rather a Trump vanity project and complete desecration of American history.

While the country reels from higher prices and loss of health insurance, this president continues raise the national debt and lead corruption schemes.

I want this project cancelled and the East Wing restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go forward without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: David Mahoney

Date: February 27, 2026 3:17:52 pm

I am writing to say this ballroom project has to be stopped. The size and scale are so out of proportion to the original White House that it will be forever an eyesore and embarrassment to the nation. This project is just an ego project to one man who wants to treat the property as his personal own palace. The White House was never meant to be a palace or under control of one man. Why is he allowed to end run all the established procedures to maintain and change this historic monument? This must be stopped now and the damage that has been done somehow repaired. Sincerely David Mahoney

Name: K Chase

Date: February 27, 2026 3:18:49 pm

I support the National Trust for Historic Preservation's statement: "The White House is arguably the most evocative building in our country and a globally recognized symbol of our powerful American ideals. As the organization charged with protecting places where our history happened, the National Trust was compelled to file this case...Construction has commenced even though plans have not yet been filed with the National Capital Planning Commission as required by the National Capital Planning Act; no adequate public environmental assessment or Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); and Congress has not yet authorized

construction of the building as it is required to do when construction is proposed in any federal park in the District of Columbia (the White House sits in The White House and President's Park)...The President, in disregarding these laws, is violating the Property Clause of the Constitution, which reserves to Congress the right to dispose of and make all rules regarding property belonging to the United States.

In mid-October, the National Trust submitted a letter to the National Capital Planning Commission, the National Park Service, and the Commission of Fine Arts calling for a pause in construction until the legally mandated review processes were completed. The National Trust acknowledged the utility of a larger meeting space but raised concerns that the massing and height of the proposed new construction would overwhelm the White House itself and permanently disrupt its carefully balanced classic design, citing the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, which offer clear guidance for construction projects affecting historic properties.

Our concerns went unaddressed.

The National Trust is currently the sole plaintiff in this case and has retained Foley Hoag as outside counsel. We stand ready to assist the National Park Service, the White House, and relevant review agencies in exploring design alternatives and modifications that would accomplish the objectives of the Administration while preserving the historic integrity and symbolism of the People's House." The proposed plans for the ballroom dwarf, the iconic and historic building that has been in existence for most of the country's existence. To cheapen and make it diminutive with an overwhelming addition, clouds the symbolism of this building.

Name: Deborah Nimmons

Date: February 27, 2026 3:20:09 pm

Dear NCPC,

I write to express my concern that the proposed "East Wing Modernization project" is out-of-scale with the existing historical structure.

The proposed plan gives the addition double the square footage of the White House building and matches the White House's height. The "addition" dwarfs the original historical structure (the White House.)

This matters because the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation require that additions to historic structures be subordinate in scale and size, distinct from/not replicating the historic building, and compatible with its materials, features, and massing.

If there is a need at the White House for a gathering space for more than 200, a suitable design can be developed that does not take away from or minimize the original White House. The White House, the seat of executive power, must remain preeminent.

I ask that you do not allow this project to go ahead as proposed.

Sincerely,
Deborah Nimmons

[Attachment](#)

Name: Christie Nowak

Date: February 27, 2026 3:26:41 pm

The willful destruction on one of our national monuments without prior authorization or review is both childish and an obvious attempt by this administration to bully their way into getting what they want. To THEN cry foul when their attempt is blocked, and claim they must get their way for national security reasons is nothing more than doubling down on their bullying tactics. Adding to that, a gilded ballroom (or to call it what it truly amounts to - Trump's throne room), is not only aesthetically displeasing and unbalanced compared to the rest of the White House building, it is unnecessary. No one, except this wannabe ruler, has expressed a need for a gathering space to rival the palaces of kings and emperors. And one is not needed in this democratic republic. We are better off using our funds to aid our citizens and our planet than in building and maintaining a structure whose only purpose is to awe foreign visitors and aggrandize an egotistical leader.

Name: Linda Steward

Date: February 27, 2026 3:26:59 pm

Please re-build an East Wing to the Whitehouse as close as possible to it's original, balanced footprint. One POTUS has absolutely no right to alter The People's House to suit his quationable taste.

And please, make plans now to hold the current administration responsible contractually for the cost of removing all the gold filigree, signage, and pictures that have been plastered around The People's House. The Oval Office looks like something out of Arabian Nights. The White House is meant the reflect the seriousness of the work that is done there, and the humility of those working there and US citizens.

I also urge the Capitol Planning Commission to reject all requests for an "arch" in Washington DC. We are not trying to model the US on much older European countries.

Thank you for your serious consideration of these insults to US citizens.

Sincerely,

Linda K. Steward
Moseley, Virginia

Name: Lynda Kennedy

Date: February 27, 2026 3:37:48 pm

As previous iterations of the East Wing were designed to integrate visually with the rest of the structure, I would encourage the same approach. In the proposed designs being released the press, the new wing appears outsized and ostentatious, never a good look for a democracy which came into being to get away from kings and palaces. As part of a historical structure, creating something more in keeping with the the aesthetics and design spirit of the main building would be advisable.

Name: Keith Studlack

Date: February 27, 2026 3:38:02 pm

This Project should not be allowed and the east wing should only be restored back to its historical. So many reasons this should not be allow first on is the whole demoing of the east wing was done without congressional approval or permits. Plus is it really a good idea when so many Americans can barely afford to like and pay the bills its says of hey America sorry you can't make ends meet however look at our big beautiful ballroom so America must be great again. I dont understand why we keep letting get away with things that no one else somewhere and someone needs to let this administration Enough is enough if we stay on this path America will be everything but great.

Please someone do something

Name: Phred Mileski

Date: February 27, 2026 3:41:40 pm

I oppose the East Wing Modernization Project.

This \$400 million construction began without National Capital Planning Commission approval, without required environmental assessments, and without congressional authorization mandated by federal law for construction on federal parkland in Washington. These violations should not be rewarded with after-the-fact approval.

The funding creates unacceptable conflicts of interest. Corporations holding billions in current federal contracts with this administration are funding a construction project at the residence of the president who controls those contracts. This is not charitable giving; this is an investment in access and favorable treatment.

The White House belongs to the American people—not to any individual president. I urge the Commission to reject this proposal until full legal compliance is achieved, including congressional authorization and completed environmental assessments. No temporary occupant should possess unilateral authority to demolish historic structures without following the law.

Name: Katherine Austin

Date: February 27, 2026 3:42:23 pm

Marcel C. Acosta, Executive Director and Commissioners

I am writing to support an alternative design of the East Wing Modernization. I have reviewed submissions and commission reports. I agree that there is justification to create a larger permanent event space at the White House. I did not see a justification for the size as proposed. I am an architect with over 35 yrs in practice, a native of Alexandria VA. My father lived in Georgetown; my mother worked at the Penn. Ave. Development Corp for 24 years. I have worked in DC at three government departments. While I now live in Oregon, I have fond memories of my life in DC. I have no qualms with the historic vernacular of the design. My concerns are about scale and the obstruction of views of the White House particularly as demonstrated in the applicant materials provided. On pages A13, A14, A18, A19 and A26 the new East Wing dominates the original White House Structure. Additionally, the ellipse becomes very distorted by the length of the structure. I do not see an ADA path of travel into the new structure. By code it should be at the main entrance and be of equal quality. The staircases, while typical of DC are imposing and overly massive. I suggest reducing the length of the building by 1/3 to keep the ellipse intact. I also recommend submerging the lowest level below grade to allow Level 2 to be at grade with the south terrace. This will help to reduce the height and reduce its visual impact. By cutting it back by 1/3 it will restore the view of the White House and put the east wing more in scale. There seems to be no justification for the specific size of the building. Reducing its size by 1/3 still provides a significant permanent place for gatherings while respecting the original design of the White House and its grounds. Thank you for accepting my testimony. Respectfully, Katherine Austin, AIA, Architect

Name: Mark Landerghini

Date: February 27, 2026 3:45:22 pm

As a tax-paying U.S. citizen, I request that this huge, oversized ballroom not be built or added to the White House property. The United States of America does not need a ballroom for its future presidents. In addition, the proposal diminishes the status and stature of the White House itself. The ballroom blocks views of the White House, and overshadows the White House, the people's mansion.

Thank you for considering my request.

Name: David Hill

Date: February 27, 2026 3:54:37 pm

The East Wing project should not go forward. It is a huge waste of time and money. This is a misplaced priority for one person - the President. This project does not address any of the current pressing needs of any American. This huge amount of money could feed a lot of hungry Americans or fund a host of other items needed by US citizens. We do not need a ballroom. What perks do the contributors to this project get in return for their \$ millions?

Thank you.

Name: Richard Pabst

Date: February 27, 2026 3:55:49 pm

TO: National Capital Planning Commission

FROM: Richard Pabst

DATE: February 27, 2026

SUBJ: Invited Comments on, "East Wing Modernization Project," (aka, New White House Ballroom)

This memo requests that,

- 1) The current architectural plans for the "East Wing Modernization Project" be rejected, and
- 2) New competitive plans be developed, to reflect classical architectural principles found in the White House design (James Hoban, architect), and layout concepts embraced in P.C. L'Enfant's plan for Washington, DC and in F.L. Olmstead's plan for the White House grounds.

The proposed renderings available to the public do not reflect any of the standards noted above. They lay waste to ideas George Washington sought for our nation's capital. Thomas Jefferson supported Washington as his Secretary of State, embraced classical design principles, and expressed those same principles at his home, Monticello.

Washington, DC, today, still has a wonderful city design with accessible site lines that capture vistas found in no other American city. That was achieved by our forefathers' founding efforts and by good planning throughout the decades. We should abandon neither the process nor the principles that guided what has gone on before us, because the American people have been well served by them.

Three specific and obvious warnings follow from a review of the proposed plan:

- The massing would become seriously skewed with the 'Ball Room,' which dwarfs the people's house...the White House.
- The site line along Pennsylvania Ave. from the US Capitol to the White House would be blocked by the proposed structure.
- The overscale 'Ball Room' violates the principle of classical architectural balance in two ways: destroying the right and left layout of buildings on the White House grounds, and undoing Olmsted's symmetry in the elliptical drives.

Parties and dinners on the White House lawn are fun, though at times hampered by the elements. There are, indeed, obvious arguments why a new East Wing is needed.

By all means proceed, but authorities are strongly encouraged to toss the current plans and, instead, require that important architectural principles be faithfully included in new plans so that function and beauty prevail.

Name: Rosemary Costello

Date: February 27, 2026 3:57:44 pm

To the Members of the Commission,

I am writing to express my profound opposition to the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom expansion at the White House. This project represents an egregious departure from the historical preservation standards that have defined the Executive Residence for generations.

The current trajectory of this construction is an act of architectural and ecological hubris. The recent "decapitation" of the East Wing, characterized by the destruction of centuries-old trees gifted by past administrations, is a heartbreaking and irrevocable loss. These trees were not merely landscaping; they were living links to our history and integral components of Frederick Law Olmsted's meticulously curated landscape vision. By paving over these gardens, we are not modernizing the White House; we are stripping it of the "curvilinear grace" and dignity that Olmsted intended to provide.

The proposed ballroom—a massive, 90,000-square-foot structure—is fundamentally out of scale. It threatens to overwhelm the Executive Residence, turning a historic home into a venue that prioritizes sheer capacity over aesthetic integrity and historical context. The arrogance of this design, which ignores the delicate balance of the site, is a disservice to the American people and the legacy of the building itself.

I strongly urge you to reject this massive expansion.

Instead, I propose that the Commission demand a return to the drawing board to implement a significantly scaled-down alternative. A plan limited to a 650-guest capacity—or a similarly modest footprint—is the only way to accommodate modern requirements without destroying the architectural soul of the site. Such an approach would honor the existing sight lines, preserve the remaining historic landscape, and demonstrate a respect for the White House as a monument rather than a private event space.

We must stop this project before the damage becomes permanent. Once these trees and historic vistas are gone, they cannot be replaced. Please choose to stand on the side of historical preservation and architectural responsibility.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Costello

Name: Christy Suzuki

Date: February 27, 2026 4:00:29 pm

I oppose the East Wing ‘modernization’ project. It is being implemented illegally, will destroy the historical integrity of the White House, and this is the people’s house, not Donald Trump’s house.

Name: Ann Graham

Date: February 27, 2026 4:02:33 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is NOT a modernization project, but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go forward without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding citizens of our country!

Name: Peg Reagan

Date: February 27, 2026 4:08:33 pm

I am opposed to the proposal. It is obscene and tacky.

Name: Craig Green

Date: February 27, 2026 4:29:06 pm

I don't think this is a very good idea -- it completely dwarfs the white house itself. Not even sure the project is needed, but certainly not in such a scale. Please reject.

Name: Lisa Carlson

Date: February 27, 2026 4:29:45 pm

Simply say “NO”.

Never in our history as a nation, we have had a president willfully, spitefully, circumvent protocol, procedure, rules and laws to destroy the east wing of the White House, only to be replaced by an Imperial Ballroom. This is not in the tradition of past presidents’ intentions, actions or symbolism in remodeling or refurbishing of the east wing. In the history of additions to the east wing, it has not been an expression of malevolent, lawless, aggrandizement of a president in this country. The additions have been reasonable, thoughtful, and common sense. Done with permission. Let us also recognize that the east wing housed the First Lady’s office. Betty Ford was quoted in saying that “if the West wing is the mind of the nation, then the East wing is the heart.

Americans have sought to recognize past president’s achievements in service to the American people and democracy thru monuments. Our countries monuments are symbols of what Americans for almost 250 years have valued, honored, supported. The Washington monument is a recognition of military and presidential leadership in the American revolution, to free us from a King, to give birth to a self-governing, democratic republic, the tradition of a peaceful transfer of power. The Lincoln Memorial is a symbol of a grateful acknowledgement of President Lincolns leadership of the United States thru a bloody civil war to end slavery and prevent the cementing of an oligarchy to rule the country’s citizens. FDR’s stewardship thru the great depression, to build a nations safety net, stopping the Nazis and rebuilding Europe. Let us not forget Martin Luther King, who courageously, fought and died for equality for black Americans that was sorely overdue and moved our country forward to its promise.

None of these monuments were built by these great men during their lives. These monuments were conceived and constructed many years after their deaths. Americans recognized their consequential acts and then acted to transform that validation into to a physical expression. Notably, these monuments are in Washington D.C. and on separate grounds away from the White House, the Peoples House. These great men did not erect these monuments in their time to exalt themselves on the White House grounds.

Let us consider the name of this addition being proposed, an Imperial Ballroom. Imperial is a not-so-subtle reference to an emperor, a single supreme ruler. Imperial symbolizes a commanding quality, another way of saying dominance over the people. Imperial is directly tied to superior size, which is a deliberate physical expression of a desire to feeling better than or above others. This man wants to be a King, a Napoleon, a Pharoah and to build a physical manifestation of his

greatest fantasies.

The Peoples house and additions are not a sports stadium, a wing of a hospital, a ship, an airport or Imperial ballrooms, supported thru gifts and donations by monied individuals, business parties, corporations. Let's call those gifts and donations what they are, a bending of the knee, access to secure favors, protection from investigations, favorable rulings. You are not and cannot be blind to Donald Trump's cons, grift, actions, conceit and purpose.

Donald Trump is hoping you fold, forget, acquiesce, justify his intentions, to cast aside the meaning and traditions of building additions to the Peoples house. Like the ways if a child the President went around you to get his way. You are all grownups, adults with agency. Have the courage to call out this ballroom for what it truly represents.

Should this Imperial ballroom be approved, sanctioned by this commission, this will be a historically catastrophic choice. You will be shamed by your decisions, named in history to contributing to the erosion of democracy, tradition and meaning in our country. Complicit in approving a monument, not a remodel or refurbishment. You will have earned the hatred and malice of the American people.

Have the courage to call out this ballroom for what it truly represents to me, a vanity project to falsely claim Trumps unearned greatness and authority over me and my fellow neighbors. Please model the actions of past presidents and leaders. Act with courage to end the building of this desecration. Exercise the courageous ideals and actions that have given birth to a nation, to self-governance, ending slavery and Nazism, building a safety net for Americans, and one more time advance the inclusion of black Americans in our country.

Our White House, the People's House, has never needed an Imperial Ballroom. I want our American heart back. Simply say "No".

Name: John Horn

Date: February 27, 2026 4:38:41 pm

There is a reason for established mechanisms for public to comment on The East Wing modernization Project. The American public people are the owners; the Whitehouse belongs to the people. The people only allow resident to reside in it during their terms of office. As owners it is only just and legal that they have a say in it's development. Tenants do not normally have the right to modify, redevelopment or otherwise modify the property.

The desires, wishes and restrictions that the owners place o the temporary tenants are legal. Therefore I suggest that the tenant get their opinion, permission and assent for the East Wing modernization project.

Name: Wendy Gosselin

Date: February 27, 2026 4:39:01 pm

I'm writing to share my opposition to the East Wing "modernization" project and my support of the lawsuit filed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The ballroom project begun by our current president should have been approved by a qualified, bipartisan committee before any action was taken or money spent. The White House is "The People's House" and we should have a say in any modifications to it.

Sincerely,
Wendy J. Gosselin

Name: Rick Simon

Date: February 27, 2026 4:41:01 pm

Get out of the way and let the ballroom that almost every expresident thinks we need get done. Try working with them instead of being an speed bump, this is why the people can't stand government involvement.

Name: Donald Cuming

Date: February 27, 2026 4:45:18 pm

East Wing Modernization Project

I am submitting my comments relative to the project as follows. In summary I am very concerned with the lack of transparency, trampling of the required steps to get approval, and the size of the building.

My background is a registered Professional Engineer who had a number of positions in Department of Defense facilities in the Washington, DC area for 39 years. At a number of these positions, I was involved in the process of obtaining NCPC approvals of facilities projects of a variety of scopes. The following are the specific areas of my concern with the project's approval by the Commission:

1. There is no documentation of how the overall scope of the project was determined. How were the overall size and square footage for the project determined and how was this vetted? One major concern I have is with the massing of the project as compared to the White House itself, and with other historical structures in the area. I would think the need for the massing would be thoroughly documented and reduced as much as possible.
2. It is noted that the current east wing has been demolished, and new foundations are being constructed. These activities have been performed without any approvals and are directly connected to the overall scope of the project. What would happen if the Commission were to significantly change the scope of the project? Additionally, I understand that the Administration has refused to honor FOIA requests for copies of the ongoing construction contracts.
3. Since the East Wing was considered as part of the historical structure of the White House, why was this not vetted before demolition, and appropriate historical reviews performed?
4. It was stated that the current East Wing had serious structural issues and environmental contamination. Are there any reports or analysis of these issues that were performed by appropriate professionals, that are available for review by the Commission?
5. It was noted that asbestos and lead paint were removed as part of the demolition. Has documentation been provided to the Commission and the public that these removals were performed in accordance with current environmental requirements?

Overall, in my professional opinion this project has been seriously rushed to meet political objectives, and have ignored the documentation of many required steps, and have not provided transparency of this project. I believe that significant documentation needs to be provided to the Commission and thoroughly analyzed before approvals, especially the mass of the project. If additional time is needed, it should be taken in spite of political opposition.

Name: catherine green

Date: February 27, 2026 4:57:28 pm

Dear members of the National Capital Planning Commission

I strongly urge you to adopt the architectural plans submitted by two members of the American Institute of Architects which is designed to allow the modernization of the White House while preserving the classical design and architectural integrity of the White House and it's surrounding grounds.

The White House belongs to the American people without regard to any current occupant. Any renovation must be undertaken and understood as a gift to the American people and thus to continue our long history of commitment to egalitarian principles.

Sincerely,

Emerita Professor of Philosophy

Catherine Green

Name: Diane and George Geanuleas

Date: February 27, 2026 5:02:28 pm

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for considering comments submitted from the public regarding the proposed Ballroom Addition to the White House grounds. On this 250th Anniversary of the Founding of our Country, it is incumbent upon all of us to honor our history and consider carefully any additions or alterations to our monuments.

It seems to us that the very common tactic of an Opening Bid is operative here. In studying these plans, architects and the American public have identified what one might call "over the top" elements, inserted possibly specifically to be negotiable rather than as the final outcome before building begins.

Four examples of elements to reconsider, first: the size of the ballroom overwhelms the main structure which is the President's Residence—the White House—and is therefore eligible for design negotiation to a size in harmony with the Residence as the logical and aesthetic Centerpiece of its campus. Thus the redesigned ballroom would adhere to the principles of balance and proportion in classical architecture always employed for wings to a main structure. These

principles were originally honored and employed in the overall White House design.

A second example flows from the first: a modified design along the above lines would likely make unnecessary any alterations to the Olmsted-designed landscape, created by an architect well-known and honored in every corner of our country.

Thirdly, the design that George Washington commissioned and which was so beautifully enacted by L'Enfant included a most important element that reflected then and to this day reflects the essence of the U.S. government itself: the first branch of government Representative of the People (Constitution Article 1) was to be in direct sight line to the home of the Executive of our government, the President, since the two branches are designed to work together. This constitutional design was unique in history, a first of its kind in the history of the world. That visual and actual sight line has not been violated in these 250 years, and we submit that it would be a violation of our commitment to the Constitutional government we all cherish to violate by obstruction that symbolic direct sight line when we are only 250 years into our history. Our government has never been perfect, no city is ever perfect, and yet we are united in these States in aiming for an ever-more-perfect union, and to preserving our ideals as we also build useful structures in our chief city to serve the people and our future. This symbolism was built right into Washington D.C. and was not lost on our Founders or the people of this country.

Fourthly, while plans are being redesigned, details such as the type of column used should also be addressed. The column design employed is important so that the White House with its Ionic capitals is not overshadowed with the much more elaborate Corinthian capitals, as now proposed for the ballroom.

These four elements—size of ballroom, White House park design, sightline based on Constitutional principles, and type of capital on the columns—illustrate by example the opportunity to amend the Ballroom design while adhering to our 250 year history of respecting the original design—Originalism in Architecture, shall we say?

Many other people will offer you more specifics from their considered reflection and expertise. We offer you our sense that this opening proposal was crafted to be amendable to a downscaling and will give each side a sense of a true negotiation. This will echo the famous Compromise that took place in Philadelphia as our Constitution was crafted, and to which we implicitly urge our Representatives and whichever President holds the office at any time to continue to employ for the betterment of our Nation.

Thank you for undertaking this most serious task of evaluation of alterations to the White House campus. We urge you to employ the historical and negotiating perspectives we have highlighted, and to leave untouched the Olmsted plan for the grounds; to adhere to the L'Enfant classical design of the secondary, ancillary buildings to the White House, including Ionic capitals; and to maintain the City design elements of Washington D.C. itself. We believe these considerations will honor our present President's considered opinion that some kind of appropriate gathering space, a new ballroom, suitable for varying sizes of gatherings, is needed on the White House campus.

Most respectfully,
George and Diane Geanuleas

Name: Steven Corbett

Date: February 27, 2026 5:03:48 pm

I appreciate the opportunity to offer public comment on the proposed East Wing Modernization Project, NCPC File Number: 8733. I have carefully reviewed the proposed construction of a new White House Ballroom and wish to express my strongest opposition to the project as proposed.

Having been to the White House during my military service, I recognize the need for an expanded space for state functions. However, the proposed facility is a bloated, garish overcorrection which will harm the aesthetic appearance of the White house- the People's House- as well as impair traditional symbolism of our democratic republic. The excessive size and faux opulence of the building do not impart grandeur but rather diminish that of the White House itself. Only the White House, not any adjacent component, must be the centerpiece of The People's House and its grounds. Alternate design proposals which maintain the traditional balance between the West Wing and the Ballroom, with the White House majestically and proportionately centered, should be the only consideration for this otherwise necessary addition.

I have closely scrutinized the plans submitted the NCPC by the Executive Residence at the White House and reviewed their renderings on the White House website. I believe that the proposed structure is both dysfunctional and wasteful. Needlessly gigantic subcomponents, such as a 13,000 square foot kitchen, and garish, enormously high interior ceilings to

dwarf those of the White House itself. They are impractically oversized, apparently to needlessly inflate the bulk of the structure. Wasteful exterior false doors leading nowhere seem intended only for unneeded visual effect. The colossal front portico does not appear to provide practical access to the facility itself and appears solely intended to provide useless mass to the facility.

An important example of traditional imagery about our American Democracy would be deliberately marred by the unnecessary bulk and placement of the proposed ballroom on the White House grounds. Although he never lived in the White House, George Washington personally approved the layout and design of the original Capital District. He specifically insisted that the White House and the Capital Building be visually, and thus symbolically connected with unfettered views between the two. With any glance down Pennsylvania Avenue, our nation's Chief Executive and her elected representatives in Congress would, in perpetuity, have a visible reminder of their shared duties in governance and responsibility to the American People. As proposed, the enormous ballroom would sever this symbolic tether that joins our two democratically elected branches of government.

In closing, I again note that the White House truly needs an expanded facility for state functions, but the design thereof must maintain the proportional dignity of the White House -the People's House. Any design also must honor the tradition established by our first President, that Congress and the Presidents, whomever they may be, have an unimpeded visual reminder that they govern mutually, and only as the elected servants of the American People. This Brobdingnagian monstrosity smacks more of the tastes of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu and his wife, than of the residence of our democratically elected American Presidents.

Sincerely yours,

Steven R. Corbett COL, USA (Ret.) MS, MA

Name: Morgan Kulla

Date: February 27, 2026 5:08:16 pm

I strongly oppose the plans submitted for the Ballroom addition to the White House. I call on the NCPC to not approve.

First, demolition of the former East Wing was rushed and preemptive, intended to bypass any public scrutiny. This President has ignored the fact that the White House belongs to the American people, it is "our" house, as well as the home/office of the American President. But this President considers it his own property - Donald Trump's real estate - to do with what he pleases, when he pleases.

Second, the proposed dimensions and design are totally inappropriate. The Ballroom is out of proportion with the White House and the West wing. The symmetry and relative modesty of our White House will be destroyed. The design is offensive in scale and deception. The stairs and colonnade on the south side have no function, there is no entrance there. The doors are just squares on the wall, fake doors. The height of each level is excessive, without function. The interior space of the ball room exceeds standard needs for the proposed 1000 seated guests. Even 1000 would feel lost in a space suitable for 1500. It must be redesigned.

Third, the current plans are a betrayal of the meaning and symbolism of the White House. George Washington commissioned Pierre L'Enfant to design Washington DC. L'Enfant created several key symbolic axes. The most important symbolic axis was the physical line of sight from Capitol (as legislative branch) to White House (as executive branch). This ballroom as proposed permanently blocks this view. I am sure George Washington and Pierre L'Enfant would be horrified.

Fourth, I object to the blatant way in which this President has manipulated the approvals process. He made sure that all the members the US Commission of Fine Arts were his own appointees, who do/did his bidding. He has appointed as many as he could to your commission, the National Capitol Planning Commission.

Finally, the funding plans this Ballroom appear unethical to me. As a former civil servant, I had annual ethics trainings which included severe dollar limits on gifts from private citizens. The project is being underwritten in part by donations from corporations with business before the federal government, funneled through a nonprofit intermediary that stands to collect millions of dollars in fees. How can the funding plan be legal?

I urge you to vote no on March 5th.

Sincerely, Morgan Kulla

Name: Charlene Parris

Date: February 27, 2026 5:11:39 pm

The lack of respect for the property and tax dollars of the American people by Donald Trump and this administration is startling. I am still grieving over the demolition of the East Wing. It is telling that this president insists on building a frivolous ballroom and rubs it in our faces at the very time many Americans can't afford health care, food or shelter.

Name: Marsha Rutledge Rutledge

Date: February 27, 2026 5:16:38 pm

The ballroom is supposed to serve 1000 people. Industry standards are 15 square feet per person . That means it only needs to be 15,000 square feet. How often will there be banquets for 1000 people? No purpose has been proposed for the third floor which has 11,000 square feet of space. The ceiling height will make the room feel cavernous, as well as costing a lot to maintain a comfortable temperature. Is that temperature going to be maintained even when the room isn't in use? The kitchen is 2 1/2 times industry standards and is above grade. It could be totally underground

The original columns of the White House and Treasury Building are Ionic. The proposed Corinthian columns of the ballroom upstage the White House!

The south portico is 4000 square feet and serves NO purpose. The forty foot grand staircase doesn't lead to an entrance. The 24 columns obscure views to the outside.

The position of the building is unbalanced right to left. It blocks the view from the White House to the US Capital building. This vision exists from the time of George Washington, when he ordered Lafant to draw up plans for the capital. It also disrupts the grounds as drawn by Olmstead.

The White House is "the peoples' house". We need to respect the history!

Name: Barton Weese

Date: February 27, 2026 5:19:32 pm

I applaud David and Bill for trying to make this into a sensible project after the major damage has been done without prior authorization. The East Wing has been the office for the First Lady and her staff since 1977. This shows Trump's continuing degradation of women in power.

My personal opinion is the East Wing should be rebuilt to the original drawings, period, stop. If it was in poor condition, then it should have been repaired, not demolished. Donald Trump is not an architect like Thomas Jefferson. Is there still an underground? Franklin Roosevelt had this built as a portal to the White House from the east while discretely building an underground during wartime.

I personally am tired of this individual. I call him an individual because he is not a true man. He wants to change Washington DC in his own image to satisfy his ego. He is spending his 4 years changing 250 years of history. The picture of the second left arm of Vitruvius being larger than the rest of him is a good description of Trump's ego.

It appears no thought was given other than make it huge. It will be blocking the view of the White House. It is so big with so few exits that it will be a deathtrap if there is a fire, earthquake, bombing, or other catastrophe with 1500 people inside. Where is the ADA aspects of this monstrosity? It will be used infrequently but the taxpayers will still have to maintain heating, cooling, and cleaning.

William Seale wrote a two-volume set about how each President has contributed to the building of the White House. It is a great read. I am so glad he is not here today to see what this individual has done to the people's house. Yes, it is the people's house, not Donald Trump's house. Where is Congress on this issue?

I do not see anyone stopping this individual. Everyone on Capitol Hill is afraid of him and are more interested in keeping their job than in doing the job taxpayers are paying them to do. I do have to comment that I feel so much better just voicing my opinion. There are 180 million other voters in this country that should do the same, if not objection, then at the ballot box.

Name: Jennifer Martens

Date: February 27, 2026 5:21:21 pm

I just watched a preservation webinar on the new proposed ballroom and I think it would be a mistake to make the ballroom so large that it takes away from the White House itself and also blocks its view from Pennsylvania Avenue, or any of the four main intersecting roads. When shown a view from above the property, it is very interesting how the placement of the buildings and landscaping elements were created with purpose and I feel all of that should be preserved. I understand the need for change and perhaps needing certain White House buildings to provide new event accommodations, but I do think the proposed ballroom needs to be scaled back and not interfere with the original design and layout of the property. It is an amazing masterpiece with very specific and intentional features that need to be preserved.

Name: Jean Wolf

Date: February 27, 2026 5:22:23 pm

Attached is a comment for the NCPC members meeting on March 5, 2026.
Trusting that it will be made available in time.

Thank you.
Jean Wolf

[Attachment](#)

Name: Stephen Gaudio

Date: February 27, 2026 5:23:53 pm

This is an obscene overreach of Executive privilege and destroys an important piece of our history.
I unequivocally oppose this project!

Name: Aimee Halligan

Date: February 27, 2026 5:27:47 pm

I am submitting a comment in strong opposition to the East Wing "modernization" project. I am outraged at the illegal demolition without permits or oversight, the inappropriate scale of the project that will dwarf the White House, the violation of historic preservation principles, the lack of transparency in funding and contracting and the fundamental miscarriage of democratic principles. This project has already resulted in an irrevocable and tragic loss of history that belongs to the American people and must be stopped from proceeding any further without, at a minimum, proper permitting and oversight, and transparency and accountability to the American people.

Name: LORI MARION

Date: February 27, 2026 5:33:11 pm

The very title of the project is a lie - it's not a modernization when the building has already been torn down. It is a complete change in function paid for by taxpayer dollars to benefit only a select group of wealthy, influential individuals who will 'party in the East Wing.' It is a gross mis-use of taxpayer dollars.

Require that the 'new East wing' retain the same functions as the previous one. If that can't be done, identify where these former functions of the East Wing are being relocated to and at what cost. Stop the unilateral, dictatorial changes by one man using taxpayer funding.

And in case it's a concern to anyone as it often seems to be, I am a concerned, patriotic citizen who has a right to speak about this and I am not paid or coerced to do so.

Name: Jennifer Richman

Date: February 27, 2026 5:37:17 pm

See attached.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Gail Dapolito

Date: February 27, 2026 6:03:17 pm

No further work should be done to the WH East Wing until adherence to all the National Park and Planning Commission regs are completed. The NPPC has specific regulations for the restoration and rehabilitation of historic and government buildings. These regs must be implemented and followed

Name: Remi Tan

Date: February 27, 2026 6:09:44 pm

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

I understand the programmatic needs to have a large venue to host large events associated with the White House function. However, I am concerned, like other of the commissioners, that the new East Wing will overwhelm the historic main White House building and is out of balance with the existing smaller and shorter West Wing. Reviewing the Google 3D mapping the existing mature trees may not be adequate to screen the new East Wing building from the south lawn, as well as the north lawn areas, and the public accessible streets to the north as well. The presentations on the last NCPC meeting did not show any 3D views showing the existing trees with the proposed new building.

The first order of business should be to obtain the 3D visualizations of the building with the existing trees. If the screening is inadequate, then redesign is in order. Here are suggestions on the redesign:

The architects should consider lowering the ballroom floor level to the ground level and placing the kitchen at the basement level, with ramp down loading access from ground level as needed. The First Lady's office functions and other back of house functions not related to the ballroom and visitors entry can be moved to a new West Wing 2nd story expansion to better balance the two wings visually and create better symmetry for the entire White House complex around the existing main building.

By lowering the ballroom floor down a level will lower the height of the new East Wing by a full story, so it is a lesser height than the main White House building to better emphasize the hierarchy of the main building, while still being able to maintain a high ceiling height in the ballroom befitting a grand 1,000 person event venue space.

The connection to the East Room can still be made at that main floor level with a grand stair descending at the main foyer space down to the lowered ballroom level. ADA access can be done through a smaller version of the open style lift in the entry pyramid of the Louvre Museum or a series of ramps. so that disabled folks have a similar experience as those descending down the grand stair.

The colonnades would still be two story on each side of the main building - the east connecting the East Room to the East Wing foyer as in the current proposed scheme - and on the west connecting the main building to the First Lady's offices built over the existing West Wing executive offices.

I also would recommend the commissioners consider conditioning the new East Wing to be net zero energy, net zero carbon with a LEED Platinum or equivalent certification to show the commitment of our country to using the latest technology and design to maximize energy efficiency and creating a healthy environment for the building's occupants. This is an important issue for many of the world leaders who will be visiting the building, as well as the public.

I hope the commission considers these suggestions and add to their recommendations and to the approval conditions for the East Wing Modernization.

Thank you and Best Regards,

Remi Tan, AIA, LEED AP BD+C

Architecture, Green/Sustainability Consulting, and Real Estate Investment

Pacifica, CA
[REDACTED]

Name: Tesa Johnson Ferrell Jones
Date: February 27, 2026 6:12:28 pm

I am writing in firm and unequivocal opposition to the proposed demolition of the East Wing of the White House and the destruction of its surrounding gardens — irreplaceable landmarks that belong not to any one administration, but to the American people and to history itself.

Let's call this what it is: the unnecessary demolition of a historic national treasure to make way for a ballroom. A ballroom. In 2025. While Americans are stretching their paychecks to cover groceries, housing, and healthcare, we are expected to foot a bill of over 400 million dollars so that someone can have a fancier place to waltz. The audacity is truly breathtaking.

Ballrooms are not infrastructure. They are not national security. They are not education, healthcare, or disaster relief. They are a luxury — and a deeply outdated one at that. The notion that this expenditure is in any way justifiable, let alone a responsible use of taxpayer money, is not just wrong — it is insulting to every hardworking citizen in this country.

The gardens alone represent generations of careful cultivation, history, and beauty that once destroyed, cannot simply be replanted and called restored. History doesn't work that way. Neither does integrity.

I want to be clear: I understand and support reasonable, necessary upgrades and maintenance of the White House. It is, after all, a living, working landmark. But there is a vast and obvious difference between responsible stewardship and this — a demolition project dressed up in grandeur that serves no public interest whatsoever.

This is our house. We pay for it. We get a say in what happens to it. And what I am saying — loudly, clearly, and without apology — is: No. Not on our dime. Not with our history. Not now, not ever.

I urge all decision-makers involved to immediately halt this project and redirect any allocated funds toward the actual needs of the American public.

Name: Lora Ferraro
Date: February 27, 2026 6:21:07 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history.

The White House is a National Historic Landmark and a National Park, owned by the American people and home to presidents since 1800. The current president at any given time is not the owner of the property or the structures thereon; the president is a temporary tenant whose interventions are limited by law and by respect for the people of the United States.

The demolition of the historic East Wing without review, without permits and without Congressional oversight is clearly a violation of the law. In addition, it is a violation of the trust of the American people who were given no opportunity to comment on what should have been presented as a proposal and not as a violent fait accompli.

I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to require reconstruction of the East Wing in keeping with its historic design and size. Anything constructed on the demolition site going forward must be compatible in form and subordinate in scale to the original structure of the Executive Mansion.

Name: KIRK GASTINGER
Date: February 27, 2026 6:37:45 pm

I am a resident of a small town and also serve on a commission that reviews upcoming projects whether at a public or private institution. We have criteria to meet especially regarding public notice of schedule, changes and approval requirements.

It appears to me, as an architect with more than 50 years experience in design and historic preservation, that no good process is being followed in the white house project. The government should be the example, not the exception.

Please engage the proper stakeholders and agencies in continuing this project!

Kirk Gastinger, FAIA

Name: William Moon

Date: February 27, 2026 6:44:28 pm

It is sad that we now have a president that has little to no respect for this country's history. History is exactly what the East Wing of the White House represented. To allow one individual to determine what should occur with our nation's treasures is beyond sad. From the renderings I have been allowed to view as a tax paying citizen of the United States, it appears that the new ballroom addition will be somewhat a copy of a Middle Eastern palace of a King rather than a US Government structure within which to entertain world leaders. The gilded, ugly structure has no place in our country's capital. I have personally been visiting Washington, DC since the mid 1950s. Mr. Trump's desires to change our capital into his personal, private resort are not acceptable to me and many other taxpayers.

Name: Pamela Fox

Date: February 27, 2026 6:46:52 pm

Dear NCPC

I am a retired historic preservation consultant. I could never have imagined that an addition this large to the White House - a building of the highest national significance--could get this far without rigorous scrutiny by those charged with protecting the character of our nation's capital. I am hoping that the NCPP will provide this scrutiny and put the breaks on this project.

I don't understand why this is called the East Wing Modernization Project: it is a completely new structure that will drastically change the appearance of the White House and surrounding area in the following ways:

- 1) The proposed East Wing is completely out of proportion for the site. The scale and massing throws off the balance between the White House and what are supposed to be the subordinate East and West Wings.
- 2) The ballroom blocks the view from the White House down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol Building. These site lines are an important element in L'Enfant's brilliant plan for our nation's capital. This plan must be respected.
- 3) I understand that the new ballroom is being designed to accommodate 1000 (I have also heard 1500). What happens when the administration wants to hold a smaller event? This cavernous space will not be comfortable for many state functions.

In addition to being oversized, the building has significant design flaws. While it is reportedly being constructed with private funds, this is no reason to give it a "pass." The American people are going to be stuck with this eyesore and will have to fund the care and maintenance of a facility that is oversized for both its location and function.

Please, please, please do not approve this plan. Thank you for your consideration.

Pam Fox

Name: Elizabeth Morton

Date: February 27, 2026 6:58:08 pm

Please see attached letter.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Tom Wodetzki

Date: February 27, 2026 7:03:09 pm

This is an atrocious idea. Bigger than the White House-- NO WAY! Please block this desecration of "the people's house."

Name: Gary Nicholson

Date: February 27, 2026 7:36:57 pm

It has not been made clear how the program requirements for the project to modernize the East Wing were determined. I assume some rationale was presented at some point, but it was not included in the most recent presentation to the NCPC. Specifically, was the requirement for 1,000 attendees at a formal dinner based on previous experience? Have previous events been similarly attended both in DC and around the world? What basis for the 1,000 seat capacity exists? I submit that this should be reviewed and justified in order to help address concerns about the size and monumentality of the proposed structure. Perhaps a 600 or 800 persons seated at dinner would be more suitable and would in turn allow a reduction in both footprint and height which continue to be concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I trust the Commissioners will continue to be diligent to see that this project will be well executed so that it will be a source of pride for all Americans.

Sincerely,
Gary Nicholson,
Retired Architect, Tennessee

Name: Jeanne Wesley

Date: February 27, 2026 7:42:51 pm

This is not a modernization project, it's a multi million dollar ego trip of an elderly man who cares about no one but himself. It is in no way part of "the people's house" but yet another way to use taxpayer dollars for his own benefit. If you think I think it will all be paid for with donations, then think again.

Name: Christopher Prandoni

Date: February 27, 2026 8:08:09 pm

I am a native of Washington, DC; born and raised in the city. From 1966 to 1970 I attended Gonzaga High School and every morning I transferred DC public buses at Lafayette Square, directly across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House. Then, as now I saw the White House as one of the great buildings of Washington, and a symbol of our nation.

I recently viewed the presentation by The National Trust for Historic Preservation:

Crucial Insights and Viable Alternatives for a More Sensitive White House Ballroom
Recorded February 25, 2026. Featuring National Trust trustees and fellows of The American Institute of Architects, David Scott Parker and Bill Bates, who share design modifications to protect the carefully balanced classical design of the White House. The conversation was facilitated by Tom Mayes, the chief legal officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

After viewing this presentation, I agree with their criticism of the East Wing Modernization Project. The current proposed design would upset the balance and proportions of the White House. Their design modifications could meet the objective of a new East Wing, while preserving the carefully balanced design of the building and its surrounding campus.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns,

Christopher Prandoni

Name: Cedar Bouta

Date: February 27, 2026 8:12:30 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history and corruption at the highest levels of government.

The White House is a National Historic Landmark and a National Park, owned by the American people. The current

president is not the owner. He is a temporary tenant who is there as a guest of the people. His interventions are illegal and shows disregard for the beacon of Democracy which the White House represents.

The demolition of the historic East Wing without review, without permits and without Congressional oversight is clearly a violation of the law. In addition, it is a violation of the trust of the American people who were given no opportunity to comment on what should have been presented as a proposal and not as a violent fait accompli.

I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to require reconstruction of the East Wing in keeping with its historic design and size; stop any further demolition or remodeling of the White House and require it's reconstruction consistent with the original scale and design (Inside and out) prior to this administration; and stop the building of the proposed Arch or any other self-aggrandizements of the current President on public lands.

Thank you for your brave and diligent work standing up for American history, the American people, and the rule of law.
In gratitude,
C. Bouta

Name: Nom dePlume

Date: February 27, 2026 8:39:21 pm

The demolition of the East Wing without transparent external review, statutory consultation, or public approval is horrifying. Not controversial. Not debatable. Horrifying. The White House is not a private estate to be remodeled at the whim of its temporary occupant. It is a nationally significant historic structure owned by the American people and protected by layers of federal law precisely to prevent unilateral, ego-driven alteration.

If this demolition occurred without formal review under the National Historic Preservation Act, without consultation with preservation authorities, without environmental analysis where required, and without appropriate congressional oversight, then it was not simply irregular: It was unlawful. These procedures are not decorative. They exist because historic federal property belongs to the public, not to a president who wants to leave a bigger architectural footprint.

The speed and opacity of this action suggest something deeply disturbing: that statutory guardrails were treated as optional obstacles rather than binding law. That external review was viewed as an inconvenience to be bypassed. That preservation concerns were dismissed in favor of spectacle. That is not how constitutional governance functions.

The East Wing is part of the institutional fabric of the presidency. It houses offices and supports operations integral to the functioning of the executive branch. It is woven into the physical and historical continuity of the White House complex. To demolish it without full transparency and lawful authorization is to demonstrate breathtaking contempt for process, precedent, and public trust.

Americans are not just angry. We are alarmed. If an administration is willing to bulldoze part of the executive residence without proper oversight, what else is it willing to bulldoze? What other statutory requirements are being treated as optional? What other agencies have been sidelined? What other approvals were simply skipped?

The horror here is not only architectural. It is institutional. It is the normalization of executive unilateralism in a space that is supposed to symbolize continuity, stewardship, and respect for law.

This action demands immediate investigation, documentation, and public accounting. All permits, consultations, internal memoranda, and legal justifications must be released. If proper procedures were ignored, those responsible must face consequences.

The White House is not a personal development project. It is the People's House. And the people deserve answers - now.

Name: Nora Missroon

Date: February 27, 2026 8:43:28 pm

I hope you will reconsider the scale of this proposed East Wing. I recently watched a presentation with Tom Mayes of the National Trust for Historic Preservation featuring Bill Bates and David Parker. The current plan is not in keeping with the original design of the city. Because the structure is so large, it destroys the symmetry and balance of the White House and corrupts the original design of the circular driveway and the sight lines (Bates and Parker called it the axis lines of the city's design) leading from the White House to the Capital building as well as featured sites of this planned city.

Being from Savannah, Georgia, I appreciate the beauty of a planned city. The green spaces and the symmetry of our streets punctuate the genius of General Oglethorpe's design. Washington D.C. has the same flow featuring our stunning White House in the center of a hub. Once you start destroying bits and pieces of the original design, you lose the elegance and importance of the grand design.

It appears that the plan can be scaled down to maintain the original symmetry and sight lines without compromising the utility of an additional wing. Please modify this plan to maintain consistency of scale and the architectural features of the White House.

Thank you.

Name: William Zwack

Date: February 27, 2026 9:02:24 pm

First, I wish this modernization project never happened. It was not needed and is too costly. If it moves forward, the new ballroom building should be two-thirds the present size as not to dwarf the White House itself. It should also be cost-efficient by not being too audacious. It is the People's ballroom using the People's money. The overall East Wing Modernization Project budget should also be reduced by 2/3rds. Thank you for considering my request.

Name: Kathleen Hill

Date: February 27, 2026 9:17:27 pm

The White House is the people's house, not a place that the current occupants can tear apart at will. Requesting changes should have been addressed through proper channels.

It is appalling what this administration has done to our country and this is an egregious example of the president's overreach and selling out to "donors" who wish to buy influence.

This is not simply a case of redecorating rooms or modernizing an existing structure as has been done by other occupants (with proper authorization), this project destroyed part of this historic building and is so large that it would overshadow the core of the White House and create an imbalance in the whole building.

I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. This project is an affront to all Americans.

Name: Sheila Blum

Date: February 27, 2026 9:22:15 pm

I strongly oppose the Trump back to proposal for an enormous White House ballroom. I would support a much more sensitive and restrained design as proposed by the American Institute of architects.

Name: Ronald Ralston

Date: February 27, 2026 9:23:42 pm

Recognizing that the White House is exempt from the National Historic Preservation Act, grafting a 90,000 square foot ballroom/event center onto the much smaller building without approval, public comment, or competition is a bad idea.

Public architectural competition may well have produced something more imaginative and appropriate than the neo-classical warehouse design we now see. And, if news reports are reasonably accurately reporting that only 22,000 square feet of the building are the actual ballroom, what are the other 48,000 square feet going to be used for?

And what about parking and traffic congestion?

This project seems to have been rushed into existence without a lot of foresight or planning.

Name: Heidi Meeker

Date: February 27, 2026 9:40:18 pm

I'm writing from about as far away from the White House as you can get and still be in the country. Regardless of that distance, I feel the White House is something I've invested in. I may never get to visit it again, but it has left me with wonderful memories. I don't believe the White House needs a gargantuan ballroom. I believe the place needs to keep its current scale. People can attend wonderful events in ballrooms located all over the district. The White House needs to keep its size and proportions. Thank you for your consideration of my deeply held feelings.

Name: Suzanne Simmons

Date: February 27, 2026 10:21:48 pm

We must follow the treatment of historic features guidelines
The project is not balanced
There is no ADA accommodation
Cannot have fake doors
Must follow classical architectural rules
We must respect the historic planning of the original buildings
Too big
Use 1000 people /15,000 sq ft
Horrible view impact

Name: Amy Dosser

Date: February 27, 2026 10:25:59 pm

The destruction and subsequent building of the East Wing area violates federal law, lacks proper permits, and destroys a historic part of the White House. The rapid demolition is disgraceful and a desecration. There is a tradition of input from the people who own the building - the taxpayers which has been ignored. The lack of public comment and independent review is not acceptable. In the past, even minor renovations have involved extensive review processes. The ballroom is significantly larger than the Executive Mansion. It would overwhelm the original structure. The proposed design will cause architectural imbalance in regards to the height difference with the West Wing. I agree with others who have said the it will look like an airport hangar. I hate the design and am extremely sad and angry about this whole mess.

Name: Nicole Jakaby

Date: February 27, 2026 10:38:52 pm

Please stop this abomination of a ballroom! Too big, too gaudy, too expensive! Please put some restraints on this project to keep it from overwhelming and detracting from the architectural beauty of the White House.

Name: Kelly Morgen

Date: February 27, 2026 11:14:29 pm

Please do not spend \$300 million on this project. It was created without any of the authorization, permits, or design review that it was legally required to have. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Marshall Hansen

Date: February 27, 2026 11:15:47 pm

Dear sirs,

Thank you for allowing this period of public comment.

I am against enlarging the east wing of the U.S. White House to create an oversized ballroom facility with fake doors and windows, as I am told is currently being considered. I disagree with this East Wing Modernization Project because:

- (a) It does not preserve the usual symmetry expected of classical buildings such as in Washington, DC.
- (b) It appears it is going to block the intended direct view between the White House and the Capitol along Pennsylvania Avenue.
- (c) It appears that it is much larger and taller than is needed, hence is wasted space and adds needless expense.

Stated differently, the proposed project is, in my opinion, unattractive, excessive, dysfunctional, and in some aspects fake. I would not want this description to apply to my own home, to my work, or to anything I have created, and I hope that my country would not want these attributes either. I think we can do much better and at less cost.

I am a U.S. citizen, a U.S. Navy veteran, and a community volunteer. I offer these comments in good faith and in hope of assisting with a national concern.

Very respectfully,
M.P. Hansen

Public Comments for East Wing Modernization Project

Total comments: 116

February 28, 2026

Name: Joe Hardesty

Date: February 28, 2026 12:07:20 am

Thank you Commissioners. My comments involve the East Wing Modernization Project - submission #8733. In the January 8 20206 recording of the presentation for this proposal, John Fischer mentions that the White house is a symbol of "pride, and the powerful symbol of American democracy, leadership, and history", however, the proposed East Wing Modernization Project (8733) is not that - it is an atrocity - an abomination against the people of America and our democracy. I am an architect of over 40 years, having worked on major institutional and commercial projects much larger than the proposed "Grand Ballroom", and I have attended official meetings within the White House Complex. Mr. Fischer's claims of "poor design and construction" and "structural deficiencies" regarding the existing East Wing is simply not true. The only reason that Mr. Fischer is saying these lies is to grasp for justification of razing the existing East Wing without approval. That is the "American democracy" and "leadership" that is now in place -- dismantling the East Wing is simply a demonstration or metaphor of how the current regime is dismantling American democracy. The "poor design" reflects the respectful, scale-appropriate, and historically considerate design that was in place -- unlike the gaudy, garish, disgusting display of opulence as proposed. He speaks of "necessary upgrades", however the proposal is both unnecessary and not an upgrade. The claims of systems being out of code and not meeting ADA or secret service requirements is immaterial with regard to the demolition of the existing East Wing. If it was the intent to have these items brought up to code and compliance, there were simpler and more respectful means to accomplish that. In addition, there are many federal facilities that are not in compliance with current requirements (including other areas of the White House Complex), but still functioning safely - and with master-plans of upgrades -- not tear it down and then get approval plans. Mr. Fischer claims that the new design is "enhancing mission critical functionality and eliminating systematic infrastructure failures." The only "mission critical functionality" element of the proposed design is the aggrandizement of a narcissist mistakenly elected to office -- and the only "infrastructure failure" was in the proposed project itself by revealing and demolishing the security bunker under the former East Wing. That is an actual example of true failure in leadership, design, security, and critical functionality. Mr. Fischer asserts that the proposed project will "significantly improve the experience of the American People and foreign dignitaries when they visit the White House." However, the design and its grandiose display of wealth stolen from the American people who need education, housing, healthcare, and consumer protections flies in the face of anything that the American people would take pride in -- rather that it will evoke a revolting response of well-deserved disgust. Mr. Fischer suggests that the proposed project will include improvements to areas adjacent the White House, such as Lafayette Park -- maybe this will include gas masks for visitors to protect themselves from the "leadership" who is driving this selfish and narcissistic disaster of a project (reference June 1,2020 when #45 used tear gas to clear peaceful protesters so that he could go hold a bible upside down). Mr. Fischer then asserts that the new Ballroom will "show respect for these moments and emphasize the significance of collaboration and tradition in our government". Surely, anyone that exercises thought and moral reflection is able to see the contradiction in tearing apart the East Wing ... part of The People's House ... without review, permission, or approval ... and then to claim that the proposed insidious project represents "collaboration and tradition in our government". The proposed "Grand Ballroom" project has not followed the required processes for reviews of historical or environmental consideration, and it is obvious and apparent that the Applicant is not presenting this project factually or acting in good faith. I urge the the NCPC to deny any approvals for this destructive, unneeded, poorly designed, slap-in-the-face atrocity to Americans and government officials, and personal pet project -- and allow actual collaboration and historical norms to prevail in the interest of our nation and "We the People". Thank you for your attention and your service.

Name: Rachel Cole

Date: February 28, 2026 12:09:01 am

Thank you for taking these public comments seriously. This project is of high importance to the American people, and you appear to be in a position to protect our history, tradition, and dignity.

The action President Trump has taken by destroying the East Wing of the White House is disgraceful. I am so shocked and saddened about so many aspects of this project, especially the utter disregard the current administration has for The People's House. To destroy the residence and then to create this plan which is truly out of alignment with our history and values, is maddening.

I am surprised, and honestly angry, that so many aspects of this design are fake. Fake doors, non-functioning entrances, unusable outdoor spaces. What a waste of a highly valuable space. Gratuitous and useless. We cannot allow this design to move forward, as it would alter the balance of the White House structures, it would interrupt the sight lines so important to D.C., especially between the White House and the National Capital, and it would dwarf the existing structures. The current proposed design would be a true embarrassment to our country and a huge waste of resources. Everyone would know it was created to please one man, and that is not how our democracy works (well, should work).

I can't tell whether Trump so purposely caused his design to alter historically important aspects of the grounds or if it is true carelessness, incompetence, and utter lack of respect for our government and history. And this is to say nothing of the blatant corruption involved in this project. In no way, shape, or form, should private companies be funding this little dream of Trump's.

To build this Ballroom as President Trump wants it would be so disrespectful to the American people. National Capital Planning Commission, thank you for your work. Please continue to work with urgency, seriousness, and integrity to protect and respectfully renovate the East Wing of The People's House.

Name: Laurie Barlow

Date: February 28, 2026 12:15:39 am

I have reviewed the documents and the video of the National Planning Commission meeting on January 8, 2026. I am submitting my comment because the current design does not acknowledge the fact that its scale must be reduced to the original existing footprint and building height. The building massing is entirely overblown and does not respect the original design scale and balance of massing with respect to the White House and the other historic buildings adjacent to this site. It's an eyesore, and the lipstick applied to this pig doesn't work.

Any architect worth their salt would be perfectly capable of adjusting the design in this fashion. This would help bring the cost of this structure down to a more reasonable amount to reduce the impact of the expense of this building.

Name: Melissa Emerson

Date: February 28, 2026 1:08:11 am

As a registered Architect, I respectfully request that the proper protocol is followed for a project of this magnitude and significance. The architecture in our nation's capital is historic and has a cohesive language all together and must be given the respect it deserves. Since this building will remain for generations, we must ensure voices are heard and it is not a rushed decision. Not to mention this will be a considerable amount of taxpayer money. Please, do not rush the design process.

Name: Catalily Marshall

Date: February 28, 2026 2:27:31 am

I strongly oppose spending \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Leslie Redd

Date: February 28, 2026 3:08:25 am

Ensure all required and appropriate reviews are followed through. Do not affect the circular drive and other Olmstead components. Ensure the East Wing is in scale and doesn't overwhelm the White House.

Name: B.E. Colway

Date: February 28, 2026 3:32:24 am

I am completely opposed to this project. Destroying part of the White House without following the steps for renovation or

improvement is outside the Law, and not okay! I wish that the old Wing be restored (with appropriate codes adherence). Instead.

Name: Steve George

Date: February 28, 2026 6:28:56 am

I strongly oppose spending \$300 million on the East Wing Modernization project. Both the project itself and the way it is being implemented are objectionable. The project destroys a structure of historical importance and attempts to replace it with a tasteless, gaudy, out-of-scale, anti-historical building. The destruction of the East Wing was implemented with no warning, no Architectural & Engineering Request for Proposals, no bids from contractors, and no abatement of hazardous materials; all as required by federal law. The best way forward is to rebuild the East Wing to its former design (that was scaled and in proportion to the rest of the building) and to cancel the administration's project.

Name: Susan Doherty

Date: February 28, 2026 6:41:50 am

I object to the design for the new East Wing of the White House. The massing, height, scale, and especially the volume of the proposed 90,000 squarefoot construction will overwhelm the 55,000-square-foot central structure and disrupt the carefully balanced classical design of the White House, with its East and West wings. Classicism is predicated on overall symmetry.

As a symbol of America, it is critical that the White House be esthetically pleasing, not an out of proportion eyesore. Please reject the current design and insist on one that meets the approval of the American public.

Name: Martha Spatz

Date: February 28, 2026 8:20:24 am

I find the design and the scale of the ballroom to replace the East Wing of the White House appalling and not in keeping with the current scale and design of the White House.

Retired Architect in Illinois

Name: May Kitagawa

Date: February 28, 2026 8:46:45 am

I object to the proposed plans for the East Wing modernization and ballroom addition.

Name: Steven Semes

Date: February 28, 2026 9:03:17 am

28 February 2026

The National Capitol Planning Commission

Washington, D.C.

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment on the proposed East Wing Modernization project, a 90,000 square foot Ballroom addition to the White House. My objections to this project are based on my forty-five year career as an architect, architectural historian, historic preservationist, and university professor. My academic and professional activity during this period has specialized in close study, teaching, and practice of classical architecture, the subject of four books that I have published since the early 2000s. More recently, I have taught and directed an endowed Center advocating for historic preservation at the School of Architecture of the University of Notre Dame, where I am currently Professor Emeritus. While I am in favor of the use of classical design for new construction, especially by the Federal government, the proposed design is not a worthy example of that intention. Based on the limited information made public earlier this month, my objection to the Ballroom proposal rests on two principal grounds:

1) The height and bulk of the addition. It is a generally accepted principle in historic preservation internationally that an addition to a historic structure should defer to the original building in size and scale so that additions do not absorb or overwhelm the historic part. This principle is enshrined in the government's own policy on preservation, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties from 1977. The Ballroom proposal is a clear violation of that principle and that policy, proposing an addition that would dwarf the White House. The current bulk also removes the vista of the White House from the Capitol called for by Pierre L'Enfant's 1791 plan for Washington. The former Ballroom architect apparently tried, unsuccessfully, to reduce the volume but it seems that the current program vastly exceeds what could be built on the site of the former East Wing while remaining deferential to the original building. The responsible approach would be to look for an alternative, such as the Treasury Building across the street, which would easily accommodate the proposed space without imposing on the President's House. I have never found convincing the arguments that such a space is needed for grand dinners and events—does the President of France have such a room in the Elysee Palace? Or the British Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street? But even if that argument were sound, this is the wrong site for it. Develop the ballroom space near but not on the grounds of the White House and spare the People's House this inappropriate alteration.

2) Classical design. In my view, this design is simply an uninformed attempt at classical architecture that violates almost all formal principles of the classical tradition. While some will object to the proposal because it is classical, the current design is disappointing precisely from a classical point of view. In a setting that would have challenged the talents of a Carrere & Hastings or a McKim Mead & White, where the greatest discretion and taste are required, the current design is simply incompetent. Its massive colonnades and arched windows are not only monotonous and heavy-handed, but they also destroy the balanced relationship between the original White House and its two wings. The colonnade and pediment on the east elevation are over scaled and asymmetrically placed both with respect to the overall elevation and with respect to the rooms behind them. The removal of the pediment on the south elevation is commendable but insufficient and the massive Corinthian colonnade wrapping the southern end of the wing (a useless portico without any possible access from the interior of the building) overwhelms the graceful South Portico of the White House. Even the choice of the Corinthian order for the addition offends against decorum, given the exclusively Ionic expression in the original building. Further reduction and downsizing are needed but a truly deferential volume might not satisfy the current program, although the counterproposals by the National Trust for Historic Preservation show that a more appropriate solution is possible.

I believe the only responsible decision at this point is to rebuild the East Wing largely as it was, at least with respect to its external appearance, and build the Ballroom somewhere else. This is what I urge the National Capitol Planning Commission to request.

I also cannot avoid noting the new addition's negative impact on the landscape, painfully encroaching on the Frederick Law Olmsted-designed South Lawn and its elegant walks and driveways, especially at the southwest corner of the new wing. The designers also must find a landscape solution that does not destroy the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden.

I hope that my comments will help to convince the NCPC to recommend an alternative approach that will preserve the scale and character, as well as the style, of the historic White House buildings and gardens. As a longtime member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation Leadership Forum, I fully support the efforts of the National Trust to advocate for a more informed and respectful treatment of the People's House. Thank you for your consideration.

With best wishes,

Steven W. Semes, Professor Emeritus
School of Architecture
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Steven W. Semes is Professor Emeritus in the School of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame. From 2021 to 2025, he was Director of the Michael Christopher Duda Center for Preservation, Resilience, and Sustainability at the School and was Academic Director of the Notre Dame Rome Studies Program 2008-2011. He is translator and co-editor of *New Building in Old Cities: Writings by Gustavo Giovannoni on Architectural and Urban Conservation*, with co-editors Francesco Siravo and Jeff Cody (Getty Publications, 2024). His previous books include *The Future of the Past: A Conservation Ethic for Architecture, Urbanism, and Historic Preservation* (W. W. Norton, 2009), *The Architecture of the Classical Interior* (W. W. Norton, 2004) and *Elements of Classical Architecture* (W. W. Norton, 2021). His many articles have appeared in *National Trust Forum Journal*, *Change Over Time*, *Public Discourse*, *Common Edge*, *The Classicist*, *Traditional Building*, *Palladio*, *Teatro Marittimo*, *ANTA*, and *Ricerche di Storia dell'Arte*. He is a member of US/ICOMOS, the Society of Architectural Historians, the Congress for New Urbanism, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation Leadership Forum. He was a Board Member of Classical America and among the founders of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art. Prior to joining the Notre Dame faculty in 2005, he practiced architecture for three decades in Washington, DC, San Francisco, and New York.

Name: Vance Clement

Date: February 28, 2026 9:12:01 am

The need for a bigger entertaining space at the White House is a reasonable argument. The current plans, however, are completely insensitive to the previous works and designs by Olmsted and L'Enfant. The symmetry of Olmsted's beautiful oval drive and the view from the Capitol to the White House planned by L'Enfant will be destroyed. Although the cost of the building is to be covered by private funds, the building belongs to the people of the United States. To build a 4000 square foot portico that massively unbalances the classical design of the White House, and for the portico to be completely useless with fake doors and no interior access is wasteful, architecturally disturbing, and useless. Even untrained individuals understand the importance of matching rooflines, matching windows, and matching columns, balance and symmetry. All of these things are destroyed by the current plan and are inconsiderate. This project should not advance under the current plans.

Name: Clifford Peters

Date: February 28, 2026 9:13:16 am

While this project lacked any public or Congressional approval along with the destruction of the East Wing, nonetheless I have been provided with an opportunity to comment on the ballroom to be built.

Its size is overly grandiose and not in keeping with a democratic society and its values. Its scale should be reduced to half the size of the White House, in square footage and height. Instead of “imperial” Corinthian columns, Ionic columns should be used instead in keeping with other architectural federal buildings. There should be no outwardly “fake doors” or gold leaf.

This comment does not attempt to even suggest this ballroom should not be built. However, it is overly grandiose, and I would add, imperial in its current plan. This structure is not in keeping with a society that does not glorify monarchy or the will of one individual.

Name: Lucie Vogel

Date: February 28, 2026 9:16:28 am

I urge you to recommend the following modifications to the East Wing proposal -
reduction in scale to a ballroom of 15,000 square feet to accommodate the projected need for 1,000 seated guests,
reduction of height of building by lowering of ceilings for the ballroom and third floor, and placement of kitchen and support underground,
reduction of the length of the addition so as to not block the views of the existing White House and the Olmstead landscaping,
creation of better access for ADA, and
elimination of columns which do not match existing Ionic columns on White House and Treasury.
The beauty of the White House is its modest scale compared to palaces of emperors and kings, reflecting the US ideals of a temporary president, elected to serve all people, rich and poor alike. Not only is the proposed addition grossly out of scale to the existing structures, it purports to establish the social priorities of the Executive to give access and honor the well healed and connected.

Name: Lois Owens

Date: February 28, 2026 9:19:38 am

President Trump has proposed the construction of a 90,000-square-foot ballroom on the east side of the White House campus, adjacent to the historic Treasury Building. Site preparation is already underway, including the demolition of the existing East Wing.

I am deeply concerned that the massing and height of the proposed new construction will overwhelm the White House itself—it is 55,000 square feet—and may also permanently disrupt the carefully balanced classical design of the White House with its two smaller, and lower, East and West Wings.

The federally recognized Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation offer clear guidance for construction projects affecting historic properties. The Standards provide that new additions should not destroy the historic fabric of

the property and that the new work should be compatible with existing massing, size, scale, and architectural features. The administration's plans would do just that. I urge you to reject the administration's ballroom plans to construct an ugly monstrosity.

Name: Michael Bilecki

Date: February 28, 2026 9:32:45 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Gordon Buchsbaum

Date: February 28, 2026 9:33:03 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law Remember the East Wing of the White House? Remember the giant ballroom that the tech billionaires have agreed to fund in its place? The National Trust for Historic Preservation is making a gallant effort to stop this. And we can help.

Thanks to the National Trust, we have until March 4 to submit comments about the ballroom to the National Capital Planning Commission. You can make a comment through the link below (click on Submit Comment). PLEASE

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans!

Name: Ellen Henert

Date: February 28, 2026 9:46:02 am

The White House and its grounds belong to the citizens of this country, not to its current occupants. The destruction of the East Wing was illegal and was without regard for historic value or environmental impacts. We must make sure that whatever is built on that footprint preserves the central importance of the original White House structure and acknowledges the history of the east wing. It would be a travesty to let one person's actions destroy the history and beauty of the White House.

Name: Kate Halliburton

Date: February 28, 2026 10:01:17 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated with no proper authorization, permits, or design review at the whim of our president. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. It is abominable, what has already been done to our history at this site. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design, even though it will be a mere recreation. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans. The leader of the United States is a president, not an emperor.

Name: Sue Schaefer

Date: February 28, 2026 10:03:44 am

The White House belongs to the people not the President. This historic building has been damaged beyond repair without any involvement from NCPC or CFA.

This project is just another way for this president to profit from his position to enrich himself. End this ballroom madness and restore the East Wing.

Name: Leigh Grant

Date: February 28, 2026 10:09:59 am

Dear Commission:

As a citizen of the United States, I treasure the iconic, classical look of the People's House, the White House, and the visual equilibrium that underscores the principles our country is built on. If there really is a need for a ballroom, then the proposed building should not be 166% larger than the White House and the massing of that building should not be three times the White House's volume. To build an enormous South Portico on this ballroom is an affront to form follows function as there is no entrance, the doors are fake, it is not ADA accessible, and the grand staircase leading up to it goes nowhere. It is simply an exercise in pretentiousness. Furthermore, we are being told that the 22,000 sq. ft. ballroom is supposed to serve 1000 people when the architectural high industry standard is 15 feet per person which comes out to 15,000 sq ft. and the low standard is 10 feet per person or 10,000 sq. ft. Because of the enormity of this proposed ballroom, three main historical aspects of our capital are adversely impacted. First, James Hoban's classical balanced design of the White House which is overpowered and unbalanced by this proposed ballroom. Second, the proposed ballroom significantly obscures the historic view access of the L'Enfant plan. Thirdly, the proposed ballroom significantly impacts the symmetry of the Frederick Law Olmsted drive and the landscape plan for the White House. If there is a need for this modernization, please reduce it to a manageable scale, observe the architectural industry standards, relate its design to complement the White House, not overcome it, including using architectural details that mirror those of Hoban, and look at the whole picture when making a decision, rather than a part.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Grant

Merritt Parkway Conservancy, board, now advisory

Principle in installing NHDs in Silvermine area of Norwalk, New Canaan, and Wilton

Name of Project: East Wing Modernization

NCPC File Number: 8733

Name: Chelsey Crabbe

Date: February 28, 2026 10:26:03 am

Not only is the process in which this entire project is taking place morally and constitutionally incorrect... it is also structurally, logistically, and architecturally ridiculous.

Save for the fact this is the people's house, the proposed project does not make any sense in terms of the proposal being structurally-sound. All this process reveals is how weak so many are in the face of authoritarianism. Look at what history reflects, look at the lessons, and the insights. The authoritarian road is paved by symbolic architecture that points to glorifying a mad king.

The courts currently may be packed by those in need knee pads, expediting this entire process under false legalities masked as allegiance, but history will reflect the truth.

And the truth is... this east wing modernization project demolishes the entire framework of this country. It's embarrassing. The speed to which so many have lined up to kiss the ring of someone so globally-deplorable and unbelievably un-American. Why modernize under a regime that has capitalized off its promise of nostalgia?

It doesn't make any sense. Again, morally, constitutionally, and quite literally... construction-wise... the feasibility of this project is micro and will be yet another waste of taxpayer funds that are emptying the pockets of hard-working Americans. Americans who look to national symbols to inspire the citizen within themselves, not glorify a diaper-wearing felon who smells like a fast food fish sandwich. And I say this as a professional working in the historic preservation field. Is this comment biased? Clearly, but I'm also a subject matter expert with two eyeballs. Thank you for listening.

Name: Joe Klingshirn

Date: February 28, 2026 10:29:33 am

I respectfully oppose the proposed addition to the East Wing of the White House, as such an intervention risks undermining the architectural balance, scale, and historic integrity of one of the nation's most important civic symbols. While functional and security needs inevitably evolve, they can be addressed through more restrained strategies—such as discreet infill, adaptive reuse, or below-grade expansion—rather than visible and irreversible enlargement. The White House complex derives its strength from incremental, deferential change over time. Major above-grade expansion, at a scale out of context with the rest of the building, would set a dangerous preservation precedent for public architecture nationwide. Stewardship, not brute monumentality, should guide any alterations to this site.

Name: Mark Bunnell

Date: February 28, 2026 10:38:48 am

The proposed ballroom design is shockingly bad, in many ways. It violates Olmsted's plan, blocks key views, and is bizarrely out of scale. And there are a ballroom-sized tangle of other glaring problems.

The administration should be required to reconstruct the previous East Wing exactly, immediately. And then, if they want to pursue changes, go through a normal review process, as should be obvious to any reasonable person.

Thank you for allowing my comments, —Mark

Name: Ian Slaymaker

Date: February 28, 2026 10:42:20 am

With respect to the new east wing, the structure should be rebuilt predominantly to the size and scale that it was before. Views and vistas should be the same as they were before. In terms of functionality, most features and aspects should exist as they did before. Windows and doors need to be functional and not just applied for decorative purposes. Any portico should exist as an access point.

That said, since we are at a position of rebuilding and have modern building and architectural technologies that were not present at the time of the original construction, we should certainly use technology to influence the design and performance of the new structure while maintaining the classical style and surrounding aesthetic.

Name: Judy Simmons

Date: February 28, 2026 10:52:19 am

The White House building is iconic. The government function should not be minimized by dwarfing it with an entertainment section.

Most Americans do not want this.

Totally not decreasing government's expenses!

Although it is reported that taxpayers are not on the hook for building it, we will be for its upkeep.

No way is it in keeping with the modesty of the original building.

Name: Jeri Simmons

Date: February 28, 2026 10:54:24 am

I am angry that President Trump chose to demolish the East Wing without seeking approval of Congress, without demolition permits, without architectural plans.... That choice was a blatant exhibit of Power and Privilege. A display of Dominance, his belief that he is Above the Law and can do whatever he wants, including literally taking a sledge hammer to our historically significant buildings.

It was vandalism.

A huge ballroom should not be built in this spot. A massive addition will overwhelm the proportions of the original White House. Whatever IS built there must compliment the White House - it cannot be larger than the home of our country's

president - not taller. It should not have a bigger footprint. Its dimensions should be symmetrical - visually resembling the style and grace of the White House, with similar styling, proportions and dimensions to the West Wing - so it does not distract from the Beauty and HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of the Home of Our Nation's leader. It should be designed to meet its primary function - to contain office space for the use of the First Lady - as future presidents will likely have a spouse who lives in the residence, and not in Florida or New York, who will need office space to carry out the duties of the First Lady - in honor of the HISTORY of the original East Wing, and the accomplishments of all the first ladies who have worked there in the past. It must house adequate and updated secure facilities in the basement - as did the East Wing before it was demolished. Acknowledging these goals means a large ballroom cannot fit in this space. The many proposals that Trump has presented for a ballroom project are all far too large, and too gaudy - astoundingly ugly. And out of proportion to the surrounding buildings. The constant changes to the proposed ballroom and poorly thought through plans are reportedly the reason his architect quit. A project this important should not be built impulsively, on a whim of a mad man.

Finally. Whatever is built, to replace that which was destroyed by this abhorrent act of vandalism - must be approved by the historical commission with appropriate permits - and FUNDED BY CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS. Anything else creates inherent conflicts of interest and the appearance of impropriety, or worse. Our government should not be For Sale to the highest bidder. Our leaders should not be exploiting their power with extortion and taking bribes - like they do in third world countries. Our leaders should respect the Rule of Law - including the competitive bidding process required by statute to assure our government contracts are awarded fairly to the lowest and most competent bidder, rather than via influence peddling and bribes. Our leaders need to Respect the Power of the Purse, which rests with CONGRESS, and the authority of the public Agencies who are legally in charge of protecting our nation's history and the safety of public buildings.

Our nation is ruled by The People and their Elected Representatives - not by those wealthy enough to buy power to do whatever they chose, without regard for the law. All Presidents hold their position temporarily, for no more than two terms, and their years of occupying the White House place them in a position of Public Trust - as a STEWARD of a historically significant structure. The White House is Occupied by a president - it is not Owned by a president, whose term of office is limited by law.

This matters far more than it may seem. Where the Power and Money comes from in our representative democracy is not just "symbolic".

Name: Michael Wasiljov

Date: February 28, 2026 11:00:50 am

I fully support the new ballroom. It's been needed for several decades and should've been done a long time ago. It's absolutely tacky to have to have state dinners and other functions in a tent and have guest use portable toilets. Of course it needs to be bigger than the current White House residence because of the size of functions that they're going to hold there. I believe it will be a major improvement for formal functions and ceremonies and it will enhance security for those functions. Thank you for your time.

Name: Tracy Szemanski

Date: February 28, 2026 11:15:56 am

I would like an East Wing Modernization done by restoring the east wing to its rightful place.

We do not need or have we asked for a ballroom. This president is not king yet, so why is he being treated as one by congress.

His destruction of the East Wing was not asked for or needed to be destroyed. I find it quite a coincidence it happened right after the no kings protest. This man is way to emotional to be president.

Name: Dan Bender

Date: February 28, 2026 11:18:47 am

I can't know whether the White House truly needs a ballroom, although it may be nice for a president to be able to host large gatherings of foreign diplomats and guests or political supporters within the secure perimeter of the White House grounds. Rather, I object to the review process this project underwent. No single person, even the president, should have

the authority to make such significant changes to a historic monument or national park without more considered bipartisan review. I reject the notion in this instance that it's better to ask forgiveness than permission.

Name: jack hawkins

Date: February 28, 2026 11:22:33 am

To the committee,

To me it is an outrage that the East Wing was torn down. There was no input. Just torn down at the whim of a man who thinks he is our king. If this was a real need for our country then it should have gone through a process and a selection process to have a great architect produce something of long lasting architectural integrity. The East wing should not have been torn down in the first place. This is the epitome of American ignorance and arrogance. Imagine tearing down 1/23 of The Louvre in Paris and then building some cheap imitation of classical architecture. I am disgusted and feel this is a waste of time writing this statement. i am incredibly disappointed. i am not a fan of historic preservation at all costs, but this was the White House. i think this may have been a landmark worth saving.

Sincerely,

Jack Hawkins, Architect AIA

Name: SALINA ALI

Date: February 28, 2026 11:29:32 am

WE THE PEOPLE DIDN'T ask nor WANT our nation's history destroyed for a pedo party gathering spot. WE THE PEOPLE ARE STRUGGLING to survive, to eat, get medical help so instead of helping THE PEOPLE trump wants to redecorate at THE PEOPLE'S COST. OUR nation's history; the good and bad is to be preserved for posterity for THE PEOPLE. This is a NATION of 'THE PEOPLE, ALL PEOPLE', there's no dictatorship here.

Name: Deborah Sullivan

Date: February 28, 2026 11:33:08 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law.

Name: Maria Modelska

Date: February 28, 2026 11:46:44 am

I am against the construction of the ballroom in its current state. There is a way to construct the space that will be in harmony with the rest of the building. I do not believe the current proposal will do that and I am against its construction as is.

Name: Walter Middlebrook

Date: February 28, 2026 11:59:23 am

To whom it may concern:

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Sincerely,

Walter Middlebrook

Name: Patricia Gorman

Date: February 28, 2026 12:00:45 pm

I am writing to opose spending \$300 million on the East Wing Modernization project. This project destroys an important part of our shared history as American citizens.

More importantly, this project was initiated without proper authorization, or permits or design review. The East Wing was destroyed with no warning, no Architectural & Engineering Request for Proposals, no bids on contractors, and no abatement of hazardous materials; all required by federal law.

The East Wing should be rebuilt to its former design which is in proper proportiion to the rest of the building, and the administration's project canceled.

Patricia Gorman

Name: Brian Newton

Date: February 28, 2026 12:05:23 pm

You have approved a horrible desecration of the peoples' house. You have allowed special business interests to formalize a direct line to influence the presidency. The White House is not the sitting president's personal palace. Our government is not a kingship. Approval of these demolitions is an illegal act which we the people disagree with and will not tolerate. Stop the construction now and enter into transparent and accountable dialogue with Congress as intended and codified.

Name: Susan Wilcox

Date: February 28, 2026 12:05:52 pm

The White House is the peoples house, not a vanity project. The East wing needs to be restored as much as possibly and follow the historic design of both L'Enfant and Olmstead.

Name: Andra Rose

Date: February 28, 2026 12:08:03 pm

I am writing to oppose spending \$300 million on the East Wing Modernization project. I was raised in DC and have visited the White House on several occasions and feel a personal connection to it. It's the People's House not real estate belonging to any president. Any changes to it should go through a rigorous, bipartisan review. The planning without proper prices and the sudden demolition of the East Wing felt like an assault on the country and our respected symbols.

In my opinion, it razes an important era in American history, when the White House became a place that embraced the work of the First Lady and her staff. This proposal was initiated without proper authorization, or permits, or design review. The East Wing was destroyed with no warning, no Architectural & Engineering Request for Proposals, no bids from contractors, and no abatement of hazardous materials; all as required by federal law.

I would like to see the East Wing rebuilt to its former design (that was scaled and in proportion to the rest of the building) and the administration's project canceled. The current design is for an out-of-scale, out-of-place, and out-of-time pseudo-historical building.

No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Kimberly Knudson

Date: February 28, 2026 12:12:44 pm

Trump destroyed a piece of history to help launder illegal money to his family. Thats all this is about. His constant illegal financial gains under the guise of making our government great again, and nobody is doing a thing about it. Everyone in government is just letting it happen.

Name: Howard Smith

Date: February 28, 2026 12:17:52 pm

I am in complete disagreement with project. Not just that Trump has single handedly decided the Country needs/wants a ballroom. Then, we ALL know there is a 'normal' process for suggesting projects of this nature. That process includes input from Congress (who would normally fund such a project', but also from the public. Trump thinks and acts like he 'owns' this property as part of his private real estate company. He does Not own the property!! He is just a tenant!

Therefore I believe these are some events that should take place:

1- Congress should reprimand him for tearing down the East Wing without ANY apptovals. He should be personally on the hook to pay for the mess he has made.

2- He should be personally on the hook for the costs / repairs for all the work he has done completely illegally! He should at least be required to put back a lawn area and Not be allowed to proceed with any other improvements on the property (like the golding of the White House).

3- IF he wants a ballroom, he needs to start over and follow the Required processes through the White House architect; the Washington Planning Commission (I think is the name)- after restoring the previous commissioners he threw out! Then there is your NCPC oversight and approval process to be followed. Then, consecutively would submit to Congress for either:

A). Approval if Trump is going to obtain private funds for a construction project on the 'public's' property, or

B) Request funding for the project. If he uses public financing, then Item C).

C) All of these processes need to go through the standard GSA procurement rules.

It is disgusting that he is treating this White House, and the whole country as if he were king. America doesn't do kings!!

Thank You

Howard
Delaware.

Name: Hoyle Osborne

Date: February 28, 2026 12:26:50 pm

At twice the size of the White House, the proposed ballroom would overwhelm the main building, obstruct views, and cover a large part of the grounds.

Any new building must utilize best modern technologies and practices for energy efficiency. The above ground building should be approximately the size of the East Wing that was illegally destroyed

Name: Margaret Atwood

Date: February 28, 2026 12:27:37 pm

Thank you to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for making clear the mistakes that are being proposed in the East Wing rebuilding design. For the people's house, the scale of the East Wing must not be a stand alone structure, but must balance with the main center building. Also, the line of sight from the Capitol to the White House must not be obscured. To overbuild would be not just an insult to the original design but an error to the entire layout of the District of Columbia.

How many events are held that need to seat 1000 people? How much actual use would the ballroom get? I understand also including safety bunker rooms, a kitchen, and offices for the first lady and other staff. There is absolutely no need to overdo the design in scale and mass. A standard sized addition could be welcomed.

I am afraid that the president and the present administration is not thinking of the future, nor do they have empathy that this is only his residence for three more years. The place to make an ego driven overblown statement is not in DC, but perhaps in Florida or at a Trump owned resort -- there are plenty of opportunities at other locations.

Listen to the people, then pretend it was your idea to scale down the design. Perhaps that is the goal -- ask for far more than you want, then the people will be content with something that is still too large but not too extravagant.

Stately is not what I would call the present proposed design. Let's see what can be done to preserve the grounds and the line of sight at least, without fake windows and porticos that are just for show.

Name: Eleanor Miele

Date: February 28, 2026 12:41:42 pm

As a citizen who is committed to reselecting American History and due process, I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project. It was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. As the wife, mother and daughter of architects, I know this is completely improper. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront.

Name: Karen Ramsey

Date: February 28, 2026 12:46:34 pm

I am fully aware that any comments are likely pointless at this time, since the President has stacked the deck to be assured of the approvals that he technically needs to continue moving forward with this monstrous project. But, as a practicing architect for over 40 years, I feel compelled to register my complete and utter contempt for the way that this project's design will forever dwarf and overshadow the 'people's house'. Bloated, overly elaborate, completely ignorant of appropriate scale and detailing - and not least, how it is completely disrespectful of the existing White House's size and intentionally restrained design aesthetic. The architects who sold themselves out to suck up to the President and produce this obscene design work should be ashamed of themselves - if there were any justice, they would be stripped of their professional registrations, and summarily drummed out of the AIA.

Name: Murray Monroe

Date: February 28, 2026 12:56:05 pm

While the White House complex might benefit from the addition of a ballroom, the proposed scale and massing of this project is totally inappropriate. At nearly twice the square footage of the White House itself, the east "wing" of the complex will overwhelm the White House. It will create an awkward, imbalanced complex, with the ballroom appearing to be the primary and dominant building. The ballroom should be secondary to the White House and not overshadow it. This proposed project will ruin the scale and balance of the White House complex, and it should not be approved.

Sincerely,
Murray Monroe, AIA
Cincinnati, Ohio

Name: Marcia Brixey

Date: February 28, 2026 12:57:04 pm

I cannot believe that President Trump demolished the White House East Wing, a United States treasure. He destroyed a precious piece of history with no regard to the U.S. citizens. Please stop Trump from building his own ballroom.

Name: Kathryn Urban

Date: February 28, 2026 1:19:05 pm

To the Commission...

The American People rely on Commissions, such as yours, to be independent. We rely on your expertise in the matter. We rely on you making well thought out decisions. It should not be a political decision.

I am not an architect. But I can see with my own eyes how huge and distracting and out of proportion the plans for the new Ballroom are! IF a larger Ballroom is REALLY needed, then plan one that is more fitting in dimensions with the White House! Maybe in better proportions to the White House itself?

Not EVERY person needs to be invited to every Ballroom event! Different people can be invited to different events. So the need for such a HUGE Ballroom to host that many people all the time is unnecessary!

Our country was founded on different principles than KINGDOMS. Having GRAND BALLS is NOT a PRIORITY!

Please modify the plans for the Ballroom more in keeping with our country's principles. It's not a KINGDOM!

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Kathryn Urban

Name: Trevor Sowers

Date: February 28, 2026 1:21:57 pm

I understand the necessity for an executive ballroom, though I believe the current plan and scale is overkill. There are many historical and esthetic factors to consider and I urge the planning commission to take into account the proposal made by National Trust trustees and fellows of The American Institute of Architects, David Scott Parker and Bill Bates. This alternative plan makes much better sense for the people's house, our city and our nation. The scale of this proposal is ideal for this incredibly important project. I truly believe this would be the ideal way to move forward and build something that all Americans can be proud of for generations to come.

Name: Beth Miller

Date: February 28, 2026 1:30:47 pm

I am writing as a citizen who values the White House as both a historic place and a living symbol of our shared civic life. I understand the desire to increase the capacity of the White House for official events and recognize that modern functions sometimes require updated facilities. However, increasing capacity need not require a structure of such magnitude.

The White House grounds are more than open space; they are part of a carefully composed landscape shaped over time, beginning with the planning vision of Pierre Charles L'Enfant and later refined by landscape architects including Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. The enduring power of this setting lies in its balance — its symmetry, open lawns, and the preservation of the Executive Mansion's visual primacy.

The proposed ballroom, as described, appears significantly out of proportion with this historic landscape. Its scale would not only disrupt the carefully maintained symmetry of the grounds but would dwarf the nearby Treasury Building — itself an imposing structure. Introducing a building of this magnitude risks overwhelming the setting rather than complementing it.

The White House is one of the most recognized civic landscapes in the world. Its dignity has long been tied to architectural restraint and thoughtful stewardship. Any alteration should be approached with care, transparency, and respect for the scale and character that give this place its enduring meaning.

respectfully urge that the proposal be carefully reevaluated in light of these concerns and evaluated under the highest standards of preservation and public accountability.

Name: Leslie Oif

Date: February 28, 2026 1:32:47 pm

I am writing to oppose the current proposal and design for the construction of the "ballroom" or as you stated - The East Wing Modernization Project. The current proposal is a design that is far too big and whose footprint will adversely impact The White House. First, the design runs counter to L'Enfant's historical design which was commissioned by our first President, George Washington. The proposal destroys the sight line from the Capitol to the White House. No proposal regardless of how big or small should run counter to the earliest vision of this city.

Secondly, the design is far too large. It is more than 35% larger than it needs to be. If constructed as is, it would tower over the White House. It is tragic that the East Wing has already been demolished but allowing a larger, new building will fundamentally reshape the grounds. For example, it is unclear from the designs what use the third floor will have. Currently, there is no explanation. Is a third floor even needed?

I ask the Commission to reconsider this design. If approved, it will forever alter the White House grounds. No building that will be used, ostensibly for social events, should alter the White House grounds or the impact the public's views from beyond the fence line or permanently alter the original design commissioned by George Washington. This proposal needs much more work and a serious downsizing before it is ready for construction.

Name: Joy Ward

Date: February 28, 2026 1:57:42 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Katie Gustafson

Date: February 28, 2026 2:05:27 pm

Stop the egregious destruction of one of our country's most important buildings. The lack of oversight and approval is alarming. What precedent are we setting? It's shameful that the East Wing was destroyed so easily where so many important events happened. Do not let this abuse of power continue to the People's House. We must have a say in its future.

Name: Dorothy Hartman

Date: February 28, 2026 2:05:27 pm

February 28, 2026

Members of the Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed East Wing Modernization Project, file # 8733. I watched with great interest the video of the February 5 Commission meeting and the presentations. As someone whose career is in historic preservation and visitor experience, I have very deep concerns about the size, scale and mass of the proposed ballroom addition. Each of the panels presented by the architect illustrated how overwhelming and out of scale the new addition would be to the existing White House and how, at the proposed size, the eye is drawn to it, not towards the People's House, the White House adjacent. What this tells me is that the total major footprint for the People's House will likely only be perceived as a large event space, not a space dedicated to governing.

Also, the addition of a second story to the West Wing portico to counterbalance the (much larger) reconstruction of the East Wing hardly compensates for the difference in scale that will result.

Which leads me to some questions about the justification presented by the White House representative at the Commission meeting. Yes, surely we should, as a country, have pride in our monumental buildings, but should that pride be focused on a ballroom space so large that it dwarfs the actual White House? Mr. Fisher referenced experts consulted on this project, including historians. Who are these experts? What are their credentials? Are there reports on their conclusions included in the documentation of this project's advance through the Commission to inform the public?

I also noted that ADA accessibility is only addressed in a cursory manner, with ADA entrance only through the East Room of the White House, not any of the main entries to the proposed new East Wing. This is unacceptable and possibly illegal.

The Commission should also take note that, by a large margin, the American public disapproves of this project: in the Yahoo/YouGov poll taken in October 2025, 61% did not approve. Should not opinion of the citizens in this country have weight in such an important decision regarding one of our Capital's iconic buildings?

I urge you to deny the current design, and at minimum request a significantly pared down version to align with the current scale of the White House itself.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy W. Hartman



Name: Ira Addes

Date: February 28, 2026 2:09:22 pm

I urge you to stop the east wing project now, as it was initiated illegally and in the dark. This is another grandiose, personal project of Mr Trump and the process he chose to create it frankly disgusts me.

He is desecrating numerous physical spaces without appropriate oversight.

Name: Rosemary Johnston-Lawton
Date: February 28, 2026 2:10:41 pm

I am opposed to this project for a multiple of reasons:

1. the size and scale of this project. The architectural plans which have been presented to the public, show a project which dominates the remaining portions of the White House and are jarring to overall design. While additional space may be needed, the proposed size and scope of the proposed addition is an affront to the White House, the people's house.
 2. The addition's design seems to be driven by our current president's vanity rather than architectural principles. Any modernization project should be motivated by a long-term view and reality driven needs. Not one man's ego; particularly one enamored of gilt and glitz versus historical continuity and architectural principles.
 3. The cost of this project and its funding sources remain unclear. A project of this scale needs to be funded in appropriate manner and not by individuals and entities courting favor., i.e. graft.
 4. The razing of the East Wing was done inappropriately, without authorization and without regard to the preservation and conservation of original materials.. This alone should prevent the project from moving forward without clear controls and management. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.
-

Name: Mary Dupuis
Date: February 28, 2026 2:34:34 pm

This project should not be allowed to proceed. It contravenes the regulations of the National Capitol Commission. The square footage is 30% larger than required for the stated occupancy. It is not ADA compliant. In short, it is poorly conceived and will be a sub-standard addition to the built fabric of our nation's capitol.

Name: Susan Cope
Date: February 28, 2026 2:34:45 pm

Still in shock this was torn down. Any new construction must be in keeping with the West Wing. Colonial style, white no gold, size NO LARGER than 40,000 SF, although that is still huge.
The National Trust for Historic Preservation must approve final plans and construction, even if that means taking their case to the Supreme Court.

Name: Jean Dodenhoff
Date: February 28, 2026 2:36:25 pm

Please view the National Trust webinar. Also view appropriate modernization of the Grosse Pointe Woods MI. City Hall.

Name: shelly reiss
Date: February 28, 2026 2:48:22 pm

These comments are submitted for the record for the NCPC's March 5, 2026, hearing on plans for the new White House Ballroom.

I respectfully request that the NCPC reject the current design of the planned White House Ballroom for a project that protects the historic vision and design of the White House where America's presidents have lived for more than 200 years. The current design, at nearly twice the square footage of the White House, would overwhelm the balanced classical design of the White House, the relationship to the smaller East and West Wings, and the sight vistas from the White House to the Capitol.

The current design is contrary to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, which require that new additions be compatible with historic materials, standards, size, scale, and the like. The current design is also contrary to the 2000 Comprehensive Design Project, which proposed building significant portions of the building underground in order to retain the original balance between the White House and the Wings.

As designed, the current project would extend past the existing south-facing facade of the Treasury Building and disrupt the historic sight vista from the Capitol to the White House, a fundamental element of L'Enfant's original plan that has been maintained since its inception. This view, which signifies the relationship between the Legislative and Executive branches of government, is recognizable around the world and should be forever protected for the

The current design should be modified to protect the classical design of the White House complex, including the historic east facade of the White House through a smaller, lower building consistent with the smaller East and West wings.

The current design should be modified to protect and preserve the original historic materials of the east facade of the White House and assure that existing details are not demolished or covered by the connection of the colonade.

The current design should be smaller and less grand in scale to ensure that it retains the classical design of the White House complex and doesn't overshadow the south portico of the White House.

I respectfully urge the NCPC to carefully review and reconsider the concept plans and final plans for the ballroom, the latter of which have not been presented or reviewed, and reject any elements that interfere with the historic integrity of the White House complex or its relationship to other fundamental elements of L'Enfant's historic design for the capitol city.

Shelly Brown Reiss

Name: Edward White

Date: February 28, 2026 2:53:29 pm

Listening to the National Capital Planning Commission Meeting of January 8, 2026, I have no doubt that modernization of the East Wing of the White House and permanent place for events with dignitaries is needed. Unfortunately, the current design for the "Ballroom" expresses a royal representation contrary to the values and reasons for our nation's founding and subsequent history.

The current plan does not respect the proportions of the White House by its sheer size. The attempt to mitigate its size by representing that the cornices align and it will be in part hidden by trees, is preposterous.

Commissioner Mendelson was being exceptionally kind in his questioning, attempting to address this very issue without receiving a credible response.

I believe members of the Commission when it was stated that the current Architect has produced good works for our national government within the Capital. I believe the implication by the current Architect that his charge is to progress the design developed by a previous architectural team. This should not preclude a re-evaluation of the massing in relationship to the White House, one of the most respected and recognizable building in these United States and around the world.

The Commission's meeting danced around without expressly acknowledging the politics and the personal desires of our President surrounding this project. I hope that this Commission can be put these issues aside and vote to re-evaluate this project with the express goals of meeting the modernization needs while maintaining the prominence of the White House.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Penelope Campbell

Date: February 28, 2026 3:11:08 pm

I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. This project was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. I am against the spending of \$300 million on this project. It is not a modernization project but is rather a shameful and illegal destruction of American history. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: James Malanaphy

Date: February 28, 2026 3:18:31 pm

I am extremely disappointed that National Capital Planning Commission, and all other interested parties were not

consulted prior to demolition of the East Wing of the White House as a prelude to the construction of the East Wing Modernization Project. The lack of consultation prior to the demolition of the East Wing of the White House sets a bad example for other federal and state agencies attempting to maintain and preserve the nation's historically significant cultural resources. The lack of consultation has resulted in the development of a proposal for the East Wing Modernization that has raised serious public concerns and does not recognize the important limitations the proposed site imposes on the East Wing Modernization Project.

The East Wing Modernization Project as it is presently proposed does not meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 Chapter 1 Part 68). In particular, the East Wing Modernization Project does not meet any of the 10 Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of a historic property, as provided below. These Standards provide a set of principles used to guide the sensitive alteration of historic buildings while allowing for a new use. These standards have been used to guide the successful rehabilitation of thousands of historically significant historic properties located throughout our nation.

Standards for Rehabilitation

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces and spatial relationships.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Finally, without going into detail I would like to add:

- that in preparation for the rehabilitation of the East Wing of the White House, the East Wing Modernization Project demolished a national historically significant property without proper documentation or preservation of the historically significant character defining features of the prior East Wing of the White House;
- the current design proposal for the East Wing Modernization Project is too large for the chosen site. Both in volume and height it detracts from symmetry and balance of the White House Grounds;
- the current proposal interferes with critical components of Pierre Charles L'Enfant, 1791 Plan for the City of Washington. Namely the visual connection between the President's residence and the Capitol Building;
- the current proposal interferes with critical components of Frederick Law Olmstead's Plans for the White House Grounds. Namely the symmetry and balance of this historically significant landscape; and
- the current proposal raises important health, safety and welfare questions about public access to the building and the site. Such as access to adequate parking facilities, handicap access, adequate number of fire exits, and access to the tremendous amount of infrastructure necessary to support such a large design program.

If at all possible I request that the National Capital Planning Committee stop the East Wing Modernization Project and suggest that the prior East Wing of the White House be reconstructed in a manner that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Reconstruction of a historic property, or rehabilitated in a manner that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation of a historic property. Anything less will set a terrible precedent for the preservation of our nation's historically significant cultural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments for the public record.

Sincerely,

James J. Malanaphy III, AIA, NCARB

Name: Rita Reimbold

Date: February 28, 2026 3:19:00 pm

I oppose any alterations to the East Wing not approved by appropriate overseers. Tearing it down is an abomination. Not one dime of anyone's money should be used without proper planning approval & oversight.

Name: morrison heckscher

Date: February 28, 2026 3:24:14 pm

See attached PDF below

[Attachment](#)

Name: Alden OBrien

Date: February 28, 2026 3:28:27 pm

This is a TERRIBLE plan. Unnecessarily huge and insanely costly. Bad enough that the old East Wing was demolished with ZERO oversight/permission. Now a multi-hundred-million dollar project of HUGE proportions that will dwarf the actual White House, paid for by the President's corrupt buddies, is to be built?? I don't THINK so. We do NOT need a huge ballroom for a few parties a year. We do NOT need to be taking tens of millions from various donors who will then get preferential treatment from Trump. STOP THIS MOSTROSITY!

Name: Rosemary Seifert-Graf

Date: February 28, 2026 3:28:57 pm

Trump's ballroom is only to put forth his name & won't be for the average American. He had no right to destroy history to put him in the history book.

Name: Laura Anderson

Date: February 28, 2026 3:32:59 pm

As a lifelong Washingtonian and a history lover, I'd like to register my dismay at the proposed Ballroom addition to the White House. The massive building will dwarf the people's house, and its size is totally unnecessary and extravagant. It will undermine the significance of the White House, while destroying the site line as designed by L'Enfant to the Capitol Building, as well as the symmetry of the grounds and structure design. Since the president has already destroyed the East Wing, we should at least insist that the replacement be in line with the design history, culture and meaning, and that the new structure does not undermine the original White House.

Name: Gayla VandenBosche

Date: February 28, 2026 3:34:37 pm

While the White House has a long history of renovations and updating by the current presidential residents, until now, those changes have been respectfully done in a way to maintain the spirit of the people's house. This is not just a renovation but a sudden and complete distraction without consulting anyone about the historical significance of the changes. The new ballroom, if completed as plan will significantly and negatively impact the silhouette of the White House and the view scape of the cities site lines with the White House.

I believe there needs to be a significant and detailed analysis and alternative plans to consider that might more closely follow the original design

Name: Lois Kebe

Date: February 28, 2026 3:35:13 pm

I oppose spending \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law, and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Jana Prewitt

Date: February 28, 2026 3:47:03 pm

I am a US citizen of Florida. I strongly oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. A vanity project. The design will dwarf the original building and is unnecessary, wasteful and unlawful. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design.

No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Carlos Torres

Date: February 28, 2026 3:48:26 pm

This project should be cancelled. It's the people's house not the current and temporary resident.

Name: Deborah Gilbert

Date: February 28, 2026 3:55:09 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: connie cigarran

Date: February 28, 2026 4:01:34 pm

The size and scale of the proposed Ballroom to the East Wing is totally out of scale and character and is an affront to the White House and to the American people. The East Wing should never have been destroyed without an approved plan in place.

Name: Cynthia Nagle

Date: February 28, 2026 4:06:46 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Allison Marlow

Date: February 28, 2026 4:09:10 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Susan Rayburn

Date: February 28, 2026 4:16:27 pm

The destruction of the historic East Wing of the White House and the construction of an ostentatious and ill-proportioned ball room to satisfy the ego of the current occupant of the White House is a travesty. No one individual should have the ability to radically change "The People's House" to suit their own ego, and to do any significant changes without going through the proper channels. Even the outrageous and biased pictures and commentaries on past presidents is an affront to our history and the dignity of the office. Please do not let this monstrosity proceed.

Name: suzette murphy

Date: February 28, 2026 4:26:04 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

In addition, I have been a landscape architectural consultant hired for over 35 years to do landscape plan analytical permit reviews for a few California cities/counties. This would have never been approved IF it had gone to any City/County Planning Agencies, as many reviews/reports, etc from many different agencies would need to be approved BEFOR ANY demolition permits are approved. And most importantly, this is an HISTORIC Building, which would be scrutinized for minute improvements!!!! Complete demolition is abhorrent.

thank you for listening....

Name: Gary Anderson

Date: February 28, 2026 4:28:39 pm

I want to Thank the NCPC for this opportunity to comment on the proposed East Wing Modernization Project, NCPC file number 8733. My name is Gary Anderson, a retired engineer with several years experience working overseas. My interactions with local and professional personnel from places as diverse as Scotland to Saudi Arabia to Malaysia and Indonesia and almost every state in the U.S. have given me an added insight into how America is perceived by the world beyond and how we see ourselves. It is these two POVs I would like to address.

The impact of the proposed 90,000 sq ft. addition cannot be overstated. The Executive Mansion/White House is known the world over and is part of what makes the U.S. unique. Everyone from a bright toddler to a feeble senior citizen has a mental picture of what the WH looks like and that picture helps form their idea of what the very character of America and her people is. Dignified. Strong. Unpretentious yet proud.

The East Wing Modernization Project, in its current form, is an un-American embarrassment to our National Character and Prestige. It is grossly oversized and loaded down with useless accoutrements that neither match or compliment the existing structure. From the giant portico that leads nowhere with its non-matching Corinthian Columns, to the fake windows to the non-matching and overbearing sweeping staircases, this addition is a statement of excess. Not a statement of American Values.

In short, eliminate the south portico. Reduce the size to industry standards. Make it look like it was part of the original plan and not upstage the White House.

I am strongly opposed to the East Wing Modernization Project as it is. It is a grotesque abomination. Thank You.

Name: Leslie Millar

Date: February 28, 2026 4:32:05 pm

Please reject forcefully the inappropriate design planned by the Trump regime. They would be building an ill conceived monstrosity out of proportion and scale with the currently buildings. Please honor the well thought out original landscape

plan which incorporates a sense of balance and symmetry to the whole. Why build something so over size, jumbo size unless you are trying to dwarf and dominate the historical design?

Say NO!

Apply artistic nuance to this forced construction project, which has an opportunity to both function sensibly and tie in with the original buildings.

Name: Tracy Rogers-Tryba

Date: February 28, 2026 4:34:47 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

The waste if funds, not approved, is criminal given the vast funding cuts that support Americans. This project serves one mans vanity. Shame!

Name: Deborah Iberger

Date: February 28, 2026 4:50:53 pm

I am vehemently opposed to the proposed East Wing modernization plans. The proposed ballroom is nearly three times the square footage of the White House, which would physically overwhelm our nation's most symbolic building. Placing the proposed ballroom in the Washington street axis would destroy the stunning view shed, causing visual pollution (the degradation of the aesthetic quality of natural or built landscapes caused by excessive, disorganized, or unattractive human-made elements.

It causes eye strain, distraction, and psychological stress while ruining the sense of place and reducing the pleasure of an environment). Several functions in the proposed plan are senseless, including the unusable south portico. Buildings must be designed for flexibility, adaptability, or adaptive reuse requiring anticipation of how a building's function might evolve. In the future there may be no need for a ballroom of this size. Have the architects considered adaptability for the future? This project needs to be downsized, placed where it won't interfere with Washington's street axis, view shed, and Frederick Law Olmstead's semi-circular drive. Washington, L'Enfant, Jefferson and Olmstead must be rolling over in their graves at this discordant architectural nightmare!

Name: Paul Carpenter

Date: February 28, 2026 4:52:36 pm

I am appalled by the lawless vandalism of the East Wing of the People's House.

Unauthorized destruction of public property is normally a criminal offense. In this case, evidence of criminal intent seems reasonably clear from statements made and from actions taken to mislead or bamboozle the public and to evade oversight by duly constituted authority.

Criminality, if established, should be punished, and restitution should be demanded and enforced.

Name: rita A

Date: February 28, 2026 4:58:58 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300+ million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete disregard of American history. This project should be canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. This project was not correctly authorized! No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Ellyn Gale

Date: February 28, 2026 5:00:11 pm

It

Is imperative that this ball room be restored to its original state. The tear down was done without proper authorization. This project is a travesty to our country's history

Name: Tom Wukitsch

Date: February 28, 2026 5:27:32 pm

Terrible over massed project that if approved will be a disgrace for our nation. Please do not approve this project

Name: Gregory Spanos

Date: February 28, 2026 5:38:41 pm

This "modernization" project is a travesty, as are all the changes that the current administration has made to the White House and grounds. The administration not only ignored policy and procedure and the review that is required prior to making significant changes to the White House. It went ahead and destroyed the East Wing for a huge vanity project for the president. The plans for the project appear to keep changing and at no time has the President provided the type of review required or permissions obtained. The design is comparable to the excesses of Louis XIV, completely tasteless and overdone with gilt, and lurid design. The building, if constructed as the plans indicate would dwarf the rest of the building, destroying the balance that existed prior to the wanton destruction of the East Wing. The fact that the renovations are being funded by private billionaires who seek the president's favor is disgusting and most likely a violation of the emoluments clause, not that this means anything to this president who has raked in billions of dollars of personal gain while serving. What the Planning Commission or other entity should do is sue the companies that destroyed the East Wing and the District of Columbia should go after the companies and remove their building licenses. They should do the same to anyone who begins to build without the proper clearances. This is a tasteless and unnecessary project and should be prevented from taking place.

Name: Geof Johnson

Date: February 28, 2026 5:41:43 pm

I am writing to express my concern about the White House Ballroom project as currently designed and under construction. Setting aside the issue of whether this should be built at all – and I believe that it should not without a comprehensive design review including Congress and detailed accounting of funding – the current design falls short in several ways.

1. The overall mass of the ballroom is 3x that of the existing White House in volume – which causes the ballroom to overshadow the White House itself.
2. The ballroom includes approximately 4,000 SF of massive South Portico that is out of proportion to both the White House and Treasury Building South Porticos. In addition this massive portico is a false front – it does not provide access to the ballroom which is actually 12 feet above the portico floor and it is not accessible from the building – it is simply a very large decorative front adding no function to the building.
3. The ballroom as designed will impinge on the south drive of the White House and will cause it to bend inwards as it approaches the SW corner of the ballroom thus destroying the classical symmetry designed into the White House grounds by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. ninety years ago.
4. The ballroom as designed will block the sightlines from the White House to the Capitol – a key design feature of the original designer of the capital city Pierre L'Enfant. This sight line along Pennsylvania Ave. ties together the two branches of the US Government visually and is one of four main axes that L'Enfant designed to radiate out from the White House. – features that have existed since his original design in the 1790s
5. Current high architectural standard for ballroom design allocates 15 square feet per person for a sit down dining experience (the most space demanding of uses). With the current design stated to accommodate 1,000 people it would require 15,000 SF not the 22,000 SF as designed. Note that the 22,000 SF does not include the South Portico space which adds to the volume and visual impact of the building. Reducing the ballroom level to 15,000 SF and placing the service areas below grade would lower the overall height of the ballroom structure and make it better fit with existing buildings. Resizing the building and reducing its overall height by moving service areas below grade would also restore the historic

sight line to the Capitol as designed by L'Enfant.

6. The South Portico design includes 24 five foot diameter columns which will substantially block the views from the grand ballroom windows on the south end. This is another reason to remove the South Portico from the design.

The above points are from a video produced by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Attached are two screenshots from that video that illustrate the improvements found by reducing the overall size and height of the ballroom without affecting its current design function.

The White House and its surrounding landscape are historic grounds with deep significance for all Americans. Major changes that affect the historic classical design and that impact the existing structures should only proceed after honest conversations about the design and intent and with planning and input from the American public and our elected representatives. To do otherwise is to usurp the people's voice and their interest in this historic property that is owned by us all.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Barbara Dawson

Date: February 28, 2026 5:43:50 pm

Although I am not an academically trained historian, I have a great appreciation of history. Nor am I an architect but I am writing to express my concern over the proposed ballroom addition to the White House. My initial reaction is why would we need a structure that large? I find it unlikely and not fiscally responsible that a President would host parties of 1,000 people on a frequent basis. I also am quite upset that the East Wing was torn down without prior approval of any plans. I am an industrial hygienist by profession and think the demolition of the East Wing without permits and asbestos exposure controls in place was irresponsible. I hope that the workers involved do not suffer any adverse health consequences.

But, back to the proposed addition, the White House should be the focal point of Pennsylvania Avenue and it should not be overshadowed by the ballroom. Recognizing that it's too late to stop construction of a ballroom since the damage has already been done, a much smaller ballroom would serve the perceived need without destroying the legacy of the Washington's vision for the capital city. In keeping with the original plans by L'Enfant to symbolically connect the Executive branch with the Legislative branch, the view from the Capitol to the White House should not be further obstructed.

The size of the proposed ballroom far exceeds the industry standard for a banquet hall for 1,000 people. A hall as big as the one that is proposed seems impractical since it would be cavernous for a smaller gathering. Another consideration is the expense of heating and air conditioning the volume of air that would be required to meet ASHRAE standards. As a taxpayer, I think a smaller ballroom would be prudent and would be much better for our economy.

I hope that you will take these thoughts into account as you review the ballroom plans. If this administration is truly concerned about cutting waste, this is a prime opportunity.

Name: Patricia Conley

Date: February 28, 2026 5:44:10 pm

Stop Trump's White House ballroom!!!

This project is just a frivolity and an extreme waste of money. It is a destruction of a historic property that belongs to the people of these United States. I do not think that legally this project is something the president can take action on without due process. Our money, time and effort is best spent according to the needs of the constituents, the citizens of these United States not on a gaudy, over the top, gold plated ballroom for who's benefit and use?

Stop Trump's White House ballroom!!!!!!

Name: Signa Larralde

Date: February 28, 2026 5:47:01 pm

President Trump has proposed the construction of a 90,000-square-foot ballroom on the east side of the White House campus, adjacent to the historic Treasury Building. Site preparation is already underway, including the demolition of the historic East Wing of the White House.

I am deeply concerned that the massing and height of the proposed new construction will overwhelm the White House itself—it is 55,000 square feet—and may also permanently disrupt the carefully balanced classical design of the White House with its two smaller, and lower, East and West Wings.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation offer clear guidance for construction projects involving historic properties. The Standards provide that new additions should not destroy the historic fabric of the property and that the new work should be compatible with the existing massing, size, scale and architectural features. The administration's plans would do just that. I urge you to reject the administration's ballroom plans.

The White House and its grounds belong to all Americans. Modifications should be in keeping with the existing feeling of this historic property and not completely diminish it.

Name: Jeanne Evans

Date: February 28, 2026 5:59:34 pm

Please scale back the building so that it allows the White House to be the prominent one on site and the views across the field of vision are not impaired.

Thank you,
Jeanne Evans
Longs, SC

Name: Susan Thomas

Date: February 28, 2026 6:25:02 pm

The White House is the people's house. It is not the property of any one president to do with what he wishes. Tremendous, irreversible damage has already been done to the White House. Without any respect for its historic character or consultation with anyone. This administration is ignorant of the first rule of historic preservation: don't do anything irreversible. The White House was not designed to be a palace in the manner of the kings we rejected. The proposed monument to the president's ego would absolutely dwarf the historic White House. It is absolutely unacceptable. There are many other ways to build a ballroom that won't destroy the character of our White House. Listen to the historians and the preservationists!

Name: KATHRYN CLARK

Date: February 28, 2026 6:29:43 pm

I oppose the current design under consideration. It is too big and does not compliment the original White House or the surrounding area.

Much more time is needed to arrive at a design that truly complements the beauty and function of the White House.

Name: Jim Hood

Date: February 28, 2026 6:47:13 pm

My concerns are multiple:

The destruction of the East Colonnade, and East Wing without review and public input.

The current dimensions of the ballroom overwhelm both the landscape and its footprint. Is not well over twice the size of the footprint of the original White House. The scale of the proposed ballroom disrespects and overwhelms the historic White House.

The use of Corinthian Order columns have no relationship to the White House exterior which uses Ionic Order columns in the North Portico and South Portico. The White House also has used Tuscan Doric Order in the West Colonnade, the West Wing Portico, and the now destroyed East Colonnade and East Wing Portico. In the last decade the White House received a new pool house that respected both the historic late Georgian Style, used Tuscan Doric columns, and was respectful in scale to the original building.

The ballroom in current plan barely makes an effort in using Neoclassical form and proportion. The ratio of window area to wall masonry is not neoclassical. It looks more like an Orangery. The architecture of James Hoban, the architect of the White House; Benjamin Henry Latrobe who worked with President Thomas Jefferson on the post 1814 fire damage and with Jefferson built the East and West Colonnade must be studied along with Jefferson's own architecture at Monticello, Poplar Hill, and the campus of the University of Virginia.

Name: Melissa Silva

Date: February 28, 2026 7:18:58 pm

I wish this process was done before the east wing was destroyed. So much history gone.

I don't think this ballroom should be built at all!

Name: Kevin Laberge

Date: February 28, 2026 7:31:40 pm

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to express my opposition to the current iteration of the proposed White House Ballroom and the devastating damage to the historic integrity of the White House caused by this administration's flagrant disregard for the laws of this Nation.

Could the White House benefit from a new ballroom? Absolutely. I believe most people would agree that a new ballroom would be beneficial for holding events and functions for visiting Heads of State; replacing, the haphazardly erected tents on the South Lawn. However, any ballroom design must abide by the proper processes and considerations required by Law.

Prior to his reality TV career and his foray into politics, Mr. Trump was, and by some opinions, still is, a real estate developer. While he had some moderate success in his real estate endeavors, Mr. Trump has filed for bankruptcy six times, calling into question his business acumen and ability to make meaningful, informed decisions regarding property development and management. His actions in proceeding with the demolition of the East Wing are an example of poor decision-making and planning, and are tantamount to thumbing his nose at the American People and the Laws of the this Great Nation. By demolishing the East Wing, Mr. Trump has effectively pursued a choice-limiting action under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, created an adverse effect under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, sought to undermine the public comment process inherent to these two Acts, and bypassed the authority of the US Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission.

His attorneys may argue that the ballroom is being constructed with private donations; therefore, no federal funds are involved and the project is not subject to NEPA. This is inherently a false argument since the White House is federal property; therefore, any significant rehabilitation or new construction to said property, no matter the funding source, must fall under the purview of NEPA.

In accordance with NEPA, Section 106 of the NHPA, and the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties: Rehabilitation as a Treatment and Standards for Rehabilitation", the current, proposed design for the ballroom fails to consider the historic significance and integrity of the White House. The size, massing, and location of the proposed ballroom dwarfs the White House, thereby diminishing its integrity, association, and place. Further, any proposed ballroom should be subordinate to the White House instead of in competition with or dominating it. The current design is a monstrosity; it's too large and dominating of a structure to coexist with the primary focus of the White House. Rather, the scale should be reduced to a size that would mimic the size and massing of the West Wing (approximately 40,000 square feet), creating a balance to the overall layout and harmony of design.

As you know, the White House is often called "The People's House", a term used to signify that this historic structure belongs to, and is maintained by, the tax-paying citizens of the United States, and not by its current resident. Mr. Trump lives at the White House by the grace of the American People, and while he may wish to make changes to the building, its wings, and the historic landscaping, the decision to do so is not his alone.

In closing, I have one question for the Commission:

Can you imagine, for a moment, how Mr. Trump would have reacted, if one of his tenants had demolished one of his

properties without his permission?

Thank you for your time.

Name: Virginia Spatz

Date: February 28, 2026 7:44:15 pm

Please reject the current plan for the replacement of the East wing of the White House.

Specific elements that need fixing:

Planned columns do not match those of current White House.

Excessive scale ruins proportions of the White House.

Portico is not a sensible addition

The clumsy, destructive plan will alter the White House forever in ways that do not serve the city or the nation. Please reject this plan

Name: Valerie Chevrette

Date: February 28, 2026 7:46:42 pm

I am opposed to the current East Wing Modernization Plan as proposed. I prefer that more diverse plans that are more sensitive to and complimentary to the classical and historic design of the current Whitehouse be submitted and considered. I would like decisions on any new design to be made by a diverse group of architectural designers and historians and not by a single person or small group of persons in the current administration.

Name: Carol Thomas

Date: February 28, 2026 7:57:07 pm

This should be prevented from going ahead, and instead be carefully considered and planned for educational use in support of our democracy. It should be designed based on our historic traditions.

The size of the addition as now planned addition is a monstrosity.

The purpose is to benefit the oligarchy and the selling of our politics to the billionaire class.

In style, it is likely to mimic a Russian palace: gilded and gaudy. It should never be allowed to proceed under the supervision of Trump or Trumps.

Name: Donald Singer

Date: February 28, 2026 7:59:30 pm

This is more accurately described as the "East Wing Desecration Project." It is a legal, moral, esthetic, civic and abomination, a monstrosity. (Words are inadequate to capture the magnitude of this insult to the entire nation.)

Someone else said it better than I can: "The White House is a National Historic Landmark and National Park, owned by the American people and stewarded by the National Park Service. It has been home to our presidents since 1800 and is perhaps the most significant historic site in the United States. Before nationally significant places are permanently altered, the public deserves an opportunity to be heard and to help shape decisions that affect our shared national heritage."

With the destruction of the East Wing we have already lost irreplaceable parts of our history and heritage. This grandiose sop to the flaccid ego of a failed president who thinks he's a dictator must STOP now! We must replace and restore as much of the East Wing as possible, and everyone responsible for what has been done must bear the cost of doing so.

Name: Christina Dodds

Date: February 28, 2026 8:01:17 pm

The White House has undergone many changes, renovations and expansions in its lifetime, sometimes to great public outcry. However, the proposed “East Wing Modernization” project is unique in its scale and impact—and demolition and construction have been undertaken without congressional approval or a transparent public design selection process.

While an indoor ballroom and banquet space may be needed, if completed according to current plans the project would disfigure the White House and intrude on much of the surrounding landscaping designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. It would irretrievably mar an essential element of the 1791-92 plan for Washington DC -- commissioned and approved by George Washington-- by blocking the direct visual connection between the White House and the Capitol down Pennsylvania Avenue.

There are both functional and aesthetic problems with the proposed design. Most of these could be mitigated while meeting the stated need of a ballroom/state dinner space serving 1,000 guests by substantially reducing the height and overall size of the proposed structure and of the colonnade connecting it with the White House and by respecting established conventions of neoclassical design to bring it into better harmony with the White House. In particular, the massive portico on the south end of the building should be eliminated. It does not contribute to the stated function of the building; is grossly disproportionate; and blocks the view of the White House from Pennsylvania Avenue.

Name: david jones

Date: February 28, 2026 8:10:22 pm

I am very concerned about the design of the proposed White House Ballroom for the following reasons:

1. The White House is the “peoples house” and it, along with the grounds, are significant in our country’s legacy. All construction must be of the highest standard and should be compatible with the original city layout by L’Enfant, the architectural character of the building by Hoban and the grounds laid out by Olmsted. The Neoclassical Palladian design of the White House is modest. The proposal is not.
 2. The proposed ballroom interrupts the visual connection of the White House and the Capital building along Pennsylvania Avenue, which is so symbolically important for two of the three equal branches of our government.
 3. The proposal alters the graceful arch of Olstead’s footpath on the south lawn.
 4. The proposed ballroom overshadows the White House in size.
 5. It unbalances the symmetry of the north elevation. The idea of adding a second floor to the West Wing, is not the answer.
 6. It lacks the sophistication of the original building. For example, the White House employs Ionic column capitals while the proposed ballroom uses the Corinthian order. These are not compatible.
 7. If the program calls for a ballroom to serve a 1000 person capacity, the room is vastly oversized in both plan and interior height. There is no plan showing any possible subdivision for smaller assemblies. This raises the question of how many times each year the facility would be comfortably used.
 8. The lower-level support spaces (kitchen, services etc.) should be below grade to reduce the exterior height.
 9. The north facing portico overshadows the White House portico in both width and height. Also, the floor level of the portico is 12’ below the ballroom floor, making it both unusable and inaccessible, despite the grand stairways shown to it.
 10. The proposed elevations appear to show many false window openings. This shows the lack of design ability and integrity.
-

Name: Kaye Wing

Date: February 28, 2026 9:15:50 pm

- The White House is the People’s House. It is not the personal property of the President.
- The White House was originally designed with a classical composition, featuring two smaller and lower East and West wings, reflecting Georgian and Neoclassical principles. It was designed by Irish-American Architect James Hoban in 1792 in a public design competition. His design was selected by George Washington.
- Design guidelines for the White House and President’s Park were issued by the National Park Service in 1997. “The White House and President’s Park are first and foremost a Public Trust, and important part of our national heritage.”
- The current proposed project foot print is 90,000 square feet (SF) including a 22,000 SF, 1,000-person ballroom. The White House is 55,000 square feet (on multiple levels not all on ground floor). Current capacity average for most State Department events in the West Wing is 140 people. The project is grossly out of scale to the White House. There are

extreme concerns regarding massing, height, scale aka proportionality and design harmony.

- The East Wing was expanded into the two-story structure (from the one-story addition built in 1902 by Theodore Roosevelt) by Franklin Roosevelt 1942 after Pearl Harbor to include an emergency underground bunker, the Presidential Emergency Operations Center. This PEOC was used, for example, after 9/11.
- When the current East Wing was demolished, it was stated that the East Wing cornerstone, columns, chandeliers and interior wood paneling were documented, stored and preserved for potential integration into the new project. Where are these elements now, and how can we verify that they will be thoughtfully reused?
- Although no formal Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required as it is exempt under Section 107 of the National Historic Preservation Act (which exempts the White House, the Capital and the Supreme Court building from standard review), questions that a normal EIR would pose should still be answered. These include: impact to traffic and noise, impacts to surrounding land uses including the President's Park, Lafayette Park and the Ellipse. For example, where will the limos, cars and other transportation be staged or parked?
- How will a 1,000-person event work? How will security be provided? What is the guests' demographic, ie. is this going to be considered a venue where tickets are sold for attendance?
- Although the +\$300 million project is stated to be funded by private donors, what about the long-term expenses of: security, maintenance, staffing, utilities, programming and scheduling of events? Will these be at the cost of the American people?
- The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation provide clear federal guidance for construction projects affecting historic properties which have not been followed. New construction should be compatible with existing massing, size, scale and architectural features which this project does not. These standards have guided preservation of the White House since the 1792 public design competition.
- Prior to the East Wing's demolition October 2025, the last major destruction the White House endured was in 1814 when the British burned it during the War of 1812. (Architect James Hoban rebuilt it after the fire.)
- This project, and this administration, is not being a good Steward of a national, of an international, icon of historical nature. The People's House represents the Republic and all that it stands for. It is historically intrinsic to the fabric of the American story.

Name: Nanci Kalanta

Date: February 28, 2026 9:30:51 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Keith Brownfield

Date: February 28, 2026 9:46:06 pm

I oppose the spending of 300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. This is not a modernization project, but rather a complete raising of American history. I want this project canceled, and the east wing rebuilt and restored to its original design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law abiding Americans.

Shame on you.

Name: Pam Bradley

Date: February 28, 2026 9:51:12 pm

[Attachment](#)

Name: Jean Dodenhoff

Date: February 28, 2026 10:05:06 pm

Correction to previous comment

An appropriate modernization would be the Grosse Pointe Shores MI City Hall

Name: Mary Y

Date: February 28, 2026 10:22:14 pm

Dear NCPC,

I am not in favor of the destruction of the East Wing. The demolition was done without public comment or consideration of the historical significance of that wing. I believe a President can procure ballroom facilities with relative ease in DC for less than the price tag of building a monstrosity attached to the People's House. Please have the former East Wing returned to its former layout. I do not see a problem adding enhancements for ADA compliance or updating to be code compliant for safety. Etc. thank you.

Name: Natalie Burg

Date: February 28, 2026 10:30:15 pm

I strongly oppose what has happened in the East Wing "modernization" project, which to most Americans is viewed as a corrupt project with purely political aims.

Our national history is being destroyed without public say.

Any changes should be put through a board with equal democratic and republican membership, or through Congress itself.

Name: Susan Johnson

Date: February 28, 2026 10:34:48 pm

The East Wing of the White House should be rebuilt to balance the West Wing in size, aesthetics, and style. It should NOT stick out like a sore thumb! I am hoping it will be updated for modern technology, but preserve/rebuild the historical significance. It was so beautiful & useful when I visited in 1995.

Susan Johnson

Alexandria, MN

Name: Charleen Boudreau

Date: February 28, 2026 11:20:04 pm

I am opposed to construction of the proposed massive ballroom where the East Wing of the White House used to be. I want the East Wing to be rebuilt on its original footprint, with the original height and exterior appearance.

The president announced that he wants a ballroom to accommodate 1,000 guests for a dinner. The proposed building is large enough to accommodate 1,500 guests, by current architectural standards, plus it has undesignated space on an additional floor above the ballroom. If the need is for 1,000 guests, why build it larger? Where is the publicly available justification for a space to host 1,000 or more guests? Where is the justification for such a space and building to be located on the White House grounds? How often will events of this size be held? How will the space be used between events? Will it be adaptable to host events with fewer guests? Approval must be denied until these questions are answered.

Were alternative locations considered? There must be many locations in Washington DC that could be used to host large events. Such locations could certainly be renovated at much lower cost than the cost of construction and maintenance of this proposed ballroom building.

The proposed building is so large that it will visually dwarf the White House. This is unacceptable. The proposed building is so large that it will block the view of the Capitol from the White House, and vice versa. This view was a key element in the original design of the city. Blocking this view is unacceptable. The proposed building has undesignated spaces inside and outside. What is the proposed use for the top floor? Why build a huge portico with many columns when the portico is inaccessible from the interior of the meeting space, and the columns block the view out the windows of the meeting space?

I urge you to reject the proposed ballroom construction.

urge you to require the East Wing be rebuilt in its original exterior configuration.

I urge you to request proposals for alternative locations for a large meeting space for use as a ballroom or other event, on an as-needed basis.

Name: Janet Hirunrusme

Date: February 28, 2026 11:24:05 pm

Like most Americans, I was horrified by the destruction of the East Wing of the White House. So much history and tradition was wiped out without the approval of the American people.

I for one do not want a ballroom that will overshadow and be bigger than the White House. The White House is an important symbol of the American people and should remain prominent. Plus, the style of Trump is crass and unamerican. The event space should be smaller than the main White House and should not include any glittering gold. It should reflect the grace and history of the White House itself. I don't know why an event space could not have been built somewhere else on the grounds and left the east wing intact. Oh, and restore the rose garden and get rid of that tacky concrete patio. The American colors are red, white and blue. Not gold and yellow.

I hope an architect with knowledge of what would inspire the American people will be installed on this project. We need someone who understands class and elegance. Not crass and tacky gold.

Name: Carol Smith

Date: February 28, 2026 11:38:11 pm

I want this project canceled and the East Wing of the White House restored to its former design. It's not modernization, it's erasure of history!

Name: Alice Stokes

Date: February 28, 2026 11:42:39 pm

February 28, 2026

Dear Sirs and Mesdames,

As a lifelong historic preservationist, I am concerned that the current design of the White House ballroom does not follow the long held principle for all architectural and industrial design that "FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION." The intent of this principle by Louis Sullivan in 1896 is that the shape or design of an object should be primarily determined by its intended purpose.

President Trump on numerous occasions has touted the need for a ballroom to accommodate 1,000 people. Therefore, why is the current proposal designed to be 47% larger than the industry standard for 1,000 people? This brings the room to 22,000 square feet for 1500 people all seated at tables!

And why must the ballroom floor rise 25 1/2 feet above street level? This height apparently has inspired the architect to stick a portico with columns on the south end of the building which apparently has no working doors from the outside. Where does this portico follow function?

Why is the current kitchen proposal which has been described as "immense" been designed for 2 1/2 times the industry standard capable of serving 1500 people?

There are many other aspects to the White House Ballroom design, known as the East Wing Modernization Project, which fly in the face of Louis Sullivan's 1896 principle. However, what is most disturbing is that the current design does not comply with the Secretary of the Interior's standard for the treatment of historic properties which states that new work must "be compatible with the size, scale, proportion and mass to protect the integrity of the property and its environment."

Why must the end product of the ballroom addition be an enormous 2.66 million cubic feet when the White House is only 875 cubic feet?

This 90,000 square foot addition is nearly three times the size of the White House and will interrupt the symbolic and historical connection between the White House and the U. S. Capital, a core feature of Pierre L'Enfant's 1791 design

requested by George Washington for the city of Washington. Unfortunately, this East Wing Modernization Project ignores the principal tenets of L'Enfant's grand design.

Therefore, I urge you to honor the mission of the Department of the Interior's standards by declining to support the current ballroom proposal so that we do not have an Epic Disaster on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Stokes

Public Comments for East Wing Modernization Project

Total comments: 174

March 1, 2026

Name: Janine Duncan

Date: March 1, 2026 1:04:23 am

Arts Commission approval for the current design was a fait accompli, but as a preservation professional I hold out hope that the public's comments will be heard and a smaller ballroom added. There is no reason for the massing and scale to overshadow the White House, and as reported, change Frederick Law Olmstead's landscape design. There have already been too many landscape changes. I acknowledge that president's can update the building; however, the lack of respect this administration holds for process and thoughtful design is pathetic. An 84,000 square foot building that dwarfs the residence and looks more like the entrance to the Supreme Court has room for improvement. I hope the suggested design that shrinks the building to an industry standard will be given serious consideration, and ultimately, approval. Thank you for your time.

Name: Adrian Holman

Date: March 1, 2026 3:40:14 am

The East Wing should not be built according to the specifications of President Trump because he is going to die of sickness within six months. We can all see that with the purple hands, the slurring of speech, and the lack of the ability to walk in a straight line.

Name: Lee McDonald

Date: March 1, 2026 5:27:25 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Lee Carmel

Date: March 1, 2026 5:32:28 am

Attn: NCPC,

I was horrified to see what Trump did to the East Wing of the White House. The White House is not a cheap, tacky Trump hotel that he owns and can do whatever he wants to it. He only wants to be able to bring in more people TO PAY HIM to sit in the proposed, grossly enlarged space. It's all about enriching himself and leaving a disgusting reminder of what he did. We can't undo the damage he has already done to our beautiful East Wing of the White House but the expansion he plans should be stopped immediately!

Sincerely,

Lee G. Carmel

Name: Thomas Daly

Date: March 1, 2026 7:14:39 am

Trump should be billed for the damage to the EastWing.

He should be court ordered to do 50 hours of community service I. Physically fixing the damage.

He's just a temporary visitor in the WH.

How was he allowed to touch the building ???

What a huge mistake.
Everyone in Europe is laughing at us.
What a waste of money and without a design

Name: Joan Lackey

Date: March 1, 2026 7:30:46 am

The new ballroom should be the smaller model. The large overshadows the White House. The smaller will take less money for cleaning and upkeep. The large will be mostly unused space that is hard to heat or cool and will take to many people for any cleaning jobs. Floor mopping, dusting, window washing. How large will the staff have to be for a space so oversized? I would rather go back in time and leave the east wing standing but if it must be done please keep it small. The White House should still be the most visible.

Name: Larry Friedlander

Date: March 1, 2026 7:56:44 am

I oppose the the destruction of the east wing to construct a “ballroom”. The east wing is a national historic structure and should rightfully remain as such. I believe it should be restored to its original configuration, with money saved from this vainglorious project used for more meaningful and necessary federal projects.

Name: Linda Chesko

Date: March 1, 2026 8:01:33 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete leveling of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design.

Name: Michaela Heilhecker

Date: March 1, 2026 8:10:29 am

To the National Capital Planning Commission:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed White House Ballroom as currently planned, and to urge the Commission to reject or significantly revise the project in favor of a more historically sensitive approach.

The White House is not merely a presidential residence — it is a National Historic Landmark, a National Park, and one of the most symbolically significant structures in the United States. It has served as the home of every president since John Adams and belongs, in a profound sense, to the American people. Any alterations to its grounds and structures carry an extraordinary responsibility to preserve its historic integrity for future generations.

I am deeply concerned that the proposed ballroom, as currently designed, is disproportionate in scale and incompatible with the character of this irreplaceable landmark. Rather than pursuing a project of this size and scope, I urge the Commission to:

1. Require full historical restoration of any existing structures affected by this project, in keeping with established preservation standards.
2. Reject the current ballroom footprint and demand a scaled-down alternative that respects the historic fabric and visual character of the White House and its grounds.
3. Ensure transparency by requiring the release of complete architectural plans for full public and expert review before any vote proceeds.

The National Capital Planning Commission has a duty to uphold the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Approving a project of this scale — one that may permanently alter a site of this magnitude — without exhausting every historically sensitive alternative would be a failure of that duty.

I respectfully urge the Commission to vote against approval of the current plans and to support alternatives that honor the history, symbolism, and irreplaceable heritage of the White House.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Kindest regards,

Michaela Heilhecker
USAF Veteran

Name: Mary Long

Date: March 1, 2026 8:13:32 am

How can you be having a meeting on this when it has already been demolished? Aren't you a bit late?
And how can a president tear down a huge piece of an infrastructure without any permission? Especially on a home he is only renting!!!! Please help save our White House and our country!

Name: Andrea Rakowicz

Date: March 1, 2026 8:19:39 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. This building does not belong to any individual. It belongs to the American people and is a legacy to future generations of Americans. The disrespect shown to that ownership and the history that the building held within its walls is repulsive. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Paula Hays

Date: March 1, 2026 8:24:53 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Ruth Renedo

Date: March 1, 2026 8:33:00 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Julie Fairchild

Date: March 1, 2026 8:50:32 am

I agree with Anara Guard's comment. "I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review . . . No one is above the law and . . . [not to penalize] those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans." I add my opinion that the damage can't be undone, the project should focus on being the best our present time has to offer at the most responsible cost for taxpayers. Go through the right channels, request multiple bids from today's best architects, and create a sustainable, negative carbon structure made as much from recycled materials as possible.

Name: Carol Newsome

Date: March 1, 2026 9:01:20 am

It is already too late- Changes to the People's House should first be brought before the people. The East Wing has been destroyed by the actions of one person, emboldened by other people that are expected to be the voice of the people. We now should be allowed to decide how our house should be rebuilt.

Name: Mark Gill

Date: March 1, 2026 9:01:44 am

The ballroom needs to be large enough to accommodate the average number of guests at "state dinners" which average around 500 people at most. There is no reason for it to be so big. The building must not be so much larger than the White House that it totally overshadows it. The "owners" of the White House should be the people that decide what is done to it.

Name: Evelyn Perez

Date: March 1, 2026 9:14:33 am

The size and magnitude of this project destroys the historical integrity of the White House. It needs to be scaled back to respect the History of the White House and what it means to the citizens of the United States of America.

Name: Angela Sherbine

Date: March 1, 2026 9:18:23 am

I have confidence that the National Capital Planning Commission and those charged with the safe keeping of our National Treasures will make wise and thoughtful decisions about the President's request to add a ballroom to the White House. With thoughtful planning and historical knowledge, I hope this process will be measured and will planned rather than the "take a backhoe to the building" process we have already witnessed. I hope this new ballroom reflects the American People rather than an obscene, distasteful homage to one man.

However, I am just as concerned about the destruction of the presence of the First Lady's official space. Historically, First Lady's (and in future, a First Man) have played a powerful presence in the White House. Their presence and recognition seems unimportant to the current couple occupying the White House. But they are only temporary residents and the view beyond 2028 should be kept in the forefront of planning any renovations. (I hope the next couple will restore the Rose Garden which was dramatically destroyed.)

Thank you for your important work overseeing our most important National Architectural Treasures. I'm sure the work can be frustrating and that you receive criticism for your work. Democracy is about making sure all sides are heard and that fair and wise decisions are made which benefit all stake holders. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Name: Daisy Konowal

Date: March 1, 2026 9:20:23 am

Dear committee,

I believe a ballroom a good idea to the Peoples House but design needs to be scaled back.

George Washington commissioned Charles L'Enfant 1791 to create the framework for Washington DC. This plan was very carefully layer out using proportion and geometry in a classic design. This current plan would break the architectural relational ship with the U.S. Capital building a plan that carefully thought out by our forefathers. It is completely out of proposition to the area.

The landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted Jr designed a, symmetrical, elegant and timeless white house grounds. The purposed plan would disrupt the original grounds and gardens that were designed. Which will be lost forever.

You're a few ways in my opinion, that you could easily maintain ballroom without destroying the beautiful classical design that we have today. One only make the ballroom for 1000-person seated dinner that would be 15000 compared to 22000 which is plenty space. Two you should eliminate the south portico it seems like it has really no function. There is no accessibility from the interior only from the exterior, so what's the point? Three you could make the ballroom an industrial standard for ballroom height, instead of the astronomical height of it now. To stay on the height aspect of ceilings I really don't understand why the third-floor needs in 19 foot ceiling. Four, moving non-public spaces the kitchen, serving spaces to a lower level which would also lower the height of the building.

I truly believe that our forefathers, would be appalled at the scale and the lack of classical architecture preservation in this design.

Furthermore, it should only be paid for by the people not billionaire.

It is the peoples house not the billionaire's house.

Thank you

Daisy Konowal

Name: Wendy Kirkpatrick

Date: March 1, 2026 9:23:41 am

Under no circumstances should any new construction on the White House grounds be larger than the existing, historical structure. The destruction of the East Wing without any oversight was absolutely shameful. New co structure should be done with the utmost respect for the size and style of the original building. The White House is not meant to be a palace. The President and his hand-picked friends controlling this process need to remember that this property does not belong to one person a single occupant, who is a guest for a few years.

Name: Rachel Moore

Date: March 1, 2026 9:26:25 am

As plans move forward, please consider the historic nature of this building. Please work to preserve symmetry and balance with the existing White House structure. I urge you to reduce the planned size and footprint of the proposed East Wing so that it 1) maintains visual balance with the West Wing and main White House, 2) avoids impact to Olmsted's symmetrical oval approach and 3) avoids obscuring the view originally designed by L'Enfant between the Capitol and the White House. While it may become necessary from time to time to modernize historic structures, this can be done without destroying the historic character of the buildings and grounds. Please ensure there are experts in historic preservation on the design team. Thank you.

Name: Joanne *Reynolds

Date: March 1, 2026 9:33:35 am

As a tax payer for the past 50+ years, I am writing to make you aware that I am NOT in favor the action taken to demolish the East Wing of the PEOPLE'S HOUSE and am NOT in favor of the East Wing Modernization Project. Most Americans agree on these points.

This ballroom is excessive, unnecessary and does not add anything to the character and historic legacy of the PEOPLE'S HOUSE! This project must be paused and reviewed by the Commissions and Agencies responsible for ensuring our tax dollars are spent in ways that are accessible to the American people. This Project is not for the people and therefore, must be stopped.

Name: Michelle Conover

Date: March 1, 2026 9:35:09 am

A gargantuan ballroom where the beautiful east wing of the Whitehouse previously stood is an affront to the American people. We don't need it and we don't want it. The Whitehouse and its wings are, or were, perfectly proportional to each other. They should remain so. No one section should dominate another, especially the main part if the PEOPLE'S house! That should stand as the centerpiece, and yet with this abhorrent design it would be diminished.

The fact that demolition took place without knowledge and approval, should instantly negate this ballroom. It is historically vacant , and ignores the historic coziness of big events held each year, with much success, at the Whitehouse!

BIGGER IS NOT BETTER! This new "design" (term used lightly) is an insult to the Whitehouse and all of Washington!!!

Name: Clinton County Historical Society

Date: March 1, 2026 9:37:57 am

The Clinton County Historical Society in Lock Haven PA urges rejection of the plans for the proposed White House ballroom for the following reasons.

1. The East Wing was illegally torn down, bypassing any zoning restrictions or permits.
2. The proposed ballroom s 166% larger than the White House and is not compatible with the original architectural plan, has no symmetry, no balance nor respect for US history. It is taller than the White House and obstructs the view from the

Capital building, as in the original plan for the District of Columbia.

3. The building is not ADA accessible, violating several laws. The entry is 25' above street level and has no interior access to the White House.

4. What is the impact on the infrastructure of water and sewer? The kitchen is larger than the industry standard and would 1000 people using the bathrooms strain the system.

This is the "Peoples' House," the most recognizable and important house in America. It is not the President's house to do what he may.

5. How often will a 1000 person ballroom be used? Would it be empty most of the time? And at what cost to the taxpayers?

We expect that the historical provenance of the classical design of Washington DC be preserved by the organizations charged with that mission.

Name: Alan Youngblood

Date: March 1, 2026 9:47:41 am

The current design for the East Wing of the White House is completely unacceptable. There are many reasons for this:

1. The White House is 'the people's house' and is a sacred symbol of the best of what the U.S. stands for. It is restrained, balanced, and beloved. The 'modernization' project as it stands now is a mockery of the original White House design and a grotesque statement of defamation.

2. The current design violates history and maims the District of Columbia because of its grossly out of proportion scaling; the scale can only be described as monstrous and completely distorts James Hoban's original White House plans (15 square feet is the accepted standard/person in a ballroom, this design exceeds this standard significantly; the square footage of the ballroom and the ceiling height would make it impossible to section off the area for smaller gatherings)

3. it desecrates L'Enfant's beautiful plan for the District of Columbia by obliterating the axial vistas that visually connect the legislative branch (the Capitol) and the executive branch (the White House)

4. It violates Olmstead's beautiful landscaping design requiring reshaping and distortion of the drive around the White House

The architecture of the proposed design disrupts the balance and symmetry of the White House and does not honor the nomenclature of classical design (one example, the use of corinthian columns on the ballroom upstage the White House's ionic ones). The potential for private donors to be paying for it further distorts the integrity of 'the people's house'.

I strongly object to building such a blatant attempt at defacing the decency the White House represents.

Name: Amy Jovanovic

Date: March 1, 2026 9:49:57 am

Hello Great Leaders of America -

I understand the White House is being considered for a privately funded updated, in the old East Wing and construction of a new, much larger ballroom is being considered. This will help with modernized facilities on that site —ADA updates that will include major structural change at the White House. I have taken a moment to write this, as I oppose this change to the East Wing.

My reason for opposing the White House East Wing ballroom construction are as follows;

1. Loss of Historic Architecture

The East Wing dates back over a century and housed:

First Lady offices

Visitor entrance routes

2. Precedent Concerns

Sets a precedent where a president can:

Alter national landmarks

Fund projects privately but reshape federal property

Raises ethical concerns about mixing legacy-building with public office

Privately funded means there needs to be an account set up with the funds, accessible by the panel of directors running the project and kept completely separate from tax payers dollars, before a single hammer strikes. You can not approve this project until they "show me the money"

3. Legal and Constitutional Questions

Debate over whether major changes require:

Approval from U.S. Congress

Historic preservation reviews

Presidential executive authority may have been exceeded

4. Optics and Politics:

It feels personal or brand-driven by President Trump

Adds a luxury feature during national challenges when most Americans are living paycheck to paycheck and the nation is divided

5. Symbolism Concerns:

The White House should evolve cautiously due to its symbolism and allowing any president with additional funds to change its symbolic look.

In conclusion, at a time when everything seems to be uncertain, most Americans are living paycheck to paycheck and we are at WAR, the White House should not create a lavish luxury ballroom but instead remain in take, solid and preserve its history. The American people do not need a fancy ballroom, they need the Great Leaders of this Nation to preserve its home and reconnect its people.

Thank you for reading and reviewing my statement.

God bless America

Name: Rebecca Barnes

Date: March 1, 2026 10:15:23 am

I urge the NCPC and whatever governing bodies can weigh in to enact a halt to the changes to the East Wing proposed by this administration. The Trump White House was allowed to demolish the People's property without participating in the correct processes that are in place to ensure that the historically significant building is treated with the respect that it deserves. Where were the impact studies? Where were the opinions of preservationists? Where was the oversight?

If there is to be a ballroom then let it be designed by preservationists who are sensitive to the history and impact of the design. I mourn the East Wing and the Rose Garden. At this point, all we ask is that you minimize the damage already done without permission or consent.

Name: Donald McLean

Date: March 1, 2026 10:19:35 am

I am very concerned that the proposed construction of the new east wing of the White House is too large and will overwhelm the original structure and is not in keeping with the original Palladian design of the "Peoples House" The design is supposed to seat 1000 people based on sq footage per person. The proposed area would fit 1500 people. The kitchen is to be built at ground level rather than subterranean making the building much taller than necessary. The height of the ballroom ceiling is 40 feet or three stories making for a cavernous space & unnecessary height for heating and air conditioning.

There is a proposed Portico facing the treasury building which will have fake doors & provide no functional reason for existence.

The proposed building blocks the original view from the Capitol Building up the Mall to the White House.

For these & a variety of others presented during the hour architectural presentation last week, this current plan should be downsized and redesigned to fit the Palladian style in keeping with the existing structure or not be built at all.

Name: Sara Javoronok

Date: March 1, 2026 10:28:58 am

To Whom It May Concern:

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation offer clear guidance for construction projects such as this one that affect historic properties. The Standards provide that new additions should not destroy the historic fabric of the property, and that the new work should be "compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing" of the existing structure.

Any proposed new addition to the White House complex should accommodate and respect the primary historic importance of the original Executive Residence. The ballroom addition should be subordinate in scale to the Executive Residence. The proposal should be modified to accommodate the following:

- * Reduce Overall Size and Visibility. The size, volume, and massing of the proposed new construction (90,000 square feet) should be reduced or disguised (such as by placing portions underground, as recommended in the 2000 Comprehensive Design Plan) so the new building appears smaller than the Executive Residence itself (55,000 square feet). Its height should also be substantially lower than the Executive Residence.

- * Reduce Footprint and Protect Key Views. The footprint of the proposed building should not extend past the existing south-facing façade of the historic Treasury Building, nor further interrupt the views of the Executive Residence from Pennsylvania Avenue.

- * Respect the Established Classical Composition of the White House Complex. The new addition should retain the carefully balanced classical design of the White House complex with its two smaller, lower, and substantially symmetrical East and West Wings.

- * Preserve the Historic East Façade of the Executive Residence. The connection of the colonnade to the Executive Residence should protect and preserve the original historic materials of the east façade of the Executive Residence and should not cover or demolish the existing fenestration and detailing of the east façade.

- * Ensure that the Proposed South-facing Portico Is Subordinate in Scale to the White House South Portico. The proposed portico on the south façade should be smaller and less grand in scale than the existing portico on the south façade of the Executive Residence.

Thank you.

Name: Diane Price Herndl

Date: March 1, 2026 10:32:42 am

The proposed East Wing ballroom is too large, too out of proportion, and too disrespectful of the history of the White House. Please do not approve the current plans. Instead, revert to a plan that:

- Employs industry standards regarding how much space is needed for the ballroom and the kitchen.

- Respects the historical design of Washington DC, so that the sight line between the capital and the white house are preserved.

- Respects the historical landscape design, so that the oval drive in front of the White House isn't indented.

Name: Gail Brusseau

Date: March 1, 2026 10:35:19 am

This vanity project is literal destruction to serve as distraction from real needs of real humans. No one I know will ever see the ballroom, but every day we try to address gun violence, rising prices on everything and actually stumbling over the problems encountered by unhoused humans. I expect support for gun sense legislation, support for permanent supportive housing and recognition/advertising rising prices and just generally putting humans/voters at the center of policy making. Things get very clear when people are first.

Name: Hope Star

Date: March 1, 2026 10:45:52 am

Since, obviously, there will need to something built to repair what was destroyed by Trump, I think the standard should be followed. The smaller scale 'ballroom' with offices for the First Lady works. There is no need for a 1000 person area and the impact on the general lay out is unwarranted.

Name: James Nowak

Date: March 1, 2026 10:50:38 am

Please accept my comments in the attached PDF file. Contact me with questions.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Cynthia Nowak

Date: March 1, 2026 11:01:28 am

Given the recent judicial decision securing permission for the Vandal-in-Chief to pursue his architectural ode to narcissism, megalomania and just plain bad taste, any comments at this juncture are futile. I wouldn't be able to live with myself, though, if I didn't protest at the flouting of every protocol in place and the disregard of every action defining genuine leadership in this wanton destruction of "The People's House."

My sympathies for any associated personnel who retain ethical or even professional standards.

Name: Sherry Strayer

Date: March 1, 2026 11:03:15 am

I, a US citizen, would like the East Wing of the White House to be restored, with period materials and methods wherever possible, and modernization where necessary. This People's House does not require a dancehall.
Thank you.

Name: Margaret Fegler

Date: March 1, 2026 11:08:24 am

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation offer clear guidance for construction projects such as this one that affect historic properties. The Standards provide that new additions should not destroy the historic fabric of the property, and that the new work should be "compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing" of the existing structure.

Any proposed new addition to the White House complex should accommodate and respect the primary historic importance of the original Executive Residence. The ballroom addition should be subordinate in scale to the Executive Residence. The proposal should be modified to accommodate the following:

Reduce Overall Size and Visibility. The size, volume, and massing of the proposed new construction (90,000 square feet) should be reduced or disguised (such as by placing portions underground, as recommended in the 2000 Comprehensive Design Plan) so the new building appears smaller than the Executive Residence itself (55,000 square feet). Its height should also be substantially lower than the Executive Residence.

Reduce Footprint and Protect Key Views. The footprint of the proposed building should not extend past the existing south-facing façade of the historic Treasury Building, nor further interrupt the views of the Executive Residence from Pennsylvania Avenue.

Respect the Established Classical Composition of the White House Complex. The new addition should retain the carefully balanced classical design of the White House complex with its two smaller, lower, and substantially symmetrical East and West Wings.

Preserve the Historic East Façade of the Executive Residence. The connection of the colonnade to the Executive Residence should protect and preserve the original historic materials of the east façade of the Executive Residence and should not cover or demolish the existing fenestration and detailing of the east façade.

Ensure that the Proposed South-facing Portico Is Subordinate in Scale to the White House South Portico. The proposed portico on the south façade should be smaller and less grand in scale than the existing portico on the south façade of the Executive Residence.

Name: Traci Mulligan

Date: March 1, 2026 11:17:34 am

While the devastating damage has already been performed without proper, required oversight, I greatly appreciate that I am allowed to have my thoughts and concerns heard on what is done going forward. I am an American citizen and this IS the people's house and I've felt this, deeply.

While I don't agree with Mr Trump's view of there needing to be a ballroom on site, attached to the WH, it seems the use of the new structure as such is not up for debate?

My very first concerns are the size and esthetics of the exterior of the new structure. I feel Very strongly that it should not overwhelm but rather compliment and follow the existing timely structure with every effort made to seamlessly blend old and new. Modest, not grandiose and/or updated in size or visually.

The interior Must also follow this goal of historically classic elegance as a continuation of the remaining interior WH.

This portion of the structure has housed the First Lady's (or future First Gentleman's ?) offices and should continue to do so. Obviously things like wiring, plumbing and heating/cooling as well as fire and security systems would be updated.

Being the "People's House" it seems only right that this new area should also serve guests in adaptive uses, a lecture hall for educational purposes, perhaps? Or fundraiser use for various citizen serving agencies?

Something I haven't seen addressed is what has become of the beautiful furnishings and artwork- can any of that be reinstated in some way to be shared once again?

Lastly I would like to stress that it is critical that this addition should not dwarf the remaining building, ruining the harmonious lines of this historical treasure.

Thank you for your time and especially your consideration and the work you are doing on this very important project.

Name: Kathleen Conner

Date: March 1, 2026 11:24:58 am

Please do your best to stop the proposed plan to build a ballroom where the East Wing once stood. It is not proportionally in keeping with the rest of the White House. If possible, please restore they symmetry and historical architecture that was demolished. America has a long history and the former East Wing was a part of that. Thank you.

Name: Gregg Guydish

Date: March 1, 2026 11:30:20 am

This commentary is in review of the White House and Trump Administrations proposal to modify The White House and grounds to include the construction of a 90,000 square foot ballroom at the White House complex.

I want to state up front, that as an American Citizen, I am unapologetically, and categorically, opposed to this, or any other changes to The White House complex as proposed by either the Trump Administration, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, or any other American governance or ruling body.

The White House, first and foremost, BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE. It is entrusted to the care of the American Government, and the sitting president, but is not owned, possessed, or retained by any of them, and they may not make any changes or modifications to said properties without the full permission and consent of the people who actually own it. I categorically deny that Donald Trump, or his administration, have any right to change anything permanent at The White House complex, with or without the consent of the Nation Trust for Historic Preservation. The fact that he has already done so, in tearing down the East Wing, only serves to demonstrate the lawlessness of this administration and its betrayal of the public trust. It is my opinion that any actions taken in regards to The White House complex by this administration are illegal and against the public good and must be stopped at all measures.

As to the proposed White House Ballroom, simply put, it is an eyesore. A massive monument to the legacy of a corrupt, lawless president, that blatantly shows a complete lack of regard to the American People, its history, and its ideals. It is a

brazen theft of our culture, a betrayal of American Ideals, and a massive insult directly to the faces of the people that make up this country. It is a crime, and it should not only never be built, but not even considered being built.

From an architectural standpoint, it is an oversized, over-scaled blight on The White House Complex. If built as proposed by the Trump Administration, it will destroy any balance the grounds currently enjoy, and permanently and forever more compromise the grand designs our forefathers made for the Capital city of the United States of America. While I am, as stated, categorically against any such structure being built on The White House grounds, IF such a structure were to be considered, it would need to be built in proportional consideration of the historic structures already existing on the site, and the plans of the architects of the city layout. Any buildings or structures that are added to The White House complex should not, by any measure, outshine, upstage, or eclipse The White House itself. The White House is, and should always be, the center of The White House complex. It is now, always has been, and forever should be, the entire point of the complex. No building should be allowed to usurp that position, in either function or size. That being said, I again reiterate that I am completely against the construction of this ballroom in any way, shape or form, and urge this body to reject all and any plans to do so.

Lastly, I want to ask this body, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, where it was when so many famous and historic locations were damaged, destroyed, or otherwise forever altered by this current administration. Where were you when the historic Rose Garden was destroyed and paved over? Where were you when the East Wing was torn down? Where were you when the Kennedy Center was illegally renamed? Where were you when the trees surrounding the Kennedy Center were removed? How does this body intend to bring this utterly reprehensible and lawless administration to heel over these changes and modifications to our property, when it has been so weak and ineffectual thus far? Your actions up till now leave me with no confidence that any proposals made by this body, or anyone else in this government, or even, the people themselves, will have any influence or impact on this criminal administration. For what it is worth, I have submitted my comments.

I OBJECT! I OBJECT! I OBJECT!

If you have any power in this, or any other action of the current administration, I beg you to listen to the people and prevent this, and any other such projects from continuing. Even better, take this administration to task for its past illegal actions, and force it to restore what it has stolen from us. Give us our faith in our government institutions back. Or you are just as much of a problem as he is.

Name: Steve Quinn

Date: March 1, 2026 11:33:08 am

Please stop this incredible affront to our nations historic place. There is a process for modernization of historic buildings that respects the building, site, and public input. I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans

Name: Paul Chidester

Date: March 1, 2026 11:34:15 am

Dear National Capitol Planning Commission,

I am writing to oppose the East Wing Modernization Project which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. The East Wing must be rebuilt to it's original specifications and those who broke the laws must be investigated and prosecuted if found guilty by an impartial jury. No one is above the law.

Respectfully yours,

Paul Chidester
American citizen

Name: Lisa Cohen

Date: March 1, 2026 11:35:16 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law, and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: khristine smith

Date: March 1, 2026 11:35:18 am

This destruction of the east wing is an abomination. Trump needs to held accountable. The white house should be modernized with the consultation of historians, preservation architects and the local community. It is absolutely obscene to build a golden ballroom larger then the rest of the white house, it will look like a blight on the historic community. This should not go forward. Trump should have to repay the American people out of his own pockets. This should of never happened.

Name: Nancy Shimeall

Date: March 1, 2026 11:35:22 am

I am a patriotic American citizen who was alarmed, sad, and then angered by the demolition of OUR White House east wing. This is not a good use of our taxpayer time and money; the President has chosen to focus on projects that are not part of the agenda for which he was elected.

The American citizens wish our historic White House to be restored to its former condition.

Thank you for accepting our comments.

Name: Elizabeth Smith

Date: March 1, 2026 11:59:48 am

I have reviewed the design of the proposed ballroom and am very concerned that it is too large and out of context with the rest of the White House. It would be tragic to see this plan move forward without it being down-sized to something more appropriate. The process used thus far to tear down the former east wing and to move forward with the current plan also has been very concerning.

Thank you.

Name: Chris Barmeier

Date: March 1, 2026 12:05:15 pm

Hello,

I am writing in regards to the White House Ballroom proposal. I am deeply concerned that this proposal is moving forward without input from organizations such as the National Capital Planning Commission or other Historical Preservation groups. I view the current proposal as overwhelming in terms of size, location, and massing of this proposal will crush the carefully balanced classical design of the White House.

Please do not destroy our historical architecture with some narcissistic view that bigger is better - let true design experts prevail!

Name: Cynthia Kebba

Date: March 1, 2026 12:06:43 pm

Dear National Capital Planning Commission:

Please accept my comments, below, for the March 5 hearing regarding the demolition of the White House East Wing and the proposed construction of a massive ballroom in its location.

Significance

The White House is one of the most historically significant civic sites in the United States. Its carefully balanced design

and elegance stem from its relatively modest scale and restrained neoclassical architecture. Historically, the White House represents continuity of our nation's government and transcends individual presidents and administrations. The stability of its physical form is a symbol of our cherished institutional stability. While sensitive modifications have been approved over the years, via review by proper authorities, to adapt to evolving technology and new functions, the dramatic demolition of the entire East Wing and the immense scale of new construction that this project entails is unprecedented, unwarranted, and against the National Preservation Act of 1966 and the best practices of historic preservation.

Demolition of the East Wing

This administration's unauthorized destruction of the East Wing in Fall 2025 bypassed Federal preservation laws and Congressional approval. The White House did not consult with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission (NCPC) and did not conduct required environmental assessments. It ignored the constitutional rights of the American people to comment on proposed alterations to the People's House. The East Wing can never be replaced and its demolition, and the lack of transparency surrounding it, was a blatant and unlawful abuse of power.

Proposed New Construction

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation provide clear guidance for projects that will modify designated historic properties. The Standards directly address proportion, scale, massing, height, compatibility and architectural features. The White House site has an architectural hierarchy, with the Executive Mansion as the central and most important element of the site. The proposed ~89,000 square foot addition will severely dominate and overwhelm the eastern portion of the White House. Taller and much larger than the former East Wing, the new structure will create visual imbalance with the Executive Mansion and the West Wing. It severely violates the intentional symmetry of the property and its design will forever diminish the prominence of the Executive Mansion.

Conclusion

I request that the mistakes made that resulted in the destruction of the former East Wing not be repeated. A full review of the proposed ballroom addition is required under all federal preservation statutes. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards must be applied in decisions regarding the massing, scale, proportion, architectural details and height of any new construction and compatibility with the existing building and site. This must include evaluation of all site impacts and thoughtful examination of alternatives to the proposed massive new structure. Foremost, broad public engagement and full transparency must be prominent in the process.

Name: Dianne Pelletier

Date: March 1, 2026 12:09:30 pm

I, for 1 do not want a ball room and I believe most Americans do not want it.

I want the east wing rebuilt as it was at Trumps expense. It was not his to tear down. It is our house that we are graciously allowing him to live. He has destroyed a part of OUR HOUSE as a repercussion of NO KINGS 2, WHAT A CHILDISH, TANTRUM THROWING MAN, IF YOU VAN CALL HIM THAT.

THIS IS A COUP AND IT IS ABOUT TIME OUR LEGISLATORS ACTED AS SUCH.

SINCERLY,
Dianne Pelletier

Name: Patrick Hayden

Date: March 1, 2026 12:11:25 pm

Proportionality is an essential aspect of good design. Any additions to the main WH structure should be smaller than the primary building, and not destroy the landscape setting of the WH complex. A smaller structure that might seat 200 to 300 people at most might actually be a complimentary addition. It would need to be complimentary in facade and not dominate the landscape. Restraint is necessary. But a giant ballroom reminds me of 1938 German architecture. Size is not everything. And it is not necessary to have 1,000 people over for dinner.

Name: Corinne Myers

Date: March 1, 2026 12:14:47 pm

The White House is not merely a residence or an event venue; it is a civic symbol belonging to the American public. The East Wing held particular cultural significance as the professional and ceremonial workspace of First Ladies and their staff. In this place, women exercised influence, advanced national initiatives, and shaped public life. Its removal without meaningful documentation or interpretation erases a physical setting tied to that legacy and diminishes the historical narrative represented on the site.

Regardless of one's politics, the stewardship of nationally significant places must be guided by continuity, the rule of law, and respect for institutional memory—not personal vision. Alterations of this magnitude must meet the highest preservation standards and remain subordinate to the historic architecture they affect. A ballroom of monumental scale risks overwhelming the White House rather than complementing it.

Because the demolition has already occurred, I request that the Commission require the following:

- 1) Full disclosure of what architectural elements, materials, and artifacts from the East Wing were salvaged.
- 2) Documentation of where those materials are currently stored and how they will be preserved.
- 3) A binding commitment that any new construction will interpret and honor the historic role of the East Wing, particularly the contributions of First Ladies and their staff.
- 4) Design review ensuring the replacement structure remains architecturally subordinate to the White House in massing, scale, and character.

The White House does not belong to a single administration. It is a shared national inheritance, and each generation is obligated to pass it forward with its meaning intact. I urge the Commission to exercise to the best of its ability and its authority to ensure that whatever replaces the East Wing respects the history that stood there and the public that owns it.

Name: Mary Rogers

Date: March 1, 2026 12:18:13 pm

Cancel this project. It is appalling. The White House should always be presented as the people's house. It is not a palace for anyone, in any generation, ever. It is the people's house.

Name: Charlene Day

Date: March 1, 2026 12:22:59 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to our important National history and supporting our constitution! Thank you

Name: Kim Lazarski

Date: March 1, 2026 12:24:17 pm

I oppose the East Wing Modernization Project as currently proposed and urge the Commission to reject the plan until proper legal processes are followed. This project began with the demolition of a 123-year-old structure before obtaining required approvals from this Commission, before completing mandatory environmental assessments under the National Environmental Policy Act, and before securing congressional authorization required by federal statute for construction on federal parkland in Washington DC. This demolition has released known environmental toxins. Asbestos is a known carcinogen that causes horrific pain, suffering and death. The fact that demolition has already occurred does not excuse these violations or create a fait accompli that forces approval. The funding mechanism raises serious concerns about institutional independence and conflicts of interest. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Margaret Reed

Date: March 1, 2026 12:26:02 pm

I am opposed to the razing of the historic East Wing of the White House, a decision made unilaterally by the president without regard for expense, national interest, history, or public opinion. The proposed ballroom is a boondoggle - supposedly to be funded by private donations, but experience tells us that the expense and current cost overruns will be borne by the taxpayers. Furthermore, the ballroom design itself is self-aggrandizing: To design an addition to the White House that literally and figuratively overshadows the main building itself clearly has not been undertaken by a reputable architect. Such an addition should complement, not dominate, the site. Nor is there a need for such a gaudy, enormous ballroom. The whole project is, honestly, embarrassing and in poor taste.

Thank you,
Meg Reed
Colorado

Name: Melissa (Missy) Holtman

Date: March 1, 2026 12:31:16 pm

First, this project should have been planned and approved before the building was torn down. This cannot set a precedent, so there must be agreement as to this fact, and it should include both reimbursement and stricter guidelines to prevent anyone from doing this again.

Second, the scale of the replacement building proposed is too large.

Thank you,
Missy Holtman
Reform, Alabama

Name: Dixie Smith

Date: March 1, 2026 12:31:44 pm

What a mess this president has made of our capital. A builder no less, just tearing things apart without planning or permits the rest of us have to follow. Disgusting. Hopefully he and his enablers will be voted out soon. Do the right thing for a change!

Name: Jeanne Malloy

Date: March 1, 2026 12:35:09 pm

While expanded event space may be needed, additions must respect the historic scale and design of the White House. At 90,000 square feet, the proposed ballroom would exceed the size of the 55,000-square-foot Executive Residence. Additions to historic properties should be compatible in scale and subordinate to the original structure. The American people deserve an opportunity to provide comments and shape the project.

Name: Valier Barricklow

Date: March 1, 2026 12:38:55 pm

No. The historic preservation of the White House is sacred to our country. Trump cannot unilaterally decide to destroy any space of the structure nor add on to it.

Name: Mary Barber

Date: March 1, 2026 12:43:12 pm

To the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am greatly disturbed by the proposed ballroom design for the previously demolished East Wing. The following are

reasons to change the plan:

- 1) The proposed size of the future structure dwarfs the White House. This displays a lack of understanding of basic architectural principles and is an insult to the American People's priorities.
- 2) The unobstructed view from the Capitol to the White House is completely blocked - a change which should not be made under any circumstances, but especially in a way that is backhanded and without merit.
- 3) A reasonable version of the ball room that respects scale and view can be built with a few minor tweaks. The ball room doesn't need to be as large as planned, given the maximum group anticipated (1000).

Please respect America's history and the People's House.

Sincerely,

Mary Barber

Name: Ward W Sumner

Date: March 1, 2026 1:04:23 pm

I totally agree with architects David Parker and Bill Bates at their webinar at the National Trust that the present proposed plan for the East Wing Ballroom needs to be modified substantially to lessen many impacts on the design and scale of our President's House. Any plan to substantially alter and add to our White House needs to consider and respect the symmetry of the original design for the house, Olmstead's original landscape plan, and LaFont's original street design, which emphasizes the view from the Capitol to the White House. The ballroom addition as proposed does not meet ANY of the standard architectural requirements of balance and scale, it does not balance needs and design impacts, it does not adhere to industry standards for spacial needs for 1000 people, and it certainly does not respect the classical legacy of the original three plans.

Name: Bettyann Guarino

Date: March 1, 2026 1:06:09 pm

I strongly oppose the East Wing destruction and its proposed replacement. This unauthorized project destroyed a part of American history without warning and due process. It was part of the People's House and it was irreplaceable. The destruction was a violation of Federal law and a violation of public trust.

The White House is an historic site that belongs to the American people. It is a national landmark. Treating it as a commercial and personal venture is outrageous.

Please do not allow this to go forward. I don't know if the historic East Wing can be rebuilt and restored, but surely that is the best outcome.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Bettyann A. Guarino

Name: Christine Kohnert

Date: March 1, 2026 1:09:03 pm

The total destruction of the East Wing was shocking. That White House belongs to all of us.

This administration did not pay for it, We, the people did. I don't understand how this much damage occurred without authorization, permits or design review. Part of our history was destroyed and nobody stopped this from happening.

This project should be cancelled. The East Wing should be rebuilt to it's former design. This President should not be allowed to recreate it in his own image and to fit his own personal desires.

Those that decided and allowed the destruction of the property of the people should be held accountable. They are the ones who should personally finance the rebuilding of the East Wing to it's former design. Property damage is a crime.

This was a crime.

Do not spend even one dollar of the people's or anyone else's money on the proposed modernization. Fix this and hold those who destroyed the People's house accountable.

Name: Mark Maser

Date: March 1, 2026 1:27:21 pm

I oppose this project.

Too large.

Not historic.

Unnecessary.

Name: Teresa Dix

Date: March 1, 2026 1:28:30 pm

I strongly oppose this project from start to finish. Another billionaire monument built to undermine Democracy....no longer is the "people's house but The house of trump, bezo and the rest. Unlawful process!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Teresa

Name: James Ireland

Date: March 1, 2026 1:36:28 pm

I am submitting this comment form to encourage the NCPC to NOT APPROVE the proposed replacement for the East Wing (PREW) of the White House for the following reasons:

1. Please note that I am not an architect. However, I am a retired engineer and member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and have an appreciation for architectural features and adherence to the principles, history, developed standards, and aesthetics that guide city planning, especially in the case of the nation's capital.
2. I sympathize with the need for a larger facility than the East Wing provided in its now previous form. It is my understanding that this need has been observed but not acted upon over several recent presidential terms.
3. However, while I understand why President Trump took a different path to implement the remodeling, I cannot support how he just forged ahead in his transactional style, demolished the old structure, and directed the design of the proposed new structure.
4. In my opinion, his proposed design violates many aesthetic and established architectural standards:
 - a. Looking at the overall White House south elevation, the PREW dwarfs the White House in being too tall; too wide; and, by using so many and such tall columns, detracts from the majesty of the windows and columned portico of the White House.
 - b. The corridor from the White House is too tall and adds too much mass between the structures, especially as it voids the symmetry with the West Wing corridor.
 - c. In plan view, and considering the original L'Infant layout for Washington, D.C., the PREW violates the line of sight from the White House to the Capitol Building. It also would require re-routing the driveway and needlessly destroys the symmetry of the landscaping.
 - d. Who determined that the PREW should accommodate the 1,000 people seated around tables? I feel that this may be excessive and become difficult to make people at smaller gatherings feel comfortable.
 - e. Who determined the excessive square-feet-per-person rate (22 square feet per person, which I understand should have been 15 square feet per person or less?
 - f. Why was there a third floor added, such high ceilings for the ballroom, and the lower floor raised so far out of the

ground. This adds way too much volume for the PREW

5. Personal recommendations:

- a. The south extension should not extend such that the line of sight to the Capitol Building is not blocked.
- b. While I believe that the original East Wing was felt to be too small, I assume that previous proposals for a new East Wing may have stipulated a lesser seating capacity and should be considered.
- c. Whatever capacity is determined, 15 square feet per person should be used, in accordance with AIA recommendations.
- d. No columns should be used on the East Wing, except perhaps as part of entrance porticos, and any columns should continue the style of those on the White House (Doric?).
- e. Multiple windows should be employed, similar to the White House and in keeping with the same classical style.

In conclusion, I personally feel that the project can and needs to be accelerated as compared to normal remodeling projects. The destruction of the old East Wing was an abomination and needs to be replaced within the current president's term. However, unlike the apparent design of the PREW, the whole project needs to be completely planned and sequenced. This may mean bending some of the normal rules, such as a design competition and selection. I'm not sure how this gets done, but we, the people who own the White House, do not need this to become another, but more permanent abomination!

[Attachment](#)

Name: Roberta Cullen

Date: March 1, 2026 1:43:30 pm

As a tax payer I resent the destruction of the East wing of the White House.

There is absolutely NO WAY I support the construction of an over-sized ballroom that Donald Trump wants to build in his "honor".

All changes made by Trump to the White House, including all of the gold accents and embellishments added by this administration to the Oval Office and structure at large need to be replaced.

Their plans are gaudy and disgusting. An insult to the history of the building and its previous occupants.

Name: Monique Kerman

Date: March 1, 2026 1:43:43 pm

Dear NCPC,

I write to express my concern that the proposed "East Wing Modernization project" (aka New White House Ballroom) is violently out-of-scale with the existing structure.

As currently proposed, the East Wing Ballroom Project comprises 90,000 square feet, almost double the 55,000 square feet of the existing White House building. No amount of tweaking its design (except making it smaller) will change the fact that the "addition" is larger than the original. Furthermore, by making such a large mass the exact same height as the existing White House, it further dwarfs the historic building.

This is significant because the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation require that additions to historic structures be subordinate in scale and size, distinct from the historic building (not replicating it), and compatible with its materials, features, and massing.

There is no doubt that there is a need at the White House for a gathering space that can accommodate more than the existing 200-person room. However, this particular design takes away from the original White House, dwarfs it in scale and relegates it to a secondary role.

I ask that you do not allow this project to go ahead as proposed.

Thank you for your consideration,
Monique Kerman

Name: Catherine M Mackenzie

Date: March 1, 2026 1:45:05 pm

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed project. Generally, I am concerned that the proposed volume and massing overwhelms the original White House (875 thousand cubic feet versus 2.36 thousand cubic feet). Based upon information gleaned via the National Trust for Historic Preservation's analysis of the proposal I offer the following specific concerns:

The stated program for the new ballroom is to serve 1,000 people. Hospitality and Architectural industry standards allocate 15 sq ft per person for seated dinner in a banquet hall. As proposed, the new ballroom could comfortably seat approximately 1,460 people.

The proposal interrupts the symbolic visual alignment between the White House and the U.S. Capitol established in the L'Enfant Plan of the city of Washington D.C.

The proposal would intrude on Olmstead's historic landscape plan by causing the historic grand entrance drive to be altered.

Catherine M Mackenzie, AIA Emeritus

Name: LEON KO

Date: March 1, 2026 1:47:14 pm

EXTREMELY BAD IN ALL RESPECTS!!! PLEASE STOP IT!!!!!!!

Name: DeVere Bunke

Date: March 1, 2026 2:03:02 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Leigh Duvall-Parks

Date: March 1, 2026 2:03:29 pm

I am completely aghast that trump knocked down the East Wing without going through the proper channels. I am completely against an enormous ballroom being built on the ground of the White House. It is nothing we need and I'm angry that taxpayer dollars are being used in this way.

Name: David Belshaw

Date: March 1, 2026 2:15:39 pm

After viewing the video provided on NCPC which was an excellent and detailed work I feel compelled to provide comment. First of all the original ball room has never been reported to be insufficient in size for any event that I have heard of or seen reported in the news. Second, and perhaps most important is the visual lines that are a historical and valued connection between the "House of the People" and other federal historical structures. These details must not be disregarded by any change in the overall site and or property. These lines of site depict explicit connections to remind of how our government is structured simply by looking in a given direction. This may not and must not be changed. Lastly, there was never a need to demolish the existing ball room and replace it with a monstrosity that has many nonfunctional features that were added most simply to appease the broken mind of the sitting president.

Seeing as how the old ball room was likely not really needed perhaps the operation should be cancelled and the space

converted to a calming and welcoming green space with all species of trees and flowering plants with many places to meet, greet, and speak to fellow citizens.

I thank you for your valued time and truly hope the path forward can be guided by logic, compassion, and grace.

Name: Susan Belshaw

Date: March 1, 2026 2:16:27 pm

Hello,

I am respectfully writing in regard to the proposed White House Ballroom. I viewed the current administration plans for the ballroom via the NCPC webinar on February 25th. The plans shown would grossly overshadow the current White House (south portico) and would ruin the symmetry and classical architecture. Additionally, the axial views of the White House would be ruined. The ballroom would block the view down Pennsylvania Ave to the Capitol. The size of the ballroom would also accommodate far more people than the administration indicated of 1000 people. The front portico would be an attempt at being grandiose while being useless.

The proposed fix that the NCPC architects discussed in the webinar would make for a more classical and symmetrical building that would not block the axial views. The square footage should be reduced to 15,000 as they recommend which is generous and would accommodate the 1000 people as desired. I am in agreement with their statements about the architecture and trying to preserve the historical context of the White House property and Washington DC.

Even though I agree with the comments of the NCPC architects, I overall did not believe that a ballroom was even necessary. The president does not need a huge ballroom to throw parties in. This is the people's house, and I feel like it will never be used by the people. It is a waste of money. Unfortunately, the current administration took it upon itself to destroy what was there already - leaving destruction behind. Something needs to replace it. The US people do not need some massive ballroom that we will never get to use. It is an ego-trip that the current president is on that he needs fanfare and riches. We are not a monarchy. And bribes to President Trump from Corporate America are what this is really about. Before any construction is taken on, it needs to align with current historical preservation ideals and the people who indicated they would pay for it need to pony up the money.

This is a shameful thing to have done and was done in a way to try and subvert the process.

Thank you for your time.

Name: Nan Moorman

Date: March 1, 2026 2:16:35 pm

I am writing to formally oppose the East Wing Modernization Project and the construction of a new State Ballroom. The demolition of a historic, functional part of the White House complex without proper National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) approval and public review violates the spirit of preservation and federal law. The White House is the People's House, not a venue for personal, out-of-scale development. I urge an immediate halt to all construction and a restoration of the original East Wing structure. Thank you.

Name: Lisa Friedlander

Date: March 1, 2026 2:25:32 pm

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments

I am not opposed to the addition of a ballroom and associated support spaces. It makes sense to add this type of functionality to the White House complex.

I do have concerns with the massing and practical aspects of the proposed design. I support the comments of David Scott Parker, FAIA, who is a more knowledgeable professional than I am.

The original plan for Washington by Pierre L'Enfant, the design of the White House by James Hoban, and the landscape plan by Frederick Law Olmsted incorporate classical proportions, symmetry, views and details that should be respected and incorporated in the design of this addition.

Size and impacts on historic planning and design intent:

- The mass and size of the building is out of proportion with the rest of the White House complex.
- The ballroom addition blocks the views between the Capitol and the White House, destroying an important

psychological connection.

- The addition requires changes to the entry drive which destroys the symmetry of the existing site plan.

Functionality:

- The ballroom is oversized for the stated 1000 guest capacity. Reducing the ballroom capacity to industry standard 15,000SF allows the footprint of the structure to be pulled back and resolves some of the view and site plan issues.
- Interior ceiling heights are excessive, for both the ballroom and the upper and lower areas. As currently scaled, the spaces will feel empty and cavernous, even when used for large gatherings. The White House feels human-scaled. Even the ballroom, intended for ceremonial functions, should also feel welcoming.
- The service area is likewise much larger than needed for the stated event sizes and functions.
- The large front portico is not functional, for example the floors inside the building do not align with the portico floor. A large and visually dominant entry portico is costly to construct. and both porticos should be functional. Ceiling heights, floor levels and windows should be adjusted to align with actual functions.

Budget and ongoing costs

- One would expect this administration to be especially concerned with fiscal responsibility. Every building has ongoing costs for heating, cooling and maintenance which taxpayers will have to cover. An oversized addition will consume financial and staff resources unnecessarily. Modification will be financially prudent.
- Unfortunately, no budget information has been provided. We've heard stated costs for the building rise from \$250 million to \$400 million. I am an exhibit project manager, responsible for project budgets, and I'd be fired for that level of cost overrun! I expect a professional developer would be especially expert at balancing functionality, esthetics and budget.
- I hope that project costs and how they are being covered by private donations will be part of the ongoing information released to the public.

I hope the NCPC, architect and and president Trump will take these concerns being expressed by knowledgeable professionals and the general public into account and modify the design. I believe the president has the opportunity to provide an important, valuable and thoughtfully designed addition to a beloved American landmark, that will be appreciated for decades to come.

Sincerely

Lisa Friedlander, Minneapolis Minnesota

Name: Christy Goode

Date: March 1, 2026 2:26:08 pm

The White House is one of the most important historic buildings in the United States. As a second grade public school teacher, I teach my students about its history in our social studies unit on American symbols. Each year, my students use cardboard, paper and other materials to create models of the "People's House."

The proposed ballroom will be the first major change to the White House's exterior appearance in the last 83 years. It is important that the historic character of the building is maintained.

The proposed plan for a 90,000 sq. ft. ballroom and a 2-story walkway does not follow Classical architectural symmetry, will block the view of the White House from Pennsylvania Avenue (which disrupts L'Enfant's plan for D.C.), and the scale of the proposed ballroom would disrupt Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr.'s plan for the White House grounds (the circular driveway will no longer be circular).

Please reject this plan, and demand that any changes to the White House's exterior appearance prioritize maintaining the historic character, beauty and balance of the "People's House." Thank you for your time and consideration.

Name: AJ StonerBarrett

Date: March 1, 2026 2:39:06 pm

First, this is against the law because it wasn't pre-approved by the appropriate agencies.

Second, it's obviously a gift project and the corruption must be investigated and stopped immediately.

Name: Catherine Thompson

Date: March 1, 2026 2:51:33 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

If there is a need for entertainment space I believe a proposal should be put forward with alternatives. The razing of the East Wing was done without any consideration of alternatives. Therefore i oppose this project.

Name: ilse barron

Date: March 1, 2026 2:51:39 pm

Hello-I am writing to register my opposition to the East Wing site plans,also known as The Ballroom. This plan is an obscenity of bloated scale. While it is a fact of life that structures will need to be renovated and updated,this is beyond what would be considered normal or necessary. And it's doubly insulting to the historic nature of the nation's Capital that the existing East Wing was destroyed to accomplish this behemoth. If a site plan is to be approved,it must be reduced in scale,or have the East Wing restored to what it was.

Name: Rebecca Palmer

Date: March 1, 2026 2:52:58 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without proper authorization, permits or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project cancelled and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law, and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Kristina Krail

Date: March 1, 2026 3:06:01 pm

You know this project is all wrong. The whole thing is out of proportion disrupting the symmetry of the building, the gardens, the whole city! I could go on and on, but you all know as professional designers what the issues are. Please, I beg of you, do not approve.

Name: Pamela Frankowski

Date: March 1, 2026 3:10:03 pm

Please do not let this construction take place. The East Wing was torn down without authorization. The White House belongs to the American people, not to the person who is living there. There needs to be respect for the protection of our historic properties. If a ballroom needs to be added on to the White House, then it needs to be done properly thru the permit process with a real plan and not some monstrosity built to appease an ego. Please stand up for the people of America.

Name: Erin Painter

Date: March 1, 2026 3:11:49 pm

As a concerned citizen, I formally oppose the White House Ballroom project. The overly large addition is fundamentally incompatible with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Its massive scale will overwhelm the Executive Mansion and disrupt the neoclassical symmetry of the North and South views. The project has reached its current stage by evading public environmental assessments and federal planning oversight. I request that the Commission reject any further design submissions until a full Environmental Impact Statement is completed and the project receives explicit authorization from Congress.

Name: richard bauder

Date: March 1, 2026 3:15:40 pm

This is simply stupid, unnecessary, and wasteful. USE ALL NECESSARY MEANS TO STOP IT.

Name: Lee Draper

Date: March 1, 2026 3:16:08 pm

Scale back the proposed ballroom. It is too big for the site. It mutilates the historic concept and symmetry of the Capitol Mall.

The White House belongs to the citizens of the United States. A single-usage, gigantic ballroom is inappropriate and a mockery of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

Vote against the current plan and architectural renderings. Require the architects to go back to the drawing boards for a down-sized building.

Your vote matters. Each member of the National Capital Planning Committee has a responsibility for the Nation's ideals and legacy. History lasts longer than a man's lifetime and it is a harsh judge of blind loyalty.

Name: Liz Knowles

Date: March 1, 2026 3:21:37 pm

The proposed ballroom addition design to far TOO BIG. The design does not follow classic architecture design of the White House. It's not proportionate to the surrounding buildings and overwhelms the White House. The design doesn't follow industry standards for square footage. The kitchen is too large with its unnecessary high ceiling. The ballroom design should be sized to follow the high industry standard. The south portico should be eliminated as it is non accessible. The non public kitchen and service area should be moved to a lower level. All of the above changes would greatly reduce the harmful impacts of the proposed design, while preserving the current historic symbolic relationships.

You can do better.

Name: Carl Stearns

Date: March 1, 2026 3:31:42 pm

The National Trust Webinar of 25 February 2026 on this project is candid, intelligent, and informed. It reveals the tremendous level of compassion, care and humanity that our architects can reveal as they apply visual logic and historic precedence to Washington DC. It is time for a re-design! Carl D. Stearns, AIA Emeritus

Name: Kerri Belluomini

Date: March 1, 2026 3:31:58 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: John Roby

Date: March 1, 2026 3:37:38 pm

Attached letter concurs with NTHP Recommended Restraint for East Wing as argued by Architects David Scott Parker and Bill Bates.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Jane Ward

Date: March 1, 2026 3:38:15 pm

To Whom it May Concern,

I think that the tearing down of the East Wing of the White House is an eye sore. The building is our house, not Trump, who has added gold everywhere. Does he believe that the People House should look like a palace? If Trump wants a ballroom it should be approved by the historical committee and not the decorators that Trump has used in the past.

Sincerely, Jane War

Name: ANNE CUNNINGHAM

Date: March 1, 2026 3:40:32 pm

I oppose this project. It was undertaken without any consideration for the actual owners of this building, the citizens of the United States. The only acceptable physical resolution to this will be to clear the site and rebuild the East Wing. In addition, laws need to be in place to prevent any future resident from envisioning himself or herself as the exclusive owner of the White House.

Name: William Anton

Date: March 1, 2026 3:40:42 pm

This a terrible idea. There is no need to spend money on a ballroom when there are so many people struggling. Our health care is way more important. The destruction of the east wing seems a crime.

Name: Keith Ewing

Date: March 1, 2026 3:41:21 pm

Respectfully,

I grew up in the Washington, DC area and visited the White House on numerous occasions under many administrations. I left the area during the Bicentennial to attend graduate school. I've only been back in the area to visit friends or attend professional conferences or workshops -- I always take the opportunity to revisit the Mall, to visit new museums, to see how the city has changed (sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worse).

My issues with the "East Wing Modernization Project" stem from my longtime interests in architecture and architectural history, with American history, and, as a hobby photographer, with visual landscapes. From my perspective the design concepts for the East Wing modernization are an abomination:

-- The scale of the proposal dwarfs the White House, imposing an ostentation that minimizes the White House and the Office of the President. Once built, the new East Wing is unlikely to be removed for a lengthy future -- although the interior could change and even be repurposed. The dignity of the Office of the President, symbolized by the White House, will be diminished.

-- As teenager, I heard that the Treasury Building was located between the White House and the Capitol so that President Andrew Jackson would not have to see the source of his frustrations. By destroying the East Wing, even before any plans for its replacement were presented and approved, much history has been lost. That history cannot be restored, but the scale could be rebuilt.

-- Does President Trump really need another vanity project? He's renamed The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (where I enjoyed Bernstein's "Mass" and Sondheim's "Pacific Overtures"), the US Institute for Peace, the old US Post Office, probably the new East Wing ballroom, and possibly the grandiose proposed Arch of Triumph on Memorial Drive (diminished both the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery).

Now that the old East Wing is gone, something must be done to restore the visual balance to the White House. But a ballroom with a capacity for 900 people at dinner tables isn't the answer.

Name: Gail Bruhn

Date: March 1, 2026 3:45:06 pm

Response to Plans for the Proposed Ballroom:

As a life-long student of American history, design and cultural impact, I am concerned that the design for the proposed ballroom addition to the White House lacks consideration of the historic importance of the White House as a central component in Pierre L'Enfant's* 1791 plan for the center of our new government, commissioned by President George Washington, with the help of Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson. The scale, proportion and design of the new structure do not balance its need with the impact it will have on the White House and the District of Columbia. The project should be abandoned and reimagined.

L'Enfant's plan specified locations for two pillars of our new democracy, the "Congress House" (the United States Capital) and the "President's House", later known as the White House. He connected both buildings visually and symbolically along an axis. The visual connection will be forever lost with the new plans. The White House, the most important house in America and the most recognized building in our country, belongs to our citizens. It attracts visitors annually not only from the U.S., but from all around the globe. The current design of the out-sized appendage to this iconic structure will dwarf the White House, eliminate the important connection along L'Enfant's axis (Pennsylvania Avenue) to the Capital and invade the surrounding symmetrical drive and grounds which were designed by America's most famous landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted.

The proposed size of the ballroom structure is 2.6 million cubic feet, 3 times the size of the White House which is 875 thousand cubic feet in size. L'Enfant's plan included siting the "President's House" on elevated ground, to emphasize its importance, and later additions to the White House (the East and West Wings) were designed to be lower than the White House. The proposed ballroom mass and height (its portico pediment is higher than the White House) will completely negate this impact.

The proposed portico at 4,000 square feet is 170% larger than the White House north portico and 35% larger than the portico on the nearby very large Treasury Building. The proposed Corinthian columns on the new building are decorative and in direct contrast to the Ionic columns on the White House and Treasury, both designed in classic Greek tradition to be less ostentatious for a nation founded on principles of equality and national unity.

The proposed ballroom structure lacks respect for L'Enfant's enduring plan and legacy, combining beauty with symbolic impact. We need to respect the legacy that we have inherited and reject the proposed ballroom plan.

Gail Bruhn, CFA

Chair

Historic District Commission

Mansfield, CT

*Pierre L'Enfant signed his work as Peter Charles L'Enfant to reflect his adopted American identity after serving in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

Name: Alexander Arvizu

Date: March 1, 2026 3:46:31 pm

This project is an outrage and should be prevented from progressing. The site should be restored to its original form and Congress must act to ensure that nothing like this happens, ever again. Certainly the building should be updated as needed, but only in a transparent, public process led by architectural historians and other experts, and not as the whim of a President.

Name: Deborah Chmielewski

Date: March 1, 2026 3:50:03 pm

I think the destruction of the East Wing of Our White House is a disgrace to history. It should be rebuilt exactly the way it was. There is NO need for this ballroom for billionaires!

Name: Diane Williams

Date: March 1, 2026 3:51:08 pm

[Attachment](#)

Name: Kathy Holmes

Date: March 1, 2026 3:52:42 pm

I believe the demo of the East Wing was illegal to begin with. Where is the feasibility study, the historical study, the asbestos study all required prior to demolition on all projects, permits, approvals, OSHA guidelines, especially government owned properties. You can be sure everyone in that building was exposed to asbestos during that ILLEGAL demolition. This is a taxpayer owned property, as such should be involved in all plans. I am against this useless and frivolous ballroom, it is a vanity project. While Americans are having their healthcare stolen, educational funding robbed from them, their rights stripped away. Hard NO to this project moving forward.

Name: Marcia Geike

Date: March 1, 2026 3:58:04 pm

Attached please find a comment letter describing concerns and suggestions for the ballroom addition. Thank you for your time and consideration.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Christina Alva

Date: March 1, 2026 3:59:22 pm

The proposed East Wing Project (the massive ballroom) is oversized and out of proportion for the footprint of the White House grounds and the original design and intent of the People's House. The Trump/Vance team illegally destroyed the historic East Wing to rush this vanity project through. The American public do not want this oversized monstrosity. The claim is the need for a ballroom for 1,000 people, then why are they building something that is 47% larger than the industry standard? We do not need a Mar-a-Lago D.C. on Pennsylvania Avenue. Trump is not a permanent resident. He has no right to destroy history and erect tacky unwanted waste of money buildings for his pure ego. The design needs to be revised and scaled down to meet the footprint of the 1791 L'Enfant capital design commissioned by George Washington. We must preserve this history, not butcher it for vanity. This project and design must not be approved.

Name: Cheryl Johnson

Date: March 1, 2026 3:59:23 pm

The White House belongs to the American people NOT one person. This dictator had no authorization to destroy the East Wing of my White House. Allowing this project is a stain on our democracy. Its unlawful. Waste, fraud and abuse -- this regime has been doing this for a year now. Make him rebuild the East Wing AS IT WAS, using all the money (Billions) he has (unlawfully) made since taking office. Thanks.

Name: JOHN LANG

Date: March 1, 2026 3:59:27 pm

As a practicing architect for 5 decades, I have developed a strong opinion as to design quality. I am not opposing the addition, as the demolition, without authority and permit, is already completed. Having just watched the NTHP video regarding the Whitehouse east wing ballroom addition, I was appalled with the current proposed design. This opinion is based upon how I faced projects and similar decisions throughout my career. FYI, I was the architect for a large historical renovation in Washington state receiving federal tax credits. A few points for consideration:

1. I never realized how the proposed oversized building completely ruins the LaFont master plan for Wash DC. and blocks views of the White House itself.
 2. The proportions of the building to not meet "classical" standards and the false portico is something that would NEVER be approved anywhere. What many would call, lipstick on a pig.
 3. I didn't realize how the addition would alter the Olmsted site plan for the White House grounds. Bad design.
 4. Since the Trump administration wants a ballroom for 1000 people, why is it designed for almost 500 more? Nothing has been mentioned about codes. Per the International Building Code (IBC) in force, have the exits and restrooms been designed for the additional occupants.
- Please, DO NOT APPROVE the current design. Good design alternatives were presented by the two architects in the NTHP video that are more accurate to the "classic" design admired by President Trump.

Name: Sue Jennings

Date: March 1, 2026 4:00:18 pm

Comments on the East Wing Modernization Project (Project):

Hopefully, public comments matter--I fear at this date (March 1, 2026) decisions have been made by the administration. Regardless,

I am writing as a concerned citizen who has visited the White House and surrounding buildings on numerous occasions and experienced awe, pride, and was inspired by our history and the well-planned design of the historic monuments and surrounding landscape of the "Mall". I also offer comments as a former federal employee that worked in environmental planning and compliance for 31 years. I am deeply disturbed and remain horrified by the demolition of the East Wing as it was done so without proper planning, consultation, or assessment under relevant statutes (e.g., National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)) or a publicly-vetted process, and done without an approved plan for replacing the demolished East Wing with a new one. The demolition of the historic East Wing without review, without permits, without effort to conserve its materials and history, and without Congressional oversight is clearly a violation of the law. Moreover, it is a violation of the trust of the American people who were given no opportunity to comment on what should have been presented as a proposal and not as a violent after the fact notification. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. It is not a modernization project but instead a complete razing of not only American history, but of the adherence to the rule of law and of American values. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans!!

As such, I oppose spending of \$300 million on this project, let alone one dime of tax payer dollars since the project was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. Instead, the person(s) who razed it should pay for the restoration of the building and razing of our American history. I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to require reconstruction of the East Wing in keeping with its historic design and size—I.e. its original form. Anything constructed on the demolition site going forward must be compatible in form and subordinate in scale to the original structure.

While I recognize this demand (which majority of American's would support) is likely an uphill battle, sadly (although we all know anything is feasible in the federal government if there is the will to authorize by law and fund). Thus, if not rebuilt to original design specifications, at a minimum, the dimensions, materials, and features of the new East Wing itself should blend in with the White House, the West Wing, and should follow the golden ratio (a mathematical design principle associated with aesthetic harmony). Notably, the proposed size and proportions for the East Wing of the White House is deeply disturbing as it is completely out of balance with the intent and simplicity of the White House and should be redrawn. At the most, the external size and proportions of the East Wing must be in balance with both the central structure of the White House and the West Wing. The East and West Wings must be subordinate to the central structure of the White House, that is, the dimensions of the wings to the central structure should each be smaller in dimension and appearance than the central structure.

The external features and views of the new East Wing should be in harmony with those of the West Wing. Furthermore, the materials and style features used in construction should appear similar to those used in the historic portions of the White House.

I urge reviewers to carefully consider how the public will see and experience the project from surrounding public spaces and from various viewpoints gained by the use of photography and videography.

The entire area of Washington, D.C. in which the White House is located is on the National Register of Historic Places and multiple individual National Historic Landmarks and structures on the National Register of Historic Places are in the immediate vicinity of the White House. It is in a Historic District. Because the East Wing has been tragically demolished and will be completely re-built, Consultation under section 106 must be completed as part of the planning process for the Project. Likewise, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act must be adhered to, and to responsibly protect the health of construction workers and the public, contamination issues at the demolition site need to be thoroughly evaluated. Because the East Wing was built and repaired or renovated over many decades, the structure is likely to have contained asbestos, lead, and other hazardous substances. The photos of the demolition showed significant production of

fugitive dust and a lack of encapsulation to contain contamination. The documentation for the demolition planning and implementation phase should be investigated to determine if sufficient testing and mitigation measures were taken prior to and during demolition and, at the very least, confirmation testing should be done at the demolition site as part of the planning for re-construction. Additional disturbance of the site during construction could release additional hazardous substances at and from the site.

As part of the public experience of the future East Wing, the project plans must include accessibility features in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Because taxpayers will be paying for the upkeep, maintenance, and utility bills of the future East Wing and visiting it, I urge the Commission to do what it can to insist that the design meet at least a Gold level of LEED Certification and a Platinum level in the areas of Water Efficiency, Energy & Atmosphere, Materials & Resources, and Indoor Environmental Quality, as described by U.S. Green Building Council's most recent set of standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sue Jennings

Name: Pam Schmoll

Date: March 1, 2026 4:14:24 pm

To Whom It May Concern,

I vehemently oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. This project needs to be canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. The costs of both the tearing down and reconstruction need to be paid by Trump not the taxpayers. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without holding those who broke the law responsible both legally and financially would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Sincerely,
Pam Schmoll

Name: Gregory Dietrich

Date: March 1, 2026 4:17:43 pm

Dear Commissioners:

I am a consultant who has been working in the field of Historic Preservation for over twenty-six years. During this time I have had numerous projects subject to review by State Historic Preservation Offices and the National Park Service. In all of my years, it would have been inconceivable that part of a National Historic Landmark owned and managed by the federal government would be demolished with no public process and no regard for the law. Although irrevocable damage has already been done to the People's House by its current tenant, this should not further enable the Office of the White House, working in collusion with multiple federal agencies, to skirt the law.

I appeal to you to reject the proposed replacement for what has been lost, based on its inappropriate size, scale, massing and design, which are incompatible with the size, scale, massing and historic architectural features of the surviving sections of the White House; the fact that it was initiated through demolition without requisite approvals from Congress and advisory approvals from your commission and other regulatory agencies; and is based on insufficient justification; namely, the need for more space. To simply state that a planning committee has been proposing to add a second floor to a highly significant colonnade and a create larger space for entertaining justifies the current proposal is disingenuous. The current tenant has politicized every public event held at the White House in violation of the Hatch Act and it is logical to assume that this proposal is intended to further that objective. Moreover, a tenant who flaunts the laws of our country protecting our cultural patrimony does not deserve to be rewarded in any way whatsoever with a vanity project paid for by his donors. Beyond these issues is the dangerous precedent set by these actions, enabling future desecration and vandalism of the extant portions of the White House, US Capitol, US Supreme Court and all of the extraordinary monuments that contribute to Washington, D.C.'s distinct sense of place as our nation's capital.

I implore you to have the Office of the White House lead the reconstruction of the colonnade without the second-story proposal, incorporating the same architectural elements that the Office maintains it has salvaged, and only consider a proposal whose size, scale, massing and architectural style is compatible to the surviving sections of the White House. Moreover, the beauty of the White House is its ability to reflect multiple Administrations--and in this case, the work of

multiple First Ladies through their work in the East Wing. New construction should continue to preserve and memorialize this program, while alternatives for a supersized ballroom should only be considered outside of the confines of this internationally significant site of American history.

Name: Linda Karwoski

Date: March 1, 2026 4:20:04 pm

I have read the information provided concerning the new ballroom to be constructed. After comparing the planned design and the alternative plan, I must agree with Mr. Parker and Mr. Bates. It is understood, a larger ballroom is needed so dignitaries do not have to be entertained in tents on the lawn, due to not enough room in the present ballroom. However, the plans seem to be 'over-sized' and would take away from the original "look" of the Whitehouse, plus change the circular design of the driveway, as well as, the straight line of sight from the one main artery.

It is agreed a larger entertainment area is needed, but believe the alternative plan is more appropriate and would be sufficient, according to the information provided at this time.

Name: Mark Sullivan

Date: March 1, 2026 4:23:19 pm

The drawings and information made public so far for the new East Wing ballroom and portico are just out of proportion with the rest of the White House grounds, and would adversely affect the balance of the landscape of site lines of the city of Washington, DC. L'Enfant's plans for the axial connections for key structures and site lines within the city are being ignored by this proposed structure. The city will be scarred if the scale of this structure isn't modified.

There are proposals that should be considered that would modify the structure to industry standards for square footage for 1,000 guests. Also, by moving the non-public kitchen space below grade, and lowering some ceiling heights in non-public spaces, the unnecessary mass of this structure can be reduced in an attempt at better balance with the White House and the rest of the surrounding urban environment.

The White House is the people's house. Washington DC is the capitol city of this great nation. We need to take care of both, with careful planning and thoughtful improvements that will respect our history and instill pride for generations to come. As proposed, this ballroom is proportionally not fit for purpose.

Name: Allison Rachleff

Date: March 1, 2026 4:33:33 pm

I am writing to express my opposition to the design of the proposed East Wing Modernization Project. The enormous scale is too large and out of proportion with the White House and its formally designed landscape. The design also obstructs the L'Enfant Plan by disrupting the key axial vista between the U.S. Capitol and the White House. In addition, the design adversely affects the symmetrically balanced Olmsted-designed landscape of the White House grounds because it would be built atop an oval-shaped pathway that is an integral hardscape feature of this nationally significant property.

Please fulfill your legal obligation to uphold the NCPD design review process by NOT approving this design and request that significant alterations be made to reduce the scale of the addition, and bring it into harmony with the L'Enfant Plan and existing White House grounds.

Name: Melissa Chapman

Date: March 1, 2026 4:37:28 pm

Since the East Wing was suddenly, and unexpectedly, demolished, Americans have been concerned about what would replace it. When I saw the model of the new ballroom, I was shocked and appalled with its size and placement. It totally eclipses the most important building in America...The White House. Washington D.C. was constructed with a specific, thoughtful plan that the ballroom interrupts. The connection between The People's House and the Capital where the people's representatives are housed is obfuscated. This connection is an important symbol that a single person should not be able to destroy. Also, the size of the building is far above industry standards for 1000 people. I question how many times there would be events for 1000 people and whether a ballroom for 1000 is really necessary. The new structure has

three floors with outrageously high ceilings which add to its enormity. It has fake windows demonstrating that much of the building is for pure show and not functionality. Even the columns do not match the White House and Treasury. At the time of its conception, balance of the White House campus and grounds were of utmost importance. That should still be the case. This monstrous ballroom and tall, windowless walkway to the entrance destroy that balance. The proposed ballroom's size will mean moving a portion of the circular drive which will no longer be circular. Can you imagine walking up Pennsylvania Avenue and the first, and only, thing you see is this over-sized ballroom? I implore you to stop its construction until meaningful changes that restore the balance and beauty of the White House campus are made. Every person I've spoken with on this issue agrees that we must preserve the history and legacy of our Capital.

Name: Dawn Joycec

Date: March 1, 2026 4:44:43 pm

George Washington originally contracted L'Enfant to design the city of Washington DC in the baroque style with an axial connection from the White House to the Capital. The White House, also known as the "People's House" was designed by James Hoban as a classical structure and all other additions followed the classical balance and structure to maintain the Main building as the focus. The landscaping designed by Frederick Olmstead continued with this vision.

The currently proposed ballroom negates all of this preplanning that has been adhered to since the time of George Washington and takes away the symbolism of the most important house in America and the most recognized. The balance and scale of the proposed project completely disregards the historic importance of the White House and the entire city of Washington.

As proposed the building is well above the 10 -15 square ft per person requirements, exceeding the proposed 1000 person capacity by 500. The kitchen is above grade and could be placed below ground, removing false windows and lowering the height of the building. The false portico and stairs could be redesigned, as well as the columns that obstruct views from within the ballroom, and made into usable space. The size of the addition completely blocks the axial connection to the Capital Building.

With the right architect this project could be a beautiful and iconic addition to the White House, please review the plans and consult with a historic preservation architect that will enhance the new space as well as honoring the plans of our forefathers. As proposed it will be a deterrent to the most beautiful home in Washington. I trust you will vote on March 5 to have this proposed plan denied and a new classical addition designed that will meet the proposed needs.

Thank you.

Name: Jeanne Mills

Date: March 1, 2026 4:49:38 pm

To Whom It May Concern,

As a professional in the field of historic preservation, I want the Capitol Ballroom/East Wing Modernization Project stopped right now!!!

Name: Elizabeth Sloan

Date: March 1, 2026 4:49:39 pm

Regarding the White House Ballroom project:

The entirety of the White House belongs to American citizens. It was designed and built by the fathers of our nation. It is the heart of our country. I strenuously object to any alterations to all of the structures and landscaping of the property that are not subject to public comment and approval by Congress prior to implementation.

Since the East Wing has already been destroyed, without so much as a consultation with the American people, and the Rose Garden paved over, the American people can have input only into rebuilding. To wit:

I strenuously request that the ballroom size and scale be reduced to be in classical balance with the main White House and the West Wing.

As currently planned for banquets of 1,000 people, the ballroom size is oversized, e.g., instead of approximately 1,000 SF per attendee at a banquet, the current plan provides 1,500 SF. The industry standard of 1,000 SF per attendee is ample room for seated dinners, including space for servers, security, and other staff.

Further, the ballroom as planned, in cubic feet, is about three (3) times larger than the White House proper. The huge cubic footprint of the ballroom translates to higher maintenance and utility costs for the American people.

For aesthetic reasons, historical reasons, and practical reasons, I strongly and emphatically demand that the ballroom plan be scaled back to enhance, rather than overwhelm, the existing White House complex.

Elizabeth Sloan
Washington, DC

Name: Merry Juerling
Date: March 1, 2026 4:51:35 pm

Dear Committee Members,

First, the atrocity of our nation's White House being partially torn down without any proper construction procedures or permits and without prior historical preservation approval of any new building design is abusive. Thank you for your time and energy in addressing this issue.

Second, the executive administration's proposal is clearly seen as only ego motivated, a waste of tax payer's money, fraudulently based reasoning and abusive to to American people, the intentions of design, architecture and culture of our nation's capital.

It was bad enough that the First Lady's quarters were demolished without any input or approval process. That was an affront to ALL women.

Let's be clear...the only way to deal with a narcissistic and ego driven bully is to stand up to them...I know you know this and I know you know that standing up to bullies often comes with retaliation in which one must again stand up and hold them accountable.

Your only appropriate responses concerning this project are:

- 1) No unusable space may be permitted within the new design.
- 2) No extraordinary measurements above construction industry and architectural style guidance will be approved.
- 3) No previous historical important and relevant visual views may be obstructed.
- 4) No more use of gold embellishments and/or decorations.
- 5) No more construction, renovations or redecoration on any part of our White House will be done without input and approval from knowledgeable historical, architecture and other necessary professionals.

The above 5 guidelines deter from the waste, fraud and abuse of the proposed project and will keep our White House inline with our nation's values, culture and true intentions of a nation of "We, the people".

Name: Jeanne Mills
Date: March 1, 2026 4:51:45 pm

To Whom It May Concern,

As a professional with over five decades of experience I am writing in opposition to the East Wing "Modernization Project." Thank you.

Name: Wendy Dolezal
Date: March 1, 2026 4:58:46 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Ann Voelkner

Date: March 1, 2026 5:01:46 pm

Reconstruct the gardens demolished by Trump. No building larger than the original building footprint. Maintain the historic perspective.

Name: Emma Macaire

Date: March 1, 2026 5:02:46 pm

The Trump East Wing "Moderization" Project is an insult to the symmetry and gracious character of The White House and its surrounding landscape. Such a "convention center" structure dwarves the entire property; it sends a message that nothing is off limits to the greed of men ... not even our most historic and revered icons.

Name: Jerome Conlon

Date: March 1, 2026 5:11:21 pm

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed White House East Wing Modernization Project. My specific concerns are with the scale of the project and its relationship to the existing historic Main House.

The original White House and its appearance as a standalone structure is, and must continue to be, the visual focus of this property. This is vital to preserve the historic look of the Main House and its site. Previous additions to the site have been very respectful of this focus. The West Wing and the recently demolished East Wing both stand/stood off from the original Main House and are/were connected to it by low profile galleries. The two Wings themselves were built to a scale appropriately subordinate to the original Main House. Most importantly, these additions were built at a height that did not exceed the height of the first floor of the Main House. This subordination to the original structure assured that the Main House retained its original standalone appearance and continued as the visual focus of the site.

Unfortunately, the proposed Ballroom stands in stark contrast to these earlier additions to the site. The enormous footprint of the structure overwhelms the footprint of the original Main House. This massive footprint when combined with the proposed height of the structure, at least as tall as the Main House, would greatly intrude on the site of the Main House. The new addition would hem in that structure from one side and create a building that would rival the Main House in both mass and height. The visual focus of the Main House as the standalone centerpiece of this most historic site would be obliterated.

The solution to these most serious design concerns lies in reducing the scale of the proposed Ballroom addition. Trimming the footprint of the proposed structure by at least one half and limiting its height so as not to exceed the height of the first floor of the Main House would give the Ballroom an appropriately subordinate place on the site and preserve the visual focus of the original Main House as the standalone centerpiece of the site.

A change to the White House site as profound as this proposed Ballroom addition must be most carefully studied and evaluated by all bodies having review authority, including both the NCPC and the US Congress, prior to any decision to move forward with any design. The American people deserve at least that much.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this most important design project.

Name: Heather Eggleston

Date: March 1, 2026 5:11:45 pm

Dear National Capital Planning Commission Members,

I am adamantly opposed to the new White House Ballroom as currently proposed. The proposed sizing, which far exceeds what is needed to meet stated goals based on industry standards, disproportionate scaling with existing structures, and complete disregard of design and planning standards of the Nation's capital are not acceptable.

The White House is one of the most iconic buildings in America, it is owned by the American people, and it is larger than the whims of any one person at any one given time. This administration blatantly disregarded laws and policies of historic preservation, transparency, public comment, and impact analysis with its destruction of the East Wing. It followed that up

with a proposal for a new ballroom that is in complete contrast with historical design and the legacy that the site represents.

I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to scrutinize and give deep consideration to ensure that that any new structures associated with the White House and its ground's be completed only in balance with its historical context and designed connections. L'Enfant's plan for Washington D.C., Hoban's north elevation depiction of the White House, and Olmsted's plans for the White House's grounds have been the guiding documents for over 200 years since the founding of Washington DC. They remain as the compass and yardstick against which all proposals are to be measured and considered. The enormity of the current proposal is a dire threat to the People's House, the most important house in America.

With deep concern,
Heather Eggleston

Name: Nom dePlume

Date: March 1, 2026 5:35:29 pm

The demolition of the East Wing without transparent external review, consultation with preservation authorities, or visible compliance with statutory requirements represents an alarming breach of legal process and institutional restraint. The White House is not merely an occupied building; it is a federally owned, historically protected national symbol subject to oversight under the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, federal procurement law, and the planning jurisdiction of this Commission. If the East Wing was materially altered or demolished without the required interagency consultation, environmental review, and public transparency, that action was not simply aggressive, it was blatantly unlawful.

The proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition compounds that violation. A project of this magnitude demands formal review, historic preservation analysis, design scrutiny, environmental impact assessment where applicable, and compliance with appropriations and ethics statutes. The notion that such a sweeping structural expansion could proceed without full transparency and rigorous oversight is incompatible with federal law and with NCPC's statutory responsibility to safeguard the federal city's historic and symbolic integrity.

Beyond the immediate architectural and preservation concerns lies a broader and deeply troubling pattern. This administration has demonstrated repeated willingness to act first and rationalize later, to bypass guardrails domestically and internationally. At the same time that statutory preservation processes appear to have been disregarded at the White House complex, the Executive Branch has engaged in controversial military actions abroad without clear congressional authorization under the War Powers Resolution. Whether bulldozing historic federal property or launching military strikes without deliberative oversight, the through-line is the same: Unilateral executive action that sidelines institutional checks.

This pattern of belligerent executive conduct heightens, rather than diminishes, the need for strict adherence to procedural law here at home. When constitutional and statutory boundaries are already under strain, it is essential that agencies such as the NCPC enforce the legal frameworks that exist precisely to prevent abuse of federal property and symbolic national spaces. The White House complex must not become an arena for unilateral vanity construction undertaken in defiance of preservation law and without the informed consent of the public.

The East Wing's reported demolition, if confirmed to have occurred without proper review, demands immediate investigation, full documentation, and corrective action. All memoranda, authorizations, environmental assessments, and preservation consultations must be disclosed. If required procedures were skipped, remedial measures must be imposed before any further alteration proceeds.

The proposed ballroom addition should be halted pending full legal compliance and transparent review. This is not a partisan objection. It is a constitutional one. The President is a temporary steward of a permanent national asset. The White House does not belong to the occupant; it belongs to the people of the United States and to history itself.

The Commission must exercise its statutory authority to stop this project unless and until full compliance with preservation, environmental, procurement, and appropriations law is demonstrated. To do otherwise would signal that the legal guardrails protecting our most symbolically important federal property can be brushed aside at will.

At a time when executive overreach has already escalated tensions domestically and abroad, the rule of law must begin at home: Quite literally, at the White House.

Respectfully submitted.

Name: Susan Aitcheson

Date: March 1, 2026 5:37:08 pm

I strongly support the National Historic Preservation Commison's recommendations for the New East Wing Project.

The recommendations are:

Reduce Overall Size and Visibility. The size, volume, and massing of the proposed new construction (90,000 square feet) should be reduced or disguised (such as by placing portions underground, as recommended in the 2000 Comprehensive Design Plan) so the new building appears smaller than the Executive Residence itself (55,000 square feet). Its height should also be substantially lower than the Executive Residence.

Reduce Footprint and Protect Key Views. The footprint of the proposed building should not extend past the existing south-facing façade of the historic Treasury Building, nor further interrupt the views of the Executive Residence from Pennsylvania Avenue.

Respect the Established Classical Composition of the White House Complex. The new addition should retain the carefully balanced classical design of the White House complex with its two smaller, lower, and substantially symmetrical East and West Wings.

Preserve the Historic East Façade of the Executive Residence. The connection of the colonnade to the Executive Residence should protect and preserve the original historic materials of the east façade of the Executive Residence and should not cover or demolish the existing fenestration and detailing of the east façade.

Ensure that the Proposed South-facing Portico Is Subordinate in Scale to the White House South Portico. The proposed portico on the south façade should be smaller and less grand in scale than the existing portico on the south façade of the Executive Residence.

Please take the public's comments into consideration. This is a National building for the people - it doesn't matter who pays for it. The Citizens of USA matter.

Susan Aitcheson

Name: Robin Quon

Date: March 1, 2026 5:42:12 pm

The demolition was completely unacceptable and there should be no approval of any plan to do anything other than rebuild it pretty much as it was. There is no need for a ballroom. We cannot allow rampant disregard of the law and rules to be rewarded. Donor money must be used to return the East Wing to its original architecture, use and size, with whatever small changes are needed for bringing it up to current standards.

You cannot allow an edifice so large as this, which would totally overwhelm the White House main building, to be built. Where is the respect for our history? I cried when I heard this had happened, much as I did when Notre Dame burned.

If you cannot totally derail this, please delay it sufficiently that litigation can stop it. Please, please do not be accommodating now - this is travesty!!!

I have been involved in historic preservation since being on the City of Portland's Landmarks Commission in 1977 - 1985 and am on the City of Lake Oswego's Historic Advisory Board currently, as well as being a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. PLEASE STOP THIS!

Name: Elisabeth Clark

Date: March 1, 2026 5:48:21 pm

I am adding my voice to that of many Americans who are concerned and appalled by the plans for the so called modernization of the East Wing and the addition of an oversized ballroom.

The East Wing was a historic building part of the most iconic building in our country, the White House. Its destruction is shocking. What is far more shocking is the plan for an oversize, pretentious and ugly building. The White house is a historic building whose XVIII Century size and design fit within the L'Enfant design for the city. The proposed design is based on a hotel without any consideration for the historic character of the White House or its place within the city.

The White house is not only the residence of the President but a symbol recognized across the world. Its primary purpose is not to entertain guests in a pretentious ballroom. THE WHITE HOUSE IS NOT A HOTEL! The few events a year that necessitate a large space have always been held in other, equally elegant venues without a problem. The oversized

addition not only destroys the classic design of the White House but also destroys its relationship with adjacent buildings. The United States is a democracy. We should not be erecting a building to the glory of our present leader as in totalitarian states.

Name: Henry Bryant

Date: March 1, 2026 5:49:04 pm

I am very concerned about the design and scale of the new Whitehouse Ballroom as it has been proposed. The design does not respect the history of the site. It ignores the design and intent of design that has come before from L'enfant for the city of Washington and Hoban for the house itself. L'enfant's city plan connects the branches of our government in an elegant straight forward way. Hoban's design for the house is no less elegant for its respect for classic architecture. This proposal should be reworked to respect our history and its designers. I have attached a PDF with more complete comments.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Gwendolyn Elliott

Date: March 1, 2026 5:52:24 pm

I object to the present ballroom proposal for the following reasons:

It overshadows the people's house. It is taller than the White House.

It interferes with the historic setting linking the White House to the Capitol.

It changes the elliptical drive to the White House.

It obstructs the view of the people's house from Pennsylvania Ave.

It obligates taxpayers to heat and cool a building in perpetua that is not necessary for the occupants of the White House.

I vote for no ballroom but should one be required it should accommodate no more than 500 people and be in scale with the people's house.

Name: Katheryn Lawson

Date: March 1, 2026 5:54:39 pm

Hello,

I am a historian and museum professional, and I'm writing in opposition to the so-called "East Wing Modernization Project." This project is not modernizing. It is erasing. If we are going to "Make America Great Again," does that not include honoring and celebrating historic structures like the White House's East Wing? Years ago, when statues of Confederate leaders were being removed from public places, were we not told that we were "erasing history"? I believe demolishing the East Wing certainly goes beyond removing the cheap, hollow statues erected by the Daughters of the Confederacy in the post-Civil War era. I remember the outrage and the tears when statues of Robert E. Lee were removed. Where are these same tears when a major portion of the White House is unceremoniously destroyed?

The White House does not belong to a single person; it is the property of the People, with the National Park Service as its manager. It is a National Historic Landmark, and thus no single person has the authority to make such drastic changes. End this now. Honor the People. Honor our history.

Thank you.

Name: Harriette Friend

Date: March 1, 2026 5:54:46 pm

This is the People's House. Please PROTECT L'enfant's plan, James Hoban's design, Olmsted's landscape plan. The proposed design negatively impacts all three. It is cavernous, out of balance and unnecessary.

Name: John Ollis

Date: March 1, 2026 6:00:50 pm

Stop this project and start again.

It should be subject to all permits and should have had more input from voters and Congress.
It's an insult to our history and image to have it be larger than the White House and focus on a ballroom.

Name: Karen Clymer

Date: March 1, 2026 6:03:32 pm

My comments are relevant to the proposed construction of a ball room structure to be added to the current White House campus, replacing the now destroyed East Wing.

The proposed designs currently appear to show a massive structure which will dwarf the White House and override countless elements of classical design and industry standards for architecture. Simple design elements of balance and symmetry appear to be ignored and the the tradition and heritage of the White House as a historical treasure -- one owned by the citizens of this country -- are dishonored.

If it is true that a new structure is needed for entertainment purposes, that new structure is clearly secondary in importance to the White House and the work and official activities that take place there. The design and ultimate placement of any entertainment space should be reflective of that status. The placement and size of any new structure should be practical to support realistic usage expectations and requirements while the design should honor the White House and should not disrupt nor infringe upon original, historical intentions of the earliest designers.

If it must be built, build it smaller and smarter than what can be seen in the available proposed designs and do not detract from the White House.

Name: Jay Sheckley

Date: March 1, 2026 6:11:27 pm

Rubble needs no modernization.
The East Wing needs full restoration.

Name: William Grossman

Date: March 1, 2026 6:16:17 pm

In my life's journey, I've been involved in design financing developments and understanding public policy. The redevelopment of the East wing should adhere to the historical design lines of our federal capital. I understand that the capacity is to be 1000.. typically 14/15 sq ft pp ballroom.. to be generous 17,000 ft.² the footprint of this building should compliment the White House and not overshadow ...

Name: Kasey Holwerda

Date: March 1, 2026 6:18:38 pm

I am testifying that is strongly against the principles of the preservation of our most important historical buildings to allow a remodeling of the East Wing without appropriate historic review, input and process. It is unfathomable that a project of this scope can occur which will negatively impact the historic integrity of the White House complex. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has the right idea of what needs to happen here. Shame on the current administration and its reckless disregard for the appropriate processes for a project of this magnitude. Please do the right thing.

Name: Frances Zumwalt

Date: March 1, 2026 6:26:20 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project

canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law abiding Americans.

Name: Stacey Anderson

Date: March 1, 2026 6:30:08 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Sandra A MacDonald

Date: March 1, 2026 6:36:27 pm

The installation of a tacky ballroom is an insult to our democracy. Please do whatever you can to stop this.

Name: Lisa Collins

Date: March 1, 2026 6:42:14 pm

I oppose the building of a ballroom at the White House. Public comments should have been received and considered prior to the destruction of the East Wing. This project broke numerous preservation laws. These laws protect our nation's cultural and natural resources.

There were steps that should have been taken prior to demolition. Permits, reviewing the design of the ballroom to ensure it fit the historic structure that it will attach to, and then authorization to demolish.

I want this project stopped. Any future development should follow the proper procedures. Also, funding should be from the government not political supporters. I see this as a conflict of interest which government employees should not ever engage in.

Name: Thomas Frank

Date: March 1, 2026 6:43:11 pm

After watching the National Trust discussion with experienced architects, a plain and unprejudiced analysis of the proposed structure, I am even more appalled. This NOT a "modernization" project. This is a demolition not only of the East Wing, but of the whole mass and scale of the historic White House. From the gaudy fake portico that does not even access the building, to the ridiculous ceiling height of the "ballroom," to the inordinate sprawl of the kitchen and serving areas, this is a monstrosity.

In some ways worst of all, the proposed mass will disrupt the visual unity of the National Mall itself, by interrupting the view from the Capitol to the White House. It will also quite obviously dwarf surrounding public buildings and the sightlines of the house from the street.

This is the People's House; the President is a temporary resident at any one time. The demolition was an illegal obscenity in the first place, with utterly no public process as mandated by law. The idea that we would now be forced to look at this massive tribute to one President's ego is utterly disgusting. Please send this proposal back to the drawing board.

Name: Robyn Gibson

Date: March 1, 2026 6:44:19 pm

I was crying in my living room when I saw the destruction of the East Wing of the white house. The public has had no input into any changes for "The Peoples House" which is what the White House is. It is NOT Trumps' house! I strongly disagree with any ballroom being built in place of the East Wing. Thank you for letting the public have input.

Name: Elissa Malcohn

Date: March 1, 2026 6:44:46 pm

I submit the following comment as applied to the March 5, 2026, NCPC meeting concerning "The East Wing Modernization Project." First, for the sake of context, I respectfully remind the Commission that regulation 36 CFR §2.31 prohibits "destroying, injuring, defacing, or damaging property or real property" within the national park system, which includes the White House grounds. "The regulations contained in this section apply, regardless of land ownership, on all lands and waters within a park area that are under the legislative jurisdiction of the United States." (1) The demolition of the entire East Wing constituted nothing less than extreme and illegal vandalism, the first such action of its kind since the British burned the White House to the ground on August 24, 1814, during the War of 1812. As Presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winner Doris Kearns Goodwin told Boston Public Radio on October 24, 2025, after listing presidential renovations by members of both parties, going back to Abraham Lincoln, "No one has torn down anything in the White House before." (2) This so-called "modernization project" had been initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. I oppose, in the strongest possible terms, the spending of \$300 million on what amounts to the illegal razing of American history. All who perpetrated this act of vandalism should be brought to justice, not rewarded for their subterfuge. Do not enable any of them. Rather, cancel this project and restore the East Wing to its former design.

(1) <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-36/chapter-I/part-2/section-2.31>

(2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxsehIZkvII>

Name: Jack Rems

Date: March 1, 2026 6:45:08 pm

Rubble needs no modernization.
The East Wing needs a full restoration.

Name: Kathy Smith

Date: March 1, 2026 6:49:15 pm

Please do not allow this monument to a failed president continue. Please restore the East Wing to it's original design and end the egregious destruction of the People's House.

Name: Valerie Ross

Date: March 1, 2026 6:57:02 pm

I was shocked and horrified by what the President has had done to the East Wing of the White House. I believe that the White House belongs to all Americans and the current or any President does not have the right to tear anything down for their own projects. It saddens me deeply that this destruction has taken place with out processes already in place to make such changes. I wish it could all be put back as it was but that does not seem to be the case. But I definitely Do Not want a gaudy, pretentious expensive ball room built. It is a huge waste of money and resources and it is not needed. I am a 74 year old private woman and I do not normally make public or political comments, but this is such a travesty that I felt compelled to comment.

Thank You.

Name: Christopher Jolley

Date: March 1, 2026 7:05:16 pm

As an architect, I am appalled at the scale and design of the new East Wing. This addition will cast an ominous shadow (literally and figuratively) over the entirety of the original White House. It will dwarf and minimize the importance of the original structure. The genius of the original East Wing and current West Wing is that they are set down lower than the main White House structure so as not to detract from it. This preserves the views of the iconic north and south porticos. The new design will dominate over the south portico. I urge the denial of this design and look for a new proposal that is more in scale and faithful to the original White House

Name: Thomas Ackert

Date: March 1, 2026 7:06:16 pm

I have watched the February 25 recording of the Webinar regarding the White House East Wing Modernization. I enjoyed 35 years of executive experience with my final 21 years as the Executive Director of the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. I worked as staff support to the Tourist Development Council of Hotel and Tourism Executives in the late 1970's which crafted the plan for funding and development of the Center. When I retired as the Director in 2012 the complex had grown to approximately seven million square feet with construction values exceeding \$1B. The facility has 2M square feet of exhibition space, hundreds of thousands of square feet in meeting rooms, a very large upscale Ballroom divisible into three sections, and support space including food service production and delivery facilities that have served huge events such as the National Association of Homebuilders (105,000+ attendance) and multiple events exceeding that number. It also serves gatherings of a hundred or less. The center is physically attached to four adjacent top end hotel properties including the Hyatt Regency Orlando, with tens of thousands of rooms in the immediate area.

I am very familiar with oversight and review processes. I was quite surprised to learn in the webinar about the limited information and timeframe provided to the reviewers to produce a response to the NCPC and the public. Despite these limitations David Scott and Bill Bates did an outstanding job explaining the history and shortcomings of the proposed project to maintain the integrity of the plans formed by bright minds over 200 years ago that have stood the test of time. The proposed project is clearly flawed in its design as described in the webinar. I agree with every observation, comment and conclusion they made. I would add some of my own (such as questions regarding impacts upon other nearby land uses, infrastructure, etc) but I don't have enough information. I also don't know what facilities are used now or can be developed in the area that provide the amenities proposed.

Name: Dorothea Penar

Date: March 1, 2026 7:08:22 pm

My name is Dorothea Penar and I'm a Historic Preservation Planner. I've worked in the field since 1978 in the Midwest and in the Northeast and have a Master's degree. I'm a resident of Vermont since 1988, and have been involved in historic preservation and Design Review since the early 1990's. I'm well versed in the principles of design review and the foundation practices of good preservation outlined in the Secretary of the Interiors Standards of Historic Preservation. I would like to share my point of view about the proposed Ballroom addition to the White House which is replacing the now demolished East Wing. I watched the presentation of the architect about the purpose of the addition and the basic outline of his design. My overall perspective is that the design as proposed is not compatible with the iconic White House main building and does not conform to the Sec. of Interior's Standards for additions to historic structures.

The following are my reasons for this judgement:

1. Upon review of the architecture of the main building and the surroundings, it is clear that symmetry and elegant simplicity is evident. Benjamin Franklin expressed that America of the time was a land of opportunity for "sober, industrious and frugal" men versus the European aristocracy. The architecture of the White House and most buildings in vicinity are classical and very restrained in their ornamentation. The White House is the "people's house" of the frugal Industrious American, not a palace. I heard several of the Commissioners reference European places. This should not be the measure of the new addition.
2. The proposed Ballroom is huge and dwarfs the Main building, in direct contrast of the Sec. of Int. Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties. The addition should be secondary to the historic building and smaller in scale and ornamentation. The main goal of the addition is to have a ballroom to sit about 1000 people. The proposed footprint of the ballroom as proposed is about 40 % larger than needed by industry standards for 1000 people dining.
3. The size and height of the proposed addition will block the axis of the Pennsylvania Ave. view of the White House and the Capital building as planned by L'Enfant's design. Also, the plans of Fredrick Law Olmsted's design of the grounds would need to be altered.
4. The portico is enormous and in the Corinthian style not the Ionic. Remembering the more restrained human scale of the original building is very important. We should not be putting a Baroque-like building addition.
5. In addition to the footprint of the addition being grossly out of proportion, the height of the addition is too high also. The ceiling heights of the three floors are unnecessarily high and adds to the buildings losing the elegant, human-scale that is beautifully shown in the Main House.
6. The architect mentioned that the landscaping would hide the overly large addition. I believe if you need to hide this addition with landscaping, then the addition is poorly designed.

Suggestions for a better design:

1. Reduce the footprint of the Ball by at least 1/3. You will still have plenty of space for the 1000 guest dinners and will be serviceable for smaller dinners without the feeling of being in a room too big for the event.
2. Lower the ceiling heights of the Ballroom and especially the third floor. This will make the spaces easier to heat and

cool and people will actually feel more comfortable in a more human-scale size room. This lower profile will help lessen the additions adverse impact.

3. Remove the Portico. It cannot be accessed from the inside of the ballroom anyway. It is larger than any porticos around the area, especially the beautifully designed portico on the White House. Instead use that elevation for a series of Palladian-like windows that will have beauty and utility.

Thank you for your consideration of my ideas. This is such an important building to all Americans and as a veteran historic preservation planner, I just could not let this situation go by without expressing my deep concern for the future of this historic site.

Remember, this is the house for Mr. President, not Your Excellency. It is the People's House.

Name: Amanda Briles

Date: March 1, 2026 7:47:22 pm

The proposed construction for a White House ballroom is an embarrassment, and I clear attempt by President Trump to distract the American people and foreign leaders from his many deficits as a leader himself.

I urge, in the strongest way possible, that the NCPC adopt more reasonable plans such as those presented in Slides 2-9 of the Crucial Insights and Viable Alternatives for a More Sensitive White House Ballroom webinar featuring National Trust trustees and fellows of The American Institute of Architects, David Scott Parker and Bill Bates. The alternative designs and related information are the opinions of David Scott Parker and Bill Bates based on what they've been able to discern from the limited plans that have been released.

Since irreplaceable history has already been lost without the American people's consent, please do what you can to salvage the historical sightlines, landscape architecture, and symbolism of this important structure.

Name: Lance Kind

Date: March 1, 2026 7:52:01 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: John Nestoriak

Date: March 1, 2026 7:55:09 pm

The demolition of the White House East Wing and initiation of ballroom construction are inconsistent with the purposes and procedural requirements of the National Capital Planning Act. The Act establishes the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) as the central planning body responsible for reviewing significant federal construction projects affecting the National Capital's character and function.

The demolition commenced prior to completion of NCPC review, undermining the Act's intent to ensure coordinated federal planning for sites of exceptional national importance. Proceeding without completed NCPC consideration deprived Congress and the public of the Act's safeguard against unilateral alterations to nationally significant federal property.

Additionally, there has been no record of collecting samples or artifacts of paint, fabric, carpentry, or other architectural details or interior design that would assist in preserving the historic significance of the demolished space and, if necessary, the reconstruction of it. The Architect of the Capitol has active trades shops on the Capitol Complex wherein such samples and artifacts are kept and used when the historic buildings on the Capitol Complex require maintenance and renovation. Not capturing this historical information is purposeful negligence.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The White House East Wing demolition and reconstruction project constitutes a major federal action within the meaning of NEPA. However, no publicly available Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement was completed prior to demolition.

By proceeding without NEPA review, the project failed to evaluate foreseeable environmental effects, including construction impacts, waste handling, security reconfiguration, and impacts on surrounding historic resources. The absence of NEPA analysis also eliminated public disclosure, informed decision-making, and consideration of reasonable alternatives, all of which are core procedural requirements of the statute.

Congress's Constitutional Authority Over Federal Property

The White House is federal property subject to Congress's authority under the Property Clause of the U.S. Constitution. In conducting the permanent demolition of a major component of the White House complex, the Executive Branch acted without explicit congressional authorization or appropriation.

The use of private donor funding does not substitute for congressional approval of permanent alterations to federal property. Subsequent legislative proposals introduced by Members of Congress to protect the White House's historic character underscore that Congress did not view its constitutional prerogatives as having been adequately respected in this instance.

While the White House is exempt from the National Historic Preservation Act, that exemption does not negate compliance obligations under other federal statutes or diminish Congress's constitutional role. The procedural failures associated with this project highlight the need for clearer statutory safeguards, transparency, and adherence to established planning and environmental review processes for actions affecting the nation's most symbolically significant federal property.

Name: Karen Brown

Date: March 1, 2026 7:59:16 pm

This ballroom is a terrible idea. It's unnecessary, tacky, and oversized. If one must be put up, it should be much smaller than it is currently planned.

Name: Bradley DeBose

Date: March 1, 2026 8:06:44 pm

Let's discuss the footprint of new facility, the modernization shouldn't have a massive footprint.

Name: Debra Maxwell

Date: March 1, 2026 8:08:28 pm

America does NOT need a ballroom. We NEED lower food prices. We NEED good & affordable medical insurance. We need change to help millions of Americans, not a ballroom for the wealthy few.

Name: Treva Daniels-Carlson

Date: March 1, 2026 8:12:02 pm

Dear National Capital Planning Commission

As one of the many American taxpayers, I was abhorred by the destruction of the East Wing of the White House without going through the proper channels.

I strongly oppose spending three hundred million dollars on this project- regardless of the source. This is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. That includes the Rose garden planted by Jackie Kennedy. This is the people's house! No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Ruth Perlstein

Date: March 1, 2026 8:16:48 pm

I support the National Trust for Historic preservation and hope that the East Wing can be restored and that the modernization project is cancelled.

Name: Becky Huddleston

Date: March 1, 2026 8:16:52 pm

I'm against the building of the ballroom at the White House. It's decadent and gaudy and a waste of money when people in the country are in need of basics. It's a division of classes that separates the ones who make rules from the ones who have to live by them and contributes to a disconnect of the public from the government. There's something comforting in seeing an elegant party under a tent raised on the White House lawn, something most people can relate to and even manage for special occasions. I'm against creating a ballroom in the people's house that is something only the most elite can be a part of. And I don't see any need for such extravagance when there are so many things in our country that are in need, infrastructure, food security, housing, insurance and general healthcare, and helping other countries in need. It's the epitome of Let Them Eat Cake blindness to have a multi billion dollar ballroom erected as an addition to the White House. It's a horror of debauchery. It ain't fittin.

Name: Noam Stopak

Date: March 1, 2026 8:19:31 pm

I oppose the spending millions on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a destruction of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. Some say that it is too late, and the project must move forward. This is nonsense and rewards lawbreaking and disrespect for our national heritage. No one is above the law, and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Susan Turner

Date: March 1, 2026 8:26:32 pm

Please see attached PDF.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Debra Wills

Date: March 1, 2026 8:30:54 pm

The new ballroom is a gaudy behemoth completely inconsistent with the Neoclassical style of the White House. It's the People's House, not Versailles. Although the President should be allowed to exercise some personal taste in the decoration of the White House, complete destruction of parts of this historic building should not be allowed without extreme scrutiny and tight control. Calling it "Modernization" is a farce and a mockery of the American people. This project is very simply a vanity project for President Trump. There is no value to the American people. Starting it with insufficient authority should limit it, not just let it proceed. You are not serving the American public by allowing this to go forward.

Name: Wendy Fast

Date: March 1, 2026 8:46:56 pm

The proposed size totally overwhelms the people's house, rendering it so small as to seem insignificant.

An addition this grandiose is not only an inappropriate distraction from what the White House was intended to be, it's a garish display, in the spirit of "Putting lipstick on a pig."

It's also a distressingly insensitive monetary display in a country unable to feed its children and seniors, a "Let them eat cake" style cruel disregard comment.

Name: Christine Yballa

Date: March 1, 2026 8:51:52 pm

[Attachment](#)

Name: Julie Macier

Date: March 1, 2026 8:59:32 pm

I request that the East Wing of the White House be immediately restored. The current proposal lacks, symmetry and scale. The current plan does not pay homage to the historic origins of the White House as commissioned by President George Washington; nor does it maintain the symbolic view and connection of the White House to the Capital Building; nor does it maintain the landscape design of Frederick Law Olmsted. Lastly, and most importantly, it does not provide adequate ADA accessibility nor does it propose adequate ADA fire exits. I understand that modernization of the East Wing interior may have been necessary. The upgrades can be made while rebuilding and restoring the former East Wing to its original form.

Name: Doris Mendez DeMaio

Date: March 1, 2026 9:03:10 pm

The demolition of the White House East Wing was disgraceful. Now it should be restored. A new ballroom is not needed as the White House already has one. RESTORE!

Name: Joe Berger

Date: March 1, 2026 9:03:39 pm

I am not sure why this is called a modernization. The entire wing was torn down without proper authorization. The donations that in theory make this project 'possible' seem more like bribes to the president. There was no proper permitting or public review of the plans. This is the people's house and the people were not clamoring for a giant banquet hall to appease the current president.

This should not be built. The money should be used to restore the former East Wing. If any laws were broken while destroying the original East Wing, those who violated the laws should be prosecuted.

Name: Amy Ballard

Date: March 1, 2026 9:04:03 pm

Good day,

The East Wing Modernization Project is a misnomer, since the East Wing no longer exists. The elephant in the room is the ballroom which makes the White House a peanut in comparison.

I have looked at the plan and listened to the first hearing. I don't think the following questions have been answered: What is the landscape plan? Have any view studies been done? Archeological assessment? Accessibility? Any porticos must go. The proposed design should be elegant and simple, to complement The White House. The ballroom should not be larger than The White House. The White House will look like an appendage to the ballroom. And that's not good. The ballroom is simply too big and will overwhelm the White House.

Here are examples of ballroom sizes in Europe:

Versailles Hall of Mirrors is 8,256 square feet.

Schonbrunn's ballroom is 4300 square feet.

The Catherine Palace, which is outside St Petersburg, Russia has a ballroom of 19,700 square feet.

The St.George's Hall in Windsor Castle is 5,380 square feet. What does this mean? That there is no need for a 90,000 square foot ballroom.

The White House is the people's house. And the people have spoken. Very few think this is a good idea. The people do not care who pays for it. It is simply too big.

General Norman Schwarzkopf once said "the truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it." He must have read the words of Confucius: "to know what is right and not do it is the worst cowardice." You know what the right thing to do. Please do not approve this design.

Name: Melissa Mortimer

Date: March 1, 2026 9:08:07 pm

The proposed ballroom, as currently designed, should not be constructed. The demolition of the east wing and the introduction of a new ballroom would constitute an adverse effect on the historically significant architectural landscape and carefully planned setting of the White House.

The proposed structure is inappropriate in both scale and design. It does not adhere to the established classical architectural vocabulary and principles that define the historic character of the White House complex. In particular, the proposed portico is disproportionately large—significantly exceeding the scale of adjacent porticos—and would disrupt the visual harmony of the existing buildings. Additionally, the portico design appears to lack functional accessibility, further undermining its appropriateness.

Overall, the project would be highly disruptive to the architectural integrity and historic character of this nationally significant property. The scale, massing, and stylistic departure from established design principles diminish the cohesive historic landscape and undermine an important symbol of American architectural and civic history.

Name: Christine Wheeler

Date: March 1, 2026 9:29:27 pm

It's a disgrace what Trump has done and plans to do to the East Wing and his gaudy ballroom. He says people have wanted one for years. We don't ever recall hearing anything to that effect. Trump has already defaced the Oval Office and other parts of the White House with that awful gold paint. He's never heard the phrase "a little goes a long way!" I feel he should restore the East Room along with the original Rose Garden which now resembles a fast food joint patio. And the walkway with the portraits of presidents should be properly restored to their original condition without Trump's immature comments. Disgraceful!

Name: Heidi Crane

Date: March 1, 2026 9:35:07 pm

I oppose spending \$300+ million on this project, which was initiated without proper authorization, permits or design review. This does not represent modernization. The East Wing should be restored. Permitting this project to move forward without penalizing those who broke the law is an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Edward Murray

Date: March 1, 2026 9:56:52 pm

The building of this edifice for the entainment of the rich and famous is a travesty against our nation and against the purpose and history of the White House. My wife and I are adamantly opposed to this project. What it stands for is not what made this nation great and it will not contribute to our greatness in the future, only the tax payer's burden of maintaining the edifice will remain.

Yours sincerely

Dr. and Mrs. Edward Murray



Name: Sue Brown

Date: March 1, 2026 10:08:38 pm

To quote a friend of mine:

"I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans."

Tearing down the East Wing without approval, permits, or even a warning was just plain rude. Obviously the current tenant of the White House does not understand his role at all. He is a temporary resident. The White House and its' appendages belong to the People, not to him or to any corporation.

Name: Karen Kraus

Date: March 1, 2026 10:09:27 pm

The East Wing of the White House was the area where visitors -- primarily regular people who'd been able to get a tour -- saw the building for the first time. Making a "ballroom" out of it is ridiculous; the White House doesn't host galas that need a ballroom. More importantly, if this "ballroom" goes through, it should NOT be called anything that ties it to a "supporter" (such as "The Amazon.com Ballroom") or an administration (such as "The Trump Ballroom").

It's so disappointing that the wrecking ball hit the building before anything could be decided.

Name: Rebecca Stevens

Date: March 1, 2026 10:10:52 pm

I strongly oppose the White House ballroom addition as designed. It is too large for the site and will destroy the classical symmetry of the historic residence. It will also destroy the historic design of both the Pierre Charles L'Enfant city plan and the Frederick Law Olmstead landscape plan.

This ballroom must be redesigned to correct the problems that the current proposal will cause.

Sincerely

Rebecca A. T. Stevens

Name: John Neufeld

Date: March 1, 2026 10:15:17 pm

This project does not follow proper historic protocols. I think it is not correct to have private donors fund a government building.

Name: Laura Maletta

Date: March 1, 2026 10:30:59 pm

The White House should be as it has been - the focus of the grounds. For it to be overshadowed or worst yet, dwarfed, by a party room diminishes the greatness (symbolically and optically) of the Presidency. I was recently in Iceland and we could not believe the Prime Minister's office was this small building, especially since within eyesight is a much larger building that is also a government building and is much more sophisticated looking architecturally. The ballroom would mimic that. It would be a mistake. And one that most likely will not last for long in the annals of history, so why even go down that path?

Why diminish the seat of the Presidency in the process? Sure have a place nearby that the President can use for large events the White House cannot hold because it does not have the space for it, but don't permit it to overtake the White House.

Name: Barbara Chapman

Date: March 1, 2026 10:58:24 pm

The history and integrity of the people's house - The White House is in jeopardy with this frivolous , expensive project . It is a vanity of one man . A temporary resident living in The White House only by the will of the people . Soon he will be gone but if this vanity project is permitted then the damage to our history and integrity will be permanent . Do not allow this destruction to proceed .

Sincerely ,

Barbara Chapman

Name: John Oglesby

Date: March 1, 2026 11:18:44 pm

Please do not allow this ballroom project. I have been visiting the White House, the People's House, since 1970, when I was 11 years old.

The White House needs to remain (or be restored) to have the grandeur and UNDERSTATED gravitas to provide comfort to our citizens. We need the expansion to complement, not overwhelm, the structure.

Listen to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Trust for the National Mall and honor the vision of James Hoban and the decision of President George Washington, who selected the design.

Public Comments for East Wing Modernization Project

Total comments: 969

March 2, 2026

Name: J Gutman

Date: March 2, 2026 12:10:31 am

To the National Capital Planning Commission:

I write as a concerned American citizen to oppose the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House complex. The White House is not merely a presidential residence — it is a National Historic Landmark and National Park, owned by the American people and representing perhaps the most significant historic site in the United States. I have personally visited it several times, as part of my employment, for social occasions, and for public tours. It has served as the home of our presidents since 1800, and its carefully balanced classical design reflects centuries of stewardship and deliberate architectural choices made on behalf of all Americans. A massive addition of this scale poses an irreversible threat to the historic integrity and visual character of this irreplaceable national treasure, and it should not proceed without the most rigorous public scrutiny.

The sheer scale of the proposed addition — 90,000 square feet — is wildly out of proportion with any responsible approach to modifying a National Historic Landmark. Historic preservation experts and architects have already raised serious concerns that such a structure would fundamentally disrupt the classical design equilibrium of the White House. Viable, less intrusive alternatives exist that could meet the administration's functional needs without permanently altering one of the most iconic buildings on earth. The American people deserve a solution that honors the history and dignity of the White House, not one that subordinates our national heritage to short-term convenience.

Finally, I urge the Commission to exercise its full independent authority to protect the public interest in this process. The legally required federal review process — including NCPC oversight, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and congressional approval — exists precisely for moments like this, when a proposal risks permanently altering a site of national significance. These safeguards must not be treated as mere formalities. The White House belongs to all Americans, and no administration should be permitted to fundamentally transform it without transparent, accountable, and meaningful public participation. I respectfully urge the Commission to reject the current proposal and require a more historically sensitive design.

Respectfully submitted,
J Gutman

Name: MICHAEL DENNIS MURPHY

Date: March 2, 2026 12:32:30 am

I NO LONGER HAVE TO IMAGINE WHAT IT IS TO HAVE NO TASTE AND UNLIMITED FUNDS

Except for Mr. Jefferson, I don't expect a President to have a sense of proportion. We can expect more of Architects and Planners of urban spaces. It is a demanding profession. Project criteria, sensitivity to the context of nearby historic structures, accommodations to a site, regulations, the nuts and bolts of a complex construction, AND the Client's expectations.

Who is the Client? Isn't it a Public Building if it is built on Federal land? If civil regulations and professional standards are bypassed or completely ignored, can even a minor commercial project merit consideration?

The White House has survived more alterations than most Americans know (a dear Uncle worked on the Truman Renovation). It is the fate of this beautiful Residence to flex to the strains of family and executive life. The demands of State events might even justify a dedicated convention space, reserving the State Dining Room for smaller gatherings.

I hesitate to encourage the current, unvetted plan. The proposed ballroom is grotesque in its scale and its pretensions to being "Classical Architecture." It is an extreme contrast to Hoban's balanced restraint. Jefferson's Colonnade harmoniously leads from the House to utility structures. The new plan also raises Jefferson's Colonnades to the second story of the Residence, diminishing the North and South Elevations of the White House.

The President's Architects have even argued that the Residence could be visually balanced by enlarging and adding floors to the West Wing.

Yes, doing it twice always fixes a bad decision. Sort of like murder (Architectural murder).

Symmetry without Scale and Proportion would insult the thoughtfulness of James Hoban's perfect design for a Republic's Executive Residence. The White House is the Founders' invitation to an Enlightened World.

In this symmetrical scheme, the WHITE HOUSE is renamed "The Central Pavilion." Isn't that sort of like the Food Court at the Mall?

The British showed slightly more respect in 1814. At least they were known to be enemies of the Republic. They even listened to reason a couple of times. The implied threat of demolishing the brick and mortar workspaces of our Federal Institutions is really a threat to the Republic's Institutions and Citizens. We are not gilded, precious imitations of Europe's fawning palaces and excesses.

Thank you for reading
Michael Murphy

Name: Linda Bradley

Date: March 2, 2026 12:33:22 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans. In addition the proposed measurements would look ridiculous, making the White House look like an attachment to the ballroom instead of vice versa.

Name: Elizabeth Haddox

Date: March 2, 2026 12:45:53 am

Bigger is not better. Displaying gaudy ego is not better than displaying balanced design that harmonizes with adjacent buildings.

Name: Martina Sierra

Date: March 2, 2026 1:41:56 am

I oppose the razing of the East Wing of the White House and the building of the ballroom. The East Wing is part of our history and should be preserved. The ballroom is a bit of fancy of the current president to build up his ego and should not be built, especially at the cost of the history lost.

This project did not go through the appropriate authorization, permits, and design review and should be torn down with the East Wing preserved.

No one is above the law and to leave this project going is to deny what law-abiding citizens care about and want preserved. There should be a penalty to the current administration to be paid for ignoring proper procedure and going against the will of the Americans who believe history — all of it — should be preserved.

Name: Cheryl Eames

Date: March 2, 2026 1:47:47 am

I am adamantly opposed to the East Wing Modernization Project and particularly the proposed construction of a 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House complex.

The destruction, without seeking the input of Congress and the public, of the East Wing of the White House was a direct attack on the People of the United States of America! The White House is a National Historic Landmark and National Park, owned by the American people. It has been home to our presidents since 1800 and to most Americans is perhaps the most significant historic site in the United States. Before nationally significant sites are permanently altered, the public deserves an opportunity to be heard! These decisions directly affect our shared national heritage!

Historical buildings all over our country require a review process before being altered. It is my understanding that major construction projects in Washington, D.C. must be reviewed by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and receive congressional approval. These safeguards exist to ensure transparency and accountability to the public, who through taxation, fund the construction and maintenance of these buildings.

This administration promised transparency and accountability but has proven to be totally negligent in fulfilling either of these campaign promises. The destruction of the East Wing of our historical White House has proven that this administration is not only ignoring these principles but violating the processes that protect public spaces.

In addition to demolishing an historical portion of the public space that belongs to the citizens of this country and NOT to any single President who is only a temporary public servant being given the opportunity to temporarily occupy this building while serving his/her term, the proposal to build a ridiculously overblown ballroom in its place is disgusting. Not only would such a monstrosity create a hideous imbalance to the architecture of the White House, but it is also an insult to the American public. We do not have a KING; and the founding of our country was based on the rejection of a KING. We citizens DO NOT want a President who throws huge balls to display wealth and power as the kings who reigned in the world in 1776 did! This was precisely NOT the type of government we severed our ties with England in order to form our own Nation. To build a lavish ballroom for this purpose is completely in opposition to what our country stands for.

In addition, as there is already an ample supply of ballrooms available in Washington DC, this is also a direct attack on the venues who have traditionally been used for balls, such as inaugural balls, by federal government officials. Instead of utilizing and supporting local businesses, the federal government is robbing them of business. This is NOT the actions of a government of the people, by the people and for the people!

The current President is NOT a King, even though he wants to act like one, and it is highly unlikely that future presidents of this country will ever need nor desire to host events of the size that would need a 90,000 square foot space. So, this ridiculous project would also further waste taxpayer money!

There are so many projects that the citizens of this country need funding for at the current time! Instead, funds are being wasted on the demolition of important office space to build an unnecessary and wasteful ballroom just to appease one President's ego. This project is a disgrace and I vehemently oppose it.

Name: Kelley Dillon

Date: March 2, 2026 1:58:45 am

I oppose spending 300 million dollars on the East Wing project. The project seems to have moved forward without proper authorization, permits, or a significant design review.

This is not acceptable for any public project but it is exceptionally unacceptable at a site that carries this level of national significance.

Calling this modernization does not match what has happened in any way. What I am seeing is a loss of history and distinctiveness that cannot simply be rebuilt later and called "the same."

I ask that this project be canceled. I also want the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design, as faithfully as possible.

No one is above the law. Allowing this to continue, without accountability for those who ignored the required process, would be an insult to every law abiding American who is expected to follow the rules.

Name: Bill Furlong

Date: March 2, 2026 2:05:41 am

This is really putting the cart before the horse. Before the cartThe president demolished the east wing before public comments the White House has existed without this a ballroom and I have heard no reason why one is necessary now in addition he stacked the board with his cronies to get his way the project should be stopped and Trump should have to pay for the east wing to be restored to its past configuration

Name: Robert Holcomb

Date: March 2, 2026 2:20:14 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Shelby Smith

Date: March 2, 2026 2:31:41 am

The illegal, unpermitted destruction of the East Wing is a travesty. It should be completely restored to its original form and function. The giant ballroom idea is also an unpermitted travesty, and should not be allowed.

Name: Linda Guthrie

Date: March 2, 2026 3:07:04 am

No tacky ballroom, please. Gaudy and tasteless. Gold everywhere.

If it is built, I hope the next president tears it down. A nouveau riche dream of heaven, out of keeping with our beloved White House and grouhds.

Please stop this ridiculous adventure.

Thank you.

Name: Linda Dunn

Date: March 2, 2026 6:24:43 am

I oppose one person or even one party spending \$300 on this project. The wing was demolished with little warning and no input from those most capable of guiding this project. The demolition was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. This building is an important part of American history and the same people who razed it without warning show no capacity for building a "people's house" rather than what is more likely to be a "convention hall annex".

I want this project cancelled and the President removed from any role in the building of a restored East Wing that retains the history of our country, reutilizes whatever was salvaged from the demolition, and does not overwhelm in size or otherwise damage the appearance of the White House.

Experts. Not politicians.

Name: Janet Lynch

Date: March 2, 2026 6:53:40 am

I oppose the East Wing modernization Project for several reasons: the project was started without planning, permits or approval from the numerous agencies that preserve our national historical buildings. The projected 'ballroom' is a vanity project for a temporary resident which does not provide any useful purpose or enhancement to the previous structure of the East Wing. The cost of the project is well above what a renovation should be and a disgusting waste of my tax dollars. I am requesting that the project be halted and the East Wing be restored to the previous plan.

Name: Laurie Keefe

Date: March 2, 2026 6:55:06 am

Part of the people's house has been torn down without proper authorization or permits. Please do not reward this behaviour by permitting a ballroom that is unwanted by me. The White House does not belong to Donald Trump .

Name: Victoria Parmenter

Date: March 2, 2026 6:58:17 am

Please ensure the historical nature and beauty are upheld. Please do not make it a gold gilded grandiose gaudy block. It should never have been demolished and there for we can not trust that it will be rebuilt to the NATIONS satisfaction.

Name: Rebecca Weegar

Date: March 2, 2026 7:13:43 am

Approval to demolish the historically important East wing of the White House was never obtained. No permits were issued. No design review. This is not a modernization project; it is a complete razing of American History. I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this. The project must be canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. To allow this project to go forward without penalizing those who broke the law is an affront.

Name: April Freeburn

Date: March 2, 2026 7:15:01 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Janet Rider

Date: March 2, 2026 7:22:23 am

It is unconscionable to allow further work on the already illegally conducted destruction of the White House East Wing. This project was commenced without approval and has been a tremendous loss and embarrassment for the nation. The People's House does NOT need the gauche and inappropriate ballroom that has been proposed. It should be returned to its original state, which was reflective of its true purpose. The proposed vanity project is a travesty.

Name: Laura Happel

Date: March 2, 2026 7:27:46 am

I oppose this project. The idea of spending 300 million to strip away an important piece of our historical heritage is deeply wrong. The authorization process was ignored, and the funding sources are murky. I respectfully request that the project be cancelled and the funds used to restore the East Wing.

Name: Jan Demarest

Date: March 2, 2026 7:28:02 am

The proposed "ballroom" is a national and international embarrassment for the American people! This construction is completely unnecessary and must stop! Return the East Wing to its original purpose and beauty. Demolition was begun illegally and there should be consequences for destroying our White House!

Name: Carol F

Date: March 2, 2026 7:40:29 am

I oppose spending \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without permits or design review. It is a razing of American history. I demand that the East Wing be rebuilt and the president be held accountable for destroying public property.

Name: Lauren Adkins

Date: March 2, 2026 7:41:47 am

Please do not allow this monstrosity of a building to be constructed. This application should be rejected, and the president should be required to reconstruct the building. He demolished without permission.

Name: Deborah Merklein

Date: March 2, 2026 7:50:19 am

I am opposed to President Trump's destruction of the east wing and plans to build an over the top ballroom. The east wing should be reconstructed and Trump should be held accountable.

Name: Susan Brauner

Date: March 2, 2026 7:57:56 am

I am submitting my concerns re the planned new East Wing of the White House. The first issue is that the old East Wing should never have been torn down, let alone possibly replaced with the planned completely inappropriate new one. The historic classicalism and balance balance of the original intent and proportions are gone.

Not only is the replacement proposed completely out of balance and proportion to the White House and immediate community, but it destroys historic planned views as well. This inappropriate scale would impact the historic character.

The administrative procedure of demolition of the original East Wing was completely illegal. This is not how civic processing in America should be done, apparently with no review at all by parties to the legal process.

Susan Parker Brauner
Boston, Massachusetts

Name: Holly Kaskey

Date: March 2, 2026 8:05:50 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Elizabeth Brubaker

Date: March 2, 2026 8:15:59 am

There is no reason to build the ever growing gilded ball room that the current President states his intention to build. After the irresponsible and seemingly impulsive destruction of the East Wing, some form of rebuilding needs to happen. But that rebuilding needs to be designed by architects with history of the White House as well as the Washington, DC area informing their vision.

Further, in a moment in this country's history when people are having difficulty affording food, medicine, and medical

care, it is obscene to be putting any energy into a giant party room. In this year of the 250th anniversary of the founding of this country on the idea that the USA stands for and by We The People, we should be reminded of and guided by our beginning.

Lastly, any construction related to Federal buildings needs to follow existing laws and needs to be funded by Federal monies. The proposal that this ballroom would be privately funded leaves open the possibility of nonregulated decisions and financial corruption.

Name: Marilyn Meuninck

Date: March 2, 2026 8:18:15 am

I cannot believe the east wing was torn down with taxpayer ...my dollars. The White House is the house of all the people of the United States. We do not need a celebrity ballroom, when many Americans cannot even pay the rent or buy a home. The white house should have space for diplomacy and building solid relationships with our long standing allies, whom the currant administration has offended and undermined leading to less national and global security. Gold does not belong in our White House. This government is "of the people, by the people, and for the people". Any remodeling should be in historic restoration of the the wing and should keep costs to the minimum necessary to recover from the damage done.

Marilyn Meuninck

Name: Mark Ritz

Date: March 2, 2026 8:35:06 am

Sometime change and modernization are hard. The building has gone through many alterations and modifications throughout its history. I believe that it should be modified to the current plan making sure materials and construction are top quality. In 100 years the public will appreciate that decision.

Name: Eva Seibert

Date: March 2, 2026 8:42:08 am

The Whitehouse is a National Historic Landmark owned by the American people and stewarded by the National Park Service. It has been home to our presidents since 1800 and is perhaps the most significant historic site in the United States. The historic integrity and symbolism of the White House are at stakes. I encourage you to consider the alternative ballroom design proposed by David Scott Parker and Bill Bates, fellows of The American Institute of Architects, if indeed this project is necessary at all, which in my opinion is not. It is a blatant waste of American taxpayer dollars and won't be seen by the majority of Americans. Thank you for your consideration
Eva S

Name: Kirsten Vosbein-Jensen

Date: March 2, 2026 8:47:09 am

I am writing to oppose spending \$300 million on the East Wing Modernization project. In my opinion, it razes an important era in American history, when the White House became a place that embraced the work of the First Lady and her staff. This proposal was initiated without proper authorization, or permits, or design review. The East Wing was destroyed with no warning, no Architectural & Engineering Request for Proposals, no bids from contractors, and no abatement of hazardous materials; all as required by federal law.

I would like to see the East Wing rebuilt to its former design (that was scaled and in proportion to the rest of the building) and the administration's project canceled. The current design is for an out-of-scale, out-of-place, and out-of-time pseudo-historical building.

No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Stop the madman in the White House and restore the East Wing. Do not allow the "ballroom" or the "triumphal arch" to be built. This is all such a nightmare.

Thank you,
Kirsten Jensen

Name: Prabhu Ponkshe

Date: March 2, 2026 8:59:14 am

This comment is about the atrocious ballroom that is being planned for the White House. I am in complete opposition of this project. Trump is a lessee of The People's House. His lease ends in November 2029 or sooner, in case he has to move for any reason. He is not the owner or landlord. The American people are. Trump should not be allowed to alter the building that he is leasing from the people of this country. While individual Presidents have made minor changes to The White House, like changing color schemes, furniture or artwork, no one president or individual can tear down an entire outside wall (without proper, prior authorization) and alter the footprint of the White House to add a ballroom, regardless of where the money for the project is coming from. It is a shame that so many private individuals and corporate entities are supporting this project in their short-term self-interest, while neglecting the long-term democratic and historic implications of building this atrocity. I hope the NCPC, although stacked with Trump-appointees, has the ability to think independently and act independently. Because history will hold all of you in contempt for allowing this disfigurement of The People's House.

Name: Sharon Jeter

Date: March 2, 2026 9:00:13 am

Say that you oppose spending \$300 million o the White House modernization project, which was initiated without permits or design review. It is a razing of American history. I demand that the East Wing be rebuilt and the president be held accountable for destroying public property

Name: Rainey Hufstetler

Date: March 2, 2026 9:00:18 am

In light of the most recent destructive actions of the Trump administration, whereby they demolished the East Wing without authorization and continue to increase the project size and exclude the architectural professional, I am stating my emphatic disagreement with this project. Such changes to the program and concept, with no regard to anything but Trump's own desire to make it "bigger", is in direct conflict with our professional processes, thoughtful design, and quality assurance. Perhaps the exclusion of Architects as a profession was no accident. Instead, it was precipitated by Donald J. Trump's own desire to design the project and build a monument to himself. We cannot replace the People's House as he has already demolished it. However, he should not be permitted to build any monuments to himself. It's tacky and unpresidential.

Name: Mary Gembicki

Date: March 2, 2026 9:11:50 am

The American public have overwhelmingly rejected this plan. The ballroom is an ugly addition to the White House, serving only one purpose: the personal aggrandizement - and ego gratification - of the current president. Given that the President has proceeded without obtaining any proper authorizations, I have little hope that this abomination will be halted as we have already witnessed the paving of the Rose Garden into a food court; the "creation" of a "President's Walk" which is a "monument" to bad taste and childish scribbles; and the transformation of the Oval Office into the remnants table at Hobby Lobby. Other projects looming on the horizon - the arch and the sculpture garden - threaten to further trash the D.C. landscape.

To quote columnists in the NYT and Washington Post: if the President and his sycophants wish to flush money down the golden toilet of the President's baroque whorehouse projects/taste, let it be on private land with private money.

The ballroom - as the rose garden, the President's Walk, and the Oval Office - belong to the people and the American people have overwhelmingly rejected these abominations, no matter how diligently the President gerrymanders the governing boards.

Name: Mary Wells

Date: March 2, 2026 9:12:08 am

President Trump illegally demolished the historic East Wing and must be held accountable. He should be made to rebuild the East Wing and pay for it himself. I am opposed to spending a penny of tax dollars to this project. No one wants a ballroom!

Name: Ann McDonald

Date: March 2, 2026 9:14:36 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. Please cancel that project, and rebuild the East Wing, to its former scale. Include a design review process for anything that is built in this national place. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Ann Bhattacharyya

Date: March 2, 2026 9:19:37 am

I oppose spending millions of dollars to build a ballroom and the tearing down of the East Wing without going through proper approval process. The property belongs to the taxpayers, ALL U.S. citizens, and we should have a say. Any changes should have gone through the proper approval process.

I think the East Wing should be rebuilt in the likeness of what was there, attempting to restore it. I think that President Trump should be held accountable for its destruction, the destruction of historic property that belongs to the people, not to him personally.

Furthermore, I think the contractors that carried out the destruction at the request of the President should also be held accountable for not following proper procedure, having proper permits in place to do work on a historic government building. This would help deter any future instances of such things occurring - on the White House or any other government buildings, especially those deemed historic or shrouded in history.

Name: Katherine Lester

Date: March 2, 2026 9:37:35 am

I am deeply concerned about this White House project.

The White House is a National Historical Landmark and a National Park.

It is known as the "People's House" and I remember fondly taking a tour when I was young.

I feel strongly about historic preservation and am deeply concerned that the White House Project to add a ballroom has not considered or taken advice from groups with oversight over historical projects in DC.

A President and his family are temporary residents and one President should not have complete control over this historical site without oversight and attention to the need to preserve our nation's historical landmarks. Please take this into consideration as this project moves forward.

My thoughts align with the comments from the National Trust that the following needs to happen:

Reduce Overall Size and Visibility.

Reduce Footprint and Protect Key Views

Respect the Established Classical Composition of the White House Complex

Preserve the Historic East Façade of the Executive Residence

Ensure that the Proposed South-facing Portico Is Subordinate in Scale to the White House South Portico.

Thank you,

Katherine Lester

US Citizen
South Lyon, Michigan

Name: Heather Schmidt

Date: March 2, 2026 9:54:40 am

Federal law exists for a reason. While some citizens feel above the law, following it is vital in saving one of America's most prominent and important representations of our history.

Name: Barbara Stalzer

Date: March 2, 2026 9:55:04 am

Any modernization of the East Wing should stay true to the former design of the East Wing which Trump had destroyed. The East Wing has been part of our built history for going on 100 years. The last thing the country needs is a ballroom which will dwarf the rest of the structures on the property, and whose only purpose is to serve Trump's very fragile ego. Staying true to the former design will not prevent and interior modernization, that can be tastefully done without compromising the historical design.

Name: Judith Waldock

Date: March 2, 2026 10:01:30 am

I vehemently oppose spending \$300 million on the Donald J tRump “Most Tremendous, Huge, Nobody Has Ever Seen Before” Ballroom project. Not only did he initiate it without permits or design review, he has destroyed a piece of our American history for his own ego. Rebuild the East Wing to fulfill it’s original intent and hold this war monger president accountable for destroying public property.
LOCK HIM UP.

Name: Joy Krug

Date: March 2, 2026 10:03:36 am

It is my choice to have the NCPC guide the East Wing Modernization Project with their expertise and historical vision..

Name: Maun and John Malloy

Date: March 2, 2026 10:12:58 am

While expanded event space may be needed, additions must respect the historic scale and design of the White House. At 90,000 square feet, the proposed ballroom would exceed the size of the 55,000-square-foot Executive Residence. Additions to historic properties should be compatible in scale and subordinate to the original structure. The American people deserve an opportunity to provide comments and shape the project.

Name: Anna Haight

Date: March 2, 2026 10:19:19 am

I completely oppose this project. Razing a historic part of our White House without process or authorization is criminal and I feel it should be stopped and restored to it’s former glory and the parties involved be held accountable in a court of law, or process that is prescribed for violations.

Name: Kathleen Richburg

Date: March 2, 2026 10:21:37 am

Dear NCPC Commission,

I vehemently oppose spending \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. Done without prior authorization, the White House is not for any one person to make choices. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead would be an affront to all United States citizens.

Name: Kelly Jordan

Date: March 2, 2026 10:23:01 am

Proposed designs that I have seen are way out of scale and not only dwarf the White House itself, but create a grandiosity that is uncalled for

Name: Lori Mae

Date: March 2, 2026 10:24:07 am

The proposed ballroom is way too large. If needed this big, build it elsewhere. Restore the East Wing to it's original plan, or leave the empty space as is until trump is voted out!

Name: Stefanie Beninato

Date: March 2, 2026 10:26:57 am

TO NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION
COMMENTS ON WHITE HOUSE BALLROOM ADDITION
3/1/2-26

I am strongly opposed to the addition of the ballroom as designed because it violates several historic preservation standards and ignores architectural standards.

The mass, height and choice of architectural details overwhelm the original structure—that is the White House (WH)(the People’s House). It is proud of the White House and blocks the view of the WH from the US Capitol—this visual axis was an important city planning element by L’Enfant and supported by George Washington—a symbolic reminder of the balance between the executive and the legislative branches which we need to keep in mind today.

The proposed portico is 160 percent larger than the WH portico and the height of the second level of the proposed ballroom exceeds that of the highest room height in the WH making it read as if it was more important than the WH itself. The use of Corinthian columns is much more pretentious and attention drawing than the Ionic columns on the WH and the Treasury Building. Again according to historic preservation standards, this addition should be compatible with the WH without overwhelming it. The WH is one of the most iconic, if not the most iconic, structures in US history.

There is no reason to overshadow the WH for a ballroom, kitchen and bathrooms.

The size of the building too is out of proportion, and many of the alleged needs embodied in this design could be modified or deleted. For example, the design shows a 40,000 sq ft portico accessed by 40 ft wide stairs that goes nowhere (the doors are fake/inoperable) on the portico and there is no other access from other parts of this proposed addition to the portico. It violates ADA accessibility standards and is an element that completely blocks the view of the WH from that direction and interferes with the paths laid out in the gardens designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, arguably the most famous landscape architect in US history.

The ballroom itself is grossly oversized. Architectural standards call for 10-15 sq ft per person for seated dining (including space for flow of people). The size of the ballroom is over 22,000 sq ft—big enough for at least 1500 people. The kitchen—again completely oversized at 13, 500 sq ft—is 2.5 times the size required by industry standards for serving 1000 people. It could not only be reduced in size but also put below grade since this part of the structure is for occasional service needs.

If the portico was removed, the ballroom and kitchen reduced to even the highest area called for by industry standards and the kitchen put underground, this addition would be reduced by 38 percent and would be much more compatible with the existing WH structure and historic preservation standards while fulfilling the need for such a ballroom.

Please reject the current plan and require a substantial downsizing. Thank you

Stefanie Beninato
PO Box 1601 Santa Fe NM 87504

Name: Kathryn Streator
Date: March 2, 2026 10:33:21 am

The scale of this project is completely wrong, in terms of massing, volume, and design, to say nothing of its relative coherence with the existing West Wing. It would be a truly unfortunate mash-up of Mar-a-Lago and the White House.

I have lived in historic districts for the past 30 years. The fact that the East Wing was torn down without approved plans being submitted makes a mockery of the NCPC's mission and authority.
If the commission allows this to proceed, there will be no guardrails on future "changes" or "modernization" to the White House or any other historic buildings or monuments. (Do we want to see the Jefferson or Lincoln Monuments gilded? Or torn down and rebuilt according to some future president's whims?

Please do your job and rule on adherence to the process guidelines, as well as the size, volume, massing and design of the proposed Mara-a-Lago "addition" to the White House. If this monstrosity is built, it will dwarf the White House and be the ultimate "tail wagging the dog" situation.
Respectfully,
Kathryn Streator

Name: Alicia Mullen
Date: March 2, 2026 10:42:37 am

I oppose the East Wing Modernization Project.
This project began without required National Capital Planning Commission approval, without environmental assessments mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act, and without congressional authorization required by federal law for construction on federal parkland in Washington.

The \$400 million cost is funded by corporations holding billions in federal contracts with the administration approving those contracts.
This creates an unacceptable conflict of interest.

The White House is not private property. It belongs to the American people. No president should have unilateral authority to demolish historic structures and approve construction without following the law and allowing public input.
I urge the Commission to reject this proposal.

Name: steve lucas
Date: March 2, 2026 10:45:30 am

no, this is a monument and should not be destroyed for the ego maniac in office now, It' s a waste of my tax dollars.
stop this evil destructive project. Do something good for a change.

Name: William Vaughan
Date: March 2, 2026 10:45:30 am

I understand the East Wing project is primarily to provide a ballroom and banquet room. While it may be substantially funded through private donations, (which should be made available to the public to verify that ALL costs are, as promised, not paid for by taxpayers) over the years there is sure to be substantial public funding of its operations: for example, security at events, utilities, lavish meals for the politically connected etc.

We in the United States frequently boast of being One Nation Under God and part of the Judeo-Christian tradition. I don't believe there is anything in the teachings of Jesus or many other religious leaders about spending money on feeding rich people while (according to Food Research and Action Center, for one example) there are about 44-48 million American facing food insecurity, including about 14 million children and 7 million seniors!

In the future, I am sure a Congress that believes in a God/Creator will add appropriations riders prohibiting the use of the ballroom until the bipartisan leaders (majority and minority leaders) of the House and Senate certify that hunger in America has been ended. On that great day when hunger in America is declared ended (Make America Full Again?), it will be appropriate to host a banquet and ball! To celebrate that great day, I hope a TEMPORARY stand can be installed on the top of the ballroom for the launch of celebratory fireworks. Conversely, a just God will be furious at money spent to feed the rich while so many are hungry and poor, so I hope you require the banquet hall to be built to withstand earthquakes, lightening strikes and other (think Moses and the plagues of Egypt) storms.

Name: Heather Walker

Date: March 2, 2026 10:45:38 am

Any change to the White House is sacrilegious!

Name: Ardis Wood

Date: March 2, 2026 10:45:47 am

GIVE 'EM HELL, HARRY!

Name: Jeff Ross

Date: March 2, 2026 10:46:03 am

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,

The current plans proposed by the administration is quite simply a hubristic abomination antithetical to a democracy. Its message is one man dwarfs the executive branch and thus the legislative and judicial as well. It's a clear symbol of anti-democratic power.

This project must be restrained to classical proportions. Period.

Sincerely,
Jeff Ross

Name: Jane Bonnesen

Date: March 2, 2026 10:47:28 am

Yes, we probably need a bigger, better ballroom but WE DO NOT NEED THE MONSTROSITY that is proposed! This is an historic building and any changes need to be inline with its purpose, not a monument to someone's ego. Please reconsider allowing construction to go ahead as is.

Name: Rosemarie Lombardo

Date: March 2, 2026 10:48:24 am

The White House belongs to the people of the United States and as such should not have any thing done to it without approval. Trump tore down the entire East Wing, after telling the people that he wouldn't. He did that so his plans could just move through without review. This is terrible. He is not above the law and needs to abide by the rules. He's already ruined the White House with his infantile wall. Please make sure he abides by the rules and respects what the people want.

Name: Edward Stone

Date: March 2, 2026 10:48:39 am

I favor a design that best maintains the integrity of the East Wing that was wrongfully, and illegally torn down. A

straightforward, plain, American design; no gilding for example. George Washington set the stage for a government with no kings. Thank you

Name: Mary Forer

Date: March 2, 2026 10:49:11 am

I am against the expansion of the East Wing and its unwieldy proportion.

Sincerely,
Mary Forer

Name: Paul Yandoli

Date: March 2, 2026 10:50:07 am

I am totally opposed to this ballroom proposal. It's garish, totally outsized, and simply another manifestation of our president's outsized ego, his need to "leave his mark" wherever he can. Since the destruction of the East Wing is a done deal, something I suppose needs to replace it. BUT, it should go through the usual channels of review and approval required for modification of historic structures. And it should be something that is appropriate, and does not dwarf the White House itself.

Name: Anne Floyd

Date: March 2, 2026 10:50:20 am

Although I am a historic preservationist by occupation, and the scale of the Ballroom addition is large, I approve of its construction.

There will not be another opportunity to design and create a large meeting place for the White House paid with private funding.

It is far enough away from the main White House to house guests for dinners, meetings, and events without leaving the grounds.

Name: Kathi Santora

Date: March 2, 2026 10:50:26 am

I support an approval process that adheres to the law as well as the spirit of historic preservation. Existing laws and regulations are designed to avoid vanity projects with OUR public spaces.

Name: Mike Hyland

Date: March 2, 2026 10:51:09 am

Fuck. The. Ballroom.

Name: Samantha Crownover

Date: March 2, 2026 10:51:14 am

Thank you for the opportunity. I think it's a shame--putting it mildly--that Mr. Trump bulldozed part of the people's house with no regard for the laws. This is par for his course. Please hold him and the administration responsible! Thank you for your time and interest!

Name: Lester Kau

Date: March 2, 2026 10:51:36 am

The proposed 90,000 square foot ballroom is too large of a building to join with the White House. The White House

should be the focus of the property, not the ballroom. It should be no more than half the size of the White House, not twice the size. Please scale it way down. Thank you for considering my request.

Name: Bruce Irving

Date: March 2, 2026 10:51:51 am

To me, it's all about process. This isn't the current, or any, president's building to do with what s/he wants. Even if the current group finds some technical way to justify its project, it is, in my opinion, a cruel way to treat the building and the public. Ask! It's not yours.

Name: Janet Binette

Date: March 2, 2026 10:53:08 am

I think that it is truly shameful that the White House East Wing was destroyed to build a gigantic new ballroom. I feel that the people of this country should have had a voice in the matter.

Name: Mary Quintin

Date: March 2, 2026 10:53:10 am

Please do not continue to build this outrageous ballroom. It destroys the integrity of the White House. The president of the United States does not have the authority to continue with this project. Please do not go further with this building of a ballroom.

Name: Shelley Goldstein

Date: March 2, 2026 10:55:22 am

This ballroom is a terrible idea. It dwarfs the existing White House. It is being railroaded through without getting any input from those who have the knowledge to advise on the pros and cons of this. It is Trump's vanity project.

Name: Natalie Umsted

Date: March 2, 2026 10:55:24 am

This project is ill conceived, expensive, and will ruin a national landmark. We should not be building ballrooms for billionaires.

Name: Tim Cullen

Date: March 2, 2026 10:57:23 am

Please just don't do it. The scale is wrong. It is inconsistent with the historical buildings surrounding it. Now that there is a big hole where the East Wing used to be, please do something tasteful, historically sensitive, and within the proper scale of the site and surrounding historical buildings. The new East Wing should not dominate what's left of the historic White House, neither visually nor symbolically.

Name: Matthew Pinsker

Date: March 2, 2026 10:58:05 am

I am a college professor and Lincoln historian, author of many books and articles about Abraham Lincoln and his presidency. I strongly oppose the destruction of the East Wing and the current plans for the oversized ballroom. But let me begin by noting in fairness to President Trump, one must acknowledge that even Honest Abe had problems with White House renovations. Congress appropriated \$20,000 for the incoming president to redecorate the Executive Mansion upon his arrival in March 1861. Yet by December of that year, First Lady Mary Lincoln, who had taken charge of the project, had already overspent the budget. Somewhat panicked, she asked Benjamin French, the Commissioner of

Public Buildings, to help explain the situation to her husband. French wrote about this awkward request in his diary on December 16: “Mrs. L. wanted me to see him & endeavor to persuade him to give his approval to the bills, but not to let him know that I had seen her!” French tried to do the First Lady’s bidding, but he found Lincoln “inexorable.” “He said it would stink in the land to have it said that an appropriation of \$20,000 for furnishing the house had been overrun by the President when the poor freezing soldiers could not have blankets, & he swore he would never approve the bills for flub dubs for that damned old house!

Lincoln vowed that he would pay any overage “out of his own pocket!” But that was mostly bluster. Congress eventually appropriated another \$14,000 to help cover the extra costs. Trump claims that he is going to raise from private sources the hundreds of millions of dollars necessary to pay for his bloated ballroom. To me, that just sounds like typical Trumpian bluster—or worse, an invitation for corporate influence peddling.

One thing Trump gets right though is that since the opening of the Executive Mansion in 1800, presidents have received wide latitude for their choices regarding how to decorate and renovate the building and its grounds. But general deference is not the same as yielding total control. There has always been at least some public or professional input and accountability. Until now. The surprise demolition of the East Wing this past summer sent a disturbing signal. The old norms of public stewardship are under assault.

Nobody expressed those norms better than Abraham Lincoln. Yes, he sounded angry about “that damned old house” in 1861, when he felt embarrassed by his wife’s behavior, but he struck a far more appreciative note in 1864. “I happen temporarily to occupy this big White House,” he told a group of Ohio soldiers just completing their service in the Civil War. “I am a living witness that any one of your children may look to come here as my father’s child has.”

That sense of personal humility coupled with political devotion to what Lincoln called that day “this great and free government” is what must motivate any temporary occupant (i.e. the President) who proceeds to change the place for any reason—whether for security concerns, greater work space, or even family style. Otherwise, the true owners (i.e. “We the People”) might get mad.

Unlike so many other controversies of the past year, this battle should not be partisan. It is about historic preservation. The East Wing is gone. Nothing will bring it back. And a new ballroom is coming. That much is clear. But the fight is not nearly over. How that ballroom gets built, and who gets to decide its scale—and even its name—is one that the American public and its representatives must help shape. These decisions are not Trump’s alone.

But, of course, that is what the National Capital Planning Commission hearings and these public comments are all about. But at the end of the day, the NCPC must hold the line on size—no addition to the White House should ever overwhelm the original mansion.

And I have one more “modest” suggestion. The commission should insist on calling the new space the Lincoln Ballroom and somewhere on its walls, they should have the architect inscribe the famous passage from August 22, 1864 as a permanent reminder about who is really in charge of the People’s House:

“It is not merely for to-day, but for all time to come that we should perpetuate for our children’s children this great and free government, which we have enjoyed all our lives. I beg you to remember this, not merely for my sake, but for yours. I happen temporarily to occupy this big White House. I am a living witness that any one of your children may look to come here as my father’s child has.” —Abraham Lincoln

My comments above have been adapted from my Substack: What Would Lincoln Do? and can be found online with footnoted sources here: <https://matthewpinsker.substack.com/p/what-would-lincoln-think-about-trumps>

Name: Heather Bonds

Date: March 2, 2026 10:58:25 am

The proposed ballroom addition is inappropriate for one of the most significant structures in American and one of the most representative structure to our American democracy, started 250 years ago. OUR White House represents America's anchor to our independence.

The "ballroom addition" is a mockery to historic preservation and what the White House symbolizes to America. A large ballroom which juts in front of the People's House and is larger in its scale and masses, removes the intended focus to the offices and the executive work that the White House represents and instead places focus on a recreational ballroom Is this the message we wish to project to the American Public and other Countries? That the focus of our primary residence is

not that of dedicated work but one of recreation and "balls"? No other country's leadership residence is primarily focused on its recreational facilities.

As a preservationist with over 20 years of experience, it is also a professional assessment that this project does not meet the standards and practices that define historic preservation. This field is not stuck in a vacuum and we readily work with businesses, homeowners and developers to find appropriate solutions to modernizing historic buildings. In that frame, it is imperative that massing, scale, location, alignment, and character defining details are prominently considered for additions. In those regards, this project has failed. The proposal does not meet any of these standard practices. The ballroom must be redesigned to meet the standards of historic preservation by reducing the scale, be submissive to the primary historic building, and be located towards the rear or side and not encroach in front of the historic White House body. In addition, the classic design, which is defined by symmetry will significantly be diminished and be out of character with the original design of the structure.

Overall, the proposed ballroom design is inappropriate for this historic structure. It is inappropriate in its design, in its character, in its scale, and it is an inaccurate and inappropriate representation of our American values. The White House has long been a symbol of our leadership's dedication to hard work and values by illustrating offices within a residence. The focus will now be on one man's vain vision of a recreational place for his balls, dances, and receptions.

Please save the White House and keep it as the People's House; not HIS ballroom.

Name: Karla Vernon

Date: March 2, 2026 10:58:29 am

I am opposed to having a ballroom. Construction never should have started without the proper permits. It is a waste of taxpayer money. It is an atrocity because it will overwhelm the White House.

Name: Corrine Miller

Date: March 2, 2026 10:58:50 am

Build it back the way it was...no ballroom

Name: KAREN Sangmeister

Date: March 2, 2026 10:59:07 am

Architecturally, the size of this proposed structure dwarfs the current structure of what we call "The People's House." It suggests that the very few, wealthy, powerful people in our world are more important for one night of a fancy dress party, than the millions of us who treasure our more ordinary (yet still lovely) residence we've provided for an elected official. We're not a monarchy. Our government doesn't "do" balls. We have official dinners, fewer people invited, more intimate. It was disturbing to see the destruction of the East Wing before any consensus was sought from the people who own that property. Thank you for this opportunity.

Name: Marsha Semmel

Date: March 2, 2026 10:59:13 am

I am writing to urge the Planning Commission to require some modifications to the proposed East Wing Modernization Project, which I assume includes the Ballroom. I am a passionate patriot, former museum director, and longtime former employee of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. I don't dispute the ballroom itself; my concern is with its imposition on the historic value (and George Washington intent) of The White House as a sacred national icon. I am concerned that it will overwhelm Hoban's original design for The People's House, that the size and scale of the proposed ballroom will compromise the view and pathway from the U.S. Capitol to the White House-- a view and pathway along Pennsylvania desired by our first President and which was implemented by Pierre L'Enfant. Finally, the proposed design will also compromise the historic Frederick Law Olmsted landscape plan -- and pathway -- for the White House grounds. In so many ways, the size, scale, height, and functionality of this addition needs to be reconsidered and modified to preserve the People's House and grounds. Modifications can be made that further match the best practices and highest standards for efficient, elegant, and functional ballroom spaces.

Name: Randal Beach

Date: March 2, 2026 10:59:42 am

This proposed "modernization" of the White House is a cultural, architectural, and historical abomination. Never should one man's ego be allowed to foist this on the American people.

Name: Jenny Lefcourt

Date: March 2, 2026 10:59:58 am

Hello,

This project should have been approved by Congress. It is Congress' job to allocate funds and vote on projects.

This was a reckless and illegal action on the part of the administration. Taking private funds to fund a project is totally illegal and corrupt.

Name: Alexandra Granville

Date: March 2, 2026 11:00:07 am

I am disturbed that a unilateral decision was made to alter America's House and erase history without inclusive deliberation.

Name: Kimberly Noles

Date: March 2, 2026 11:00:21 am

Don't waste our money on a ballroom. Rebuild the historic East Wing that was unlawfully destroyed and restore the White House

Name: William Dwyer

Date: March 2, 2026 11:00:48 am

To Whom it may concern,

The White House is the peoples house and should not be subjected to the whims of one president.

Cancel the project, Subject what comes next to the proper vetting.

William Dwyer

Dillon Montanat

Name: Richard Carlson

Date: March 2, 2026 11:01:04 am

This is a useless waste of taxpayer money. Even if it's ever fully funded, it's a desecration of the People's house. The administration has no need for this wasteful project.

Name: Grace Metzler

Date: March 2, 2026 11:01:24 am

I do not support the installation of the ballroom. This costly project has become an opportunity for large corporations to buy influence and is not in the best interest of taxpayers or the historic character of the structure.

As stated on the informational page "The White House is a National Historic Landmark and National Park, owned by the American people and stewarded by the National Park Service. It has been home to our presidents since 1800 and is perhaps the most significant historic site in the United States. Before nationally significant places are permanently altered,

the public deserves an opportunity to be heard and to help shape decisions that affect our shared national heritage." Owned by the American people, the new design does not reflect consideration for the people's wishes and should be dramatically reduced in scope and adjusted to align with the existing historic character.

Name: Cynthia Potts

Date: March 2, 2026 11:01:26 am

My comment is to please slow down the current works to allow for preservation professionals and other smart people to go in and ensure our Nation's architectural heritage is respected. The White House is not a platform for personal elevation - it is the house of all the people. There are established processes in place for any major renovations, including submitting plans and going through approvals. We have to do this with our own homes! Why doesn't the White House have the same rules as the rest of America?

Thank you for allowing me to make a comment. As an ordinary American I appreciate that this opportunity still exists.

Name: Jennifer Urbain

Date: March 2, 2026 11:02:02 am

Please do NOT move forward with this misguided and unnecessary project. It is unAmerican, wasteful, and unnecessary. Leave The People's House as it is; it doesn't belong to it's occupant, and never has. It belongs to all of us.

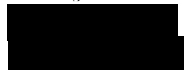
Name: Sherry Doro

Date: March 2, 2026 11:02:38 am

To Whom It May Concern:

The vanity project initiated by the occupant in the White House was started without permission. He lied when he said there would be no changes to existing structures, landscape, et al, then proceeded to bulldoze the East Wing. This megalomaniacal redecorating needs to be ceased. Regardless of donors to this project, the White House and its grounds do NOT belong to any administration. It is the peoples house. Full stop.

Sherry Doro



Name: Peter Golkin

Date: March 2, 2026 11:03:00 am

The White House has long been known as "The People's House." It does not belong to one man, who may live in it temporarily. That man has no right to take it upon himself to destroy part of "The People's House" on a whim, removing forever so many layers of history. That might be the standard operational procedure for despots like Saddam Hussein and Muammar Ghaddafi, but America and the White House itself had been seen as the world's finest touchstones of democracy and the will of the people, not one man.

The tearing down of the East Wing based on the whim of one man--a convicted felon, adjudicated sexual abuser and by his own admission New York state charity fraudster--was another of his serious crimes.

Name: Jason Vorhees

Date: March 2, 2026 11:03:08 am

There should be no ballroom.
That land should be a park.
Impeach now.

Name: Ami Goldstein

Date: March 2, 2026 11:03:15 am

I do not believe this project should continue without it being reviewed and approved by the agencies that would under normal circumstances have been involved in the project. President Trump tore down the East Wing without any oversight or approval(not to mention the asbestos issue, and what became of the contents the building), I would like to see this handled by the agencies that will make a legitimate assessment of what would be appropriate and aesthetically pleasing to the eye. The monstrosity that is being proposed will dwarf the Whitehouse and is unnecessary. There should be consequences for what happened.

I am against the proposal offered by President Trump. Legally he should not be able to push this through to achieve his own goals, and there is no national emergency to act quickly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ami Goldstein

Name: Steven Clark

Date: March 2, 2026 11:03:25 am

This project was started without input either from congress or the people of the USA. It should be halted immediately. It should eventually be scaled back and completed to restore the East Wing of the people's White House.

Name: Jean Andrews

Date: March 2, 2026 11:03:54 am

To call this a modernization project is a travesty. All construction must be halted, and when Trump leaves office, a decision should be made on whether to make him pay to reconstruct the East wing exactly as it was or to tear down the entire White House, rebuild it and call it the People's House.

Name: Wister Miller

Date: March 2, 2026 11:03:55 am

This is the People's House. Trump is a tenant. As a tenant myself, I would be rightfully put in jail if I decided to tear down half the house with no official approval from the landlords. Trump deserves to be put in jail.

Name: kevin shinnick

Date: March 2, 2026 11:03:55 am

Please RESTORE the original building. Do not destroy anymore history.

The monies wasted upon this could better serve helping people and the planet.

Name: Penny Scribner

Date: March 2, 2026 11:03:59 am

I am outraged at the destruction of the East Wing of the White House. I am sickened. I am particularly outraged concerning Trump's Ballroom. It is too late to save the historic East Wing but it should be restored to its original design and purpose. The White House is the Peoples' House - and only a temporary home for a president.

Name: Terry Tanner

Date: March 2, 2026 11:04:14 am

This ballroom is the most ridiculous bow to Trump's ego in the history of the country. The country does not NEED a ballroom; the country does not WANT a ballroom. They want the East Wing restored to the state it was in prior to its

unwarranted and un approved destruction by the destroyer in Chief. It is time to stop this crap and get the country back on track with projects that enhance the citizens lives. THIS PROJECT DOES NOT DO THAT AND IS ABSOLUTLEY UNNECESSARY.

Name: Michael Brostek

Date: March 2, 2026 11:04:19 am

Thrilled DJT has made a commitment to building a better ballroom at the White House. Go Trump!

Name: Carl Lenhart

Date: March 2, 2026 11:04:30 am

President Trump should use his ball room at Mara-Lago to host dignitaries and save the expense of one at the White House, as well as avoid excessive destruction of the traditional architecture of the White House.

Name: Tim Hansen

Date: March 2, 2026 11:04:35 am

What a gross waste of money, our money!

Name: Tama Winograd

Date: March 2, 2026 11:04:37 am

I'm appalled and disgusted, but not at all surprised, that the Con Man in Chief has torn down part of the White House to build a ballroom that I'm sure he'll cover in gold and name after himself (that's his thing, isn't it?) Has there ever been a more out-of-control and insanely dangerous narcissist than Donald J. ("J" for Jeffrey Epstein) Trump? IMPEACH HIM NOW.

Name: JJ Harris

Date: March 2, 2026 11:04:48 am

I think it's great the President has expanded the meeting room options and did so with private funding at no cost to the taxpayers.

I believe the project will be completed on time, under budget and with great taste and contribute to the surrounding historical buildings for year to come.

JJ Harris

Name: Liz Thor

Date: March 2, 2026 11:04:52 am

What a complete waste of tax payer dollars on Trump's part. He should personally pay for it. This is disgusting and done completely unilaterally without buy in from any overseeing body or the public. Appreciate NCPC's work to try to right-size the project to the extent you can.

Name: Becky Yousaf

Date: March 2, 2026 11:05:01 am

Dear members of the NCPC,

As a historic preservationist in the modern world, I deeply understand the need for change and the challenge of balancing improvements while safeguarding our cultural heritage. I recognize the need for change at the White House. However, the

current plans directly go against the Secretary of Interior's guidelines for the treatment of a historic property. The scale of the ballroom addition is overly immense, beyond industry standards for a gathering place serving 1,000 people, and overshadows the primary resource where it should support it. Furthermore, the current layout disrupts the visual connection between the White House and the Capitol via Pennsylvania Avenue, an intentional and important design choice by the founders of our country and Washington DC. It is our job to limit adverse effects on monuments to our country's history, and this East Wing Modernization project has numerous glaring issues and should NOT be approved. I encourage you all to support a design that is in line with industry standards and more sensitive to the People's House.

Sincerely,
Becky Yousaf

Name: Roberta Marshall
Date: March 2, 2026 11:05:08 am

Stop destroying our history without input and approval by the American people.

Name: Thomas King
Date: March 2, 2026 11:05:10 am

I think the East wing should be rebuilt in its original scale with no ball room. That monstrosity of a building should not be attached or anywhere near the white house

Name: George Wise
Date: March 2, 2026 11:05:41 am

I oppose the destruction of the East Wing to build a ballroom. Trump does not own the White House. The public opposes the ballroom. Please listen to the public.

Name: Ellen Broderick
Date: March 2, 2026 11:05:47 am

I am among the masses of people who do not wish to have this project go forward. Having demolished the East wing when this was not the will of the people is unconscionable. A full survey of the people as to the best use of time and funds must come before these projects go forward. The White House is OUR house, the house of the people, not the house of a single person who will benefit financially from the work done.

Name: Lana Garside
Date: March 2, 2026 11:05:52 am

The project started without President Trump seeking authorization. He hasn't presented full plans. The project needs to be halted until all the authorizations and full plans (including cost benefit analysis) are completed.

Thank you,
Lana Garside

Name: Stephen Fischer
Date: March 2, 2026 11:06:23 am

The White House is frequently referred to as "The People's House." It is not a privately owned property that Trump can tear down and rebuild as he wishes, Regardless of who pays for the renovations, there should be full architectural and Congressional reviews of whether tearing down a historical landmark is in our nation's best interests. I believe it is not.

Name: Edward Loosli

Date: March 2, 2026 11:06:45 am

The East Wing was illegally destroyed, and it must be RESTORED TO ITS FORMER GLORY. The vanity project of a president should not be considered as a serious project and should be REJECTED.

Name: Jerry Wood

Date: March 2, 2026 11:06:47 am

My concern is that when completed, this massive ballroom addition will cause the White House itself to resemble a small outhouse. It's all about proportions. Isn't there anywhere else in D.C. where this ballroom could be constructed? Is there no vacant land anywhere to be found?

Name: Candace Mix

Date: March 2, 2026 11:06:50 am

I am deeply, deeply opposed to this boondoggle "ballroom" project. I had no idea that it could possibly be legal for a US president to just raze part of the White House with no congressional or public input or approval. The "private financing" is clearly just a thinly veiled bribery scheme, like everything else Trump has done since taking office. The proposed renderings of the addition are monstrosities. The government has gotten along quite well for generations without a White House ballroom, and there are plenty of other venues available in DC for large gatherings and events. I cannot believe this project has gotten as far as it has, and I want to see it stopped now. I realize even submitting this is a waste of time, because "the fix is in" for all of Trump's expensive vanity projects, but just want to include myself publicly in the majority of Americans who deeply oppose this.

Name: Martha Youngblood

Date: March 2, 2026 11:06:51 am

The East Wing should have never been demolished. Renovations could have been made to the existing structure. Unfortunately we have a president who seems to think he's above the law with an ego that knows no bounds. And seriously? A ballroom larger than the current White House? That's absurd.

Name: Catherine Galley

Date: March 2, 2026 11:06:55 am

Please consider the comments of the National Trust and other bodies that protect and preserve the significant and historic places of this country. The projects to extend the White House threaten the People's House - its history, symbolism and meaning.

Name: Paula Colling

Date: March 2, 2026 11:07:32 am

This project, and the demolition leading up to it, is a stain on our shared history and an insult to We The People by a person who cares nothing for fellow citizens. This person is out for no one else but themselves, their own enrichment, protection, and power. They have no regard or slightest understanding of the sacrifice of those who have served and do serve selflessly because they cannot grasp that concept. This is a vanity project for a stooge of foreign dictators, and it is a grotesque shame.

Name: Anna Jacob

Date: March 2, 2026 11:08:03 am

I am writing to strongly oppose the construction of the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom on the White House

grounds. The White House is not a private event venue, but a premier national historic landmark belonging to the American people

Name: Louis Malon

Date: March 2, 2026 11:08:24 am

As a sitting member of our local Architectural Review Board, I find the proposed addition to this important historic structure to be out of scale and not respectful of the historic design - I appreciate the matching of the cornice line and the set back from one facade but the massive scale of the proposed addition dominates every view and diminishes the historic integrity of the main structure itself - I understand that previous changes have been made, especially to accommodate wider use and structural improvements, but nothing of this scale has ever been proposed - I would urge the commission to require a rethinking and new design that protects the historic resource

Name: Maureen Thompson

Date: March 2, 2026 11:08:25 am

The White House is the people's house. An elected leader lives there temporarily at the behest of their constituents. The elected leader can change components of the living space but those changes must go through the proper channels. Some elected leaders think they are above the law and principles accepted by every other administration. Destroying public property without the proper permits is against the law. An ordinary American citizen would be arrested for doing the same. Elected leaders must be held to the same standards and accountability as their constituents.

Name: Stephen Zink

Date: March 2, 2026 11:08:39 am

What is happening to the East Wing is atrocious, as is the Leadership that is causing it to happen.

Name: Gregory Tappan

Date: March 2, 2026 11:08:42 am

I wanted to write and express my deepest concern for the ongoing White House East Wing Project. The demolition of a portion of the White House is concerning enough, but the proposed additions and ballroom are dramatically out of scale and pose a great threat to preserving what should be upheld as one of our most important historic sites. The White House belongs to the people of the United States of America, not to a sitting president who will occupy it for a brief time in its history. I urge you to take steps to stop this project and consider the larger impact on the history of this important public space. Thank you.

Name: Melanie Copeland

Date: March 2, 2026 11:08:43 am

The conversion of the White House East Wing into a private ballroom for the elite is fundamentally un-American because it replaces a symbol of public service with a monument to exclusivity. In a democratic republic, the "People's House" is meant to be a transparent hub of governance, reflecting the constitutional principle that power flows from the citizenry, not from a protected class of aristocrats. By walling off historic space for the recreational use of a select few, the architecture of the building shifts from one of accessibility to one of hierarchy, directly contradicting the egalitarian ethos that America was founded to uphold.

The critique of the East Wing's destruction takes on a more urgent economic dimension when considering the funding of the \$400 million ballroom. While the administration maintains the project is "privately funded," critics argue this is a distinction without a difference. The "donors" are a roster of Big Tech giants (Amazon, Google, Meta) and defense contractors (Lockheed Martin) who benefit from massive federal contracts and specific tax provisions. This creates a "pay-to-play" architecture where the working class—currently grappling with the rising costs of housing and groceries—is essentially subsidizing a private playground for the same corporate interests that receive the largest tax breaks.

This is just another gift of the current President. This must stop. I urge you to remember that the government is here to serve the public not the interest of the elite and those that are being blackmailed.

Name: David O'GRADY

Date: March 2, 2026 11:08:59 am

Unfortunately the entire east side of the building was torn down without any regard to the people who owned it and it is a waste of money to build a ballroom there !! Restore the east wing and the history of this nation !! Thank you for letting me voice this opinion !!

Name: Max Weinberg

Date: March 2, 2026 11:09:20 am

Public Comment Opposing Proposed Ballroom Addition**

I respectfully oppose the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the National Capital Planning Commission regarding the White House.

The White House is the people's house — a historic symbol of democratic governance. A massive 90,000-square-foot expansion is not a modest renovation; it is a dramatic physical and symbolic shift that risks permanently altering the scale, integrity, and meaning of this national landmark.

Equally troubling is the growing perception that corporate interests — including companies like Apple Inc. and Google LLC — are shaping influence within spaces meant to belong to the public. The idea of expanding the White House in ways that appear aligned with elite or corporate event culture is deeply inappropriate. The people's house should not be redesigned to accommodate corporate prestige or spectacle.

Large events can and do occur elsewhere in Washington without permanently altering one of the nation's most historic buildings. Stewardship requires restraint.

I urge the Commission to reject this proposal and protect the historic scale and civic meaning of the White House.

Name: Jennifer Laferriere

Date: March 2, 2026 11:09:23 am

I am writing to express my opposition to the current plans involving the East Wing and the proposed ballroom construction.

My concerns are centered on the following:

I am deeply disappointed by the destruction of the East Wing. This structure held significant architectural and historical value that cannot be replaced by modern construction.

Rather than proceeding with further demolition or modernization, the Commission should prioritize a full restoration of the East Wing to its original state.

I urge the Commission to abandon the current plans for the ballroom. The proposed addition is an unnecessary intervention that compromises the site's heritage.

I request that the NCPC re-evaluate the environmental and cultural impact of this project and shift the focus toward conservation and faithful restoration.

Name: Rachel S

Date: March 2, 2026 11:09:24 am

Calling it modernization is incorrect. First the destruction of the east wing! OK was illegal! Now he's building this monstrosity of a ballroom with hidden private funding. This White House belongs to the people of the United States! The

president does not have the authority to destroy a government building with no say so from outside experts or the proper government entities. The ballroom is much too large and will destroy the look of the White House! Also claiming the White House needs a ballroom imuch less a larger ballroom. I should say it's not really correct! that I've read. There were nine other ballrooms in the city of Washington DC. Why do you need this one except of course in Trump's mind he wants everything named after him a true dictator.!

Name: Jon Gundling

Date: March 2, 2026 11:09:28 am

I want it rebuilt at Trump's expense. He had no right to tear it down. I do not trust the motivation of private donations to build his ball room!

Name: Conrad Person

Date: March 2, 2026 11:09:46 am

As board chair of a National Trust co-stewardship site (Cliveden of the National Trust) I have learned that changes to unique sites requires great care and preparation. Only a few service providers are qualified to alter such sites and the oversight of preservationists is essential. It appears that these considerations have been so far ignored during the alteration of the White House. The project must be put on track.

Name: Linda DUPRE

Date: March 2, 2026 11:10:04 am

The East Wing should have been preserved - not demolished! Trump's frivolous spending is wasting hard come by tax dollars. However, I would prefer the taxes be spent reconstructing the East Wing as it was and not converted to a ballroom that is not needed.

Name: Joseph Henley

Date: March 2, 2026 11:10:17 am

I do not support wasting taxpayers' money on the new ballroom monstrosity for Trump to entertain his billionaire donors. Please block it now. The old east wing should not have been demolished.

Name: Ali Kopyt

Date: March 2, 2026 11:10:31 am

I am writing to express strong opposition to the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom project that would replace the historic East Wing of the White House.

The scale of this proposal is deeply concerning. A massive 90,000-square-foot addition would overwhelm the carefully balanced proportions of the White House complex and disrupt the smaller, historically appropriate scale of its existing wings. The White House is not simply a functional building. It is a symbol of democratic continuity and architectural restraint. Expanding it with a structure of this magnitude risks permanently altering that character.

Equally troubling is the apparent lack of proper review and public process. Any project of this size and consequence must undergo full evaluation by the National Capital Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts, and appropriate environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act. Rushing demolition or advancing construction without these safeguards undermines both preservation standards and public trust.

The East Wing is part of the White House's historic evolution. Its removal would diminish the architectural integrity of the complex and set a dangerous precedent for altering nationally significant landmarks without transparent oversight. The White House belongs to the American people. It should not be transformed in ways that prioritize grandeur over history or permanence over preservation.

I urge the committee to halt further demolition immediately and require a comprehensive public review process. I also

strongly encourage consideration of alternative designs that preserve the existing East Wing and respect the historic character of the site.

We have a responsibility to steward our national heritage with care. Once historic fabric is destroyed, it cannot be replaced.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Lawrence Brown

Date: March 2, 2026 11:10:37 am

Stop this Trump nightmare from occurring the Republicans have already rendered America a fascist state! When do you finally stop the madness. A political party is off the rails and they ain't coming back. It's time to take back the country and put the criminals where they belong that includes those sitting on the Supreme Court that were instrumental in the takeover of America! By the Federalist society and heritage as well as a bunch of others who are nothing but a bunch of religious zealots following deceivers down The highway to hell selling their souls and everybody else out for a utopian dream that has nothing to do with Utopia! Remove your head from your rear ends you suffocated and democracy and freedom is in their death throes when do you nip this finally? Good God

Name: Melissa Grossman

Date: March 2, 2026 11:10:41 am

I am STRONGLY against Trump's ballroom project in place of the historic East Wing that he had destroyed without the permission of the the American people. The White House itself would be dwarfed by Trump's vanity project.

Block the ballroom!!!

Name: Thomas Heebner

Date: March 2, 2026 11:10:41 am

Please involve our US Congress in the planning and implementation of changes to any part of The White House.

Respectfully,

Thomas E Heebner
Boynton Beach, FL

Name: Kim Areman

Date: March 2, 2026 11:10:42 am

I was very sad to see the destruction of the rose garden and demolition of a portion of a National Treasure. I believe there should have been site excavation for historical purposes and a public comment period before the construction began. No one should be allowed to alter historic buildings belonging to the people of the United States without due process.

Name: Henry Lewis

Date: March 2, 2026 11:10:47 am

Why does this country need a ballroom at the White House which is larger than the rest of the White House?

Name: Jacqueline Holecek

Date: March 2, 2026 11:10:48 am

Having studied Historic Preservation for several years at Michigan State University and holding a Master's degree in

Historic Preservation, it's my opinion that the proposed East Wing project on the White House is faulty because it's out of proportion to the main part of the building. Also, by destroying the East Wing, much history was lost. The proposed East Wing project is not an historic interpretation of what was but totally different and faulty because it's not historically correct and not in maintaining the exterior and interior architectural design and integrity.

Name: christine saggese

Date: March 2, 2026 11:10:56 am

Thank You DJT for creating a beautiful modern ballroom to rival any in the world and bring The USA into the 21st century.

Name: Nancy K Socha

Date: March 2, 2026 11:11:07 am

I refuse to call this the "East Wing Modernization Project". Perhaps the "Trump destruction project" or the "Epstein Files Distraction Ballroom Project".

In my 80 years on this planet I have never witnessed such wanton destruction of the people's house as this person has done. It is NOT his to destroy. It must be stopped and the Trump family must use their ill gotten gains to pay for it --NOT taxpayer money.

Name: Anna Kisluk

Date: March 2, 2026 11:11:24 am

This is a complete misnomer. President Trump, to satisfy his ego, destroyed the historic East Wing, which had served as the First Lady's office space as well as other functions. It is not a modernization. There is no real need for a huge ballroom to accommodate 1,000 or so guests.

Given the timing, it won't be finished by the time he leaves office but it will provide plenty of fertile ground for individuals and corporations to enrich the Trump family. Who will actually oversee the construction and handle the financial assets of the project? Trump violated the rules governing the White House grounds (his disdain for rules and laws is too obvious to state).

While the East Wing can't be resurrected from the rubble, a suitable replacement can be built which will restore the symmetry of the site. As proposed, it could eclipse the White House. This "ballroom" must not be built

Name: Fred Tenzer

Date: March 2, 2026 11:11:25 am

Do not build the ballroom that President Donald Trump wants to be built in The White House because Americans are homeless, starving, sick, and in every other way suffering and helping the homeless, the starving, the sick, and all other people who suffer ought to be the priority. Have compassion. Besides, The White House already has enough space for dancing and all other methods of fun therefore, The White House does not need a new ballroom. Please get your priorities straight and help all of people of the USA regardless of whether or not they have American citizenship.

Sincerely yours,
Fred Tenzer

Name: Karen Allan

Date: March 2, 2026 11:11:29 am

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to President Trump's Ballroom Travesty and my strong support for The National Trust's leadership in attempting to stop this project.

So much of the White House has already been altered beyond recognition in service to one person's monumental ego. If people don't speak out forcefully, there will be no stopping this maniac,

Karen Allan
Wilmot, NH

Name: Rosalie Nelson

Date: March 2, 2026 11:11:41 am

I write to oppose the project to "modernize" the WHITE HOUSE ballroom, on the grounds that this is a historic property And the proposal is beyond the scope of renovation of Historic Properties.

Name: Michael Norden

Date: March 2, 2026 11:11:51 am

No garrish ballroom!

Name: Matthew Manley

Date: March 2, 2026 11:11:56 am

No plans should be approved that do not honor the intent and major tenants of L'Enfant's vision for our Capital City and the White House. Unfortunately, that is the case here. Furthermore, the scale and massing of the proposed wing is out of synch with its surroundings and the architecture of other prominent local landmarks. Finally, the functionality of the design is lacking. I implore this body to do the right thing and ensure the "people's house" is unharmed by poor design.

Name: Mary Frances Macioce

Date: March 2, 2026 11:13:08 am

I am opposed to this so-called modernization project !

Name: Sean Craft

Date: March 2, 2026 11:13:15 am

It is beyond comprehension how the White House can serve our Presidents for decades with not one complaint from anyone. The space was revered and i have personally attended functions there without fanfare. This act of unchecked brutalization of "the people's house" is a abomination of everything good, historic and without being voted upon by anyone. As a preservationist I could physically feel that destruction as I watched snippets of it on TV.

It is tacky and in no way stately. It is grossly out of proportion with the rest of the house and I am sure it will be painted with Gold leaf everywhere. The White House has been bruised badly and we need to make sure this doesn't ever happen again. We all know what is going on, the question is how do we stop it?

Name: Cary Aiken

Date: March 2, 2026 11:13:22 am

Please take the advice of the National Trust for Historic Preservation to scale this project moderately.

Name: Janet Clark

Date: March 2, 2026 11:13:28 am

Please don't let it be gaudy (which is Trump-style) and make it balance with the historical value of the what's left of the White House. Ripping the East Wing down without first developing a plan has forced us to look at a mess for too long. Is there anyway to mitigate the nasty view visitors to our country have in the meantime?

Name: Josef Zuelch

Date: March 2, 2026 11:14:04 am

What a disgrace. Once again, this man bullies his way into leaving his mark for the rest of us to clean up. Does not seek congressional approval for anything. I'm embarrassed to be an American and he is the main reason for that embarrassment.

Name: Gina M Rizzo

Date: March 2, 2026 11:14:04 am

Do NOT build the ballroom!!! Why do we the taxpayers money! I don't believe we need its !
Defund fixing his plane and from

Name: Lydia Fusetti

Date: March 2, 2026 11:14:16 am

This is ridiculously paying homage to a wannabe king. He will surely name it the Trump ballroom but his immigrant family were Drumps. This is a national outrage. So wealthy kids my ass donors can call what our nation's house can look like? Stop this travesty NOW!

Name: Deborah Ray

Date: March 2, 2026 11:14:36 am

This is the most outrageous waste of money, time, and resources ever spent on an unnecessary project by this current administration. It's heartbreaking to have seen a beautiful historic east wing building of the White House be replaced by a humongous, ugly, and gaudy piece of ego driven trash!

Name: Elizabeth Cogswell

Date: March 2, 2026 11:14:42 am

I first came to understand my deep love for our capital city on 9/11. Amidst the horror of lives lost, I had a terrifying feeling that a plane would demolish our US Capitol. I had come to love the buildings and monuments of the District of Columbia with a depth usually reserved for fellow humans: beloved friends, family, strangers.

I was a DC tour guide for 20 years. It's during these decades, introducing our capital city to strangers from around our nation and the world that I fell in love myself.

To think that a countryman is tearing through the lawn, overturning trees dedicated to our history and our heroes, crushing the splendid architecture that was the workplace of many First Ladies with their important unpaid contributions to our well being is so palpably, unbearably sad.

Please do what you can to minimize this destruction!

Name: Michael Bentley

Date: March 2, 2026 11:14:50 am

Name: Randy Hunt

Date: March 2, 2026 11:14:53 am

The White House, typically called the People's House, is an icon in the Capital area. If the Commission and/or NPS was to review the planned changes to the White House they would have been rejected for significantly altering the external appear of this national treasure building. It is unacceptable for a single person to destroy or modify a highly significant symbol of our country.

DO NOT ALLOW any modification of the People's House that expands the building outside of its current foundation footprint!

Name: Martha Winsor

Date: March 2, 2026 11:15:07 am

Having watched the video of the review of the plans for the White House I believe that this new design is disproportionate to the classical building. The placement is awkward, the size is grossly overkill and the kitchen suggestions stand out as most important to address. I liked the suggestions overall. I also would like to understand the safety precautions in the design for attendees and workers. The plan needs a major overhaul.

Name: Annette Ahlander

Date: March 2, 2026 11:15:15 am

Why should any of us be surprised by what Donald John Trump has done to the East Wing of the White House? The guy's been doing the same thing to this country for well over a decade . . . Trump and his band of enablers, minions, and sycophants. My #1 priority right now is saving the entire planet. Yeah, "Dr. Strangelove" has just catapulted himself into the upper stratosphere.

The East Wing can be restored; species of life that took 250 MILLION years to evolve cannot. Way to go, myopic maniac.

Name: Bert Gregory

Date: March 2, 2026 11:15:29 am

Opposition to the White House Ballroom as Designed. Please see suggested comments in the attached letter. Respectfully, Bert Gregory Fellow American Institute of Architects.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Linda Fey

Date: March 2, 2026 11:15:35 am

There are many and costs and expenses in our country, all funded by taxpayer dollars. The needs of our impoverished and marginalized people — especially children— should have the highest priority. A ballroom should have a very low priority, and destroying the East Wing without study of cost/need/benefit or Congressional approval, is a disregard for the citizens of the US.

I am against the construction of the ballroom.

Linda Fey

Fairview, IL

Name: Patti Martin

Date: March 2, 2026 11:15:50 am

Why are taxpayers paying for a ballroom they can never use? Do you forget who pays for your political career? People have had it with this BS. END IT NOW! No dam ballroom is needed.

Name: Jeff Soukup

Date: March 2, 2026 11:16:11 am

As someone who cares about the preservation of our nation's history through architecture, the East Wing project is catastrophic because it destroys irreplaceable historic fabric, disregards established preservation standards and public

review, and disfigures the carefully evolved balance between the Executive Mansion and its flanking wings, all in service of an outsized vanity ballroom that permanently diminishes the White House as a living historic landscape instead of stewarding it for future generations. On top of that professional and cultural vandalism, I see the administration's spending on this spectacle as egregious at a time when the United States is more than \$38 trillion in debt, which makes the project not just a failure of stewardship but a moral insult, because they are willing to bulldoze history and pile luxury construction costs onto an already staggering national balance sheet so a single president can preen in a new gala space. In a civic building that is supposed to symbolize shared sacrifice and republican restraint, choosing demolition, maximal expansion, and lavish finishes over repair, adaptation, and fiscal responsibility is, in my view, not just bad policy but an act of self-indulgence that openly advertises contempt for both the nation's heritage and its taxpayers.

Name: James Dart

Date: March 2, 2026 11:16:13 am

The wanton demolition of the East Wing of the White House, without due process, is but the latest egregious act of vandalism and lawlessness by Donald Trump and his administration. The architectural horror that the administration proposes to build in its place is damnable on every level. Its ill-conceived grandiosity alone warrants disapproval from the National Capital Planning Commission. I urge the commission to wholly reject the project, condemn its lack of process, and impose the sternest possible penalties on the perpetrators.

Name: Mary Miller

Date: March 2, 2026 11:16:32 am

I write to oppose the current White House ballroom plans and request that the suggested updates in Mr Cook's Feb 18 2026 letter be followed for several design alternatives to preserve the historic integrity and symbolism of the People's House to remedy the massing, height, scale, and especially the volume of the proposed 90,000 square-foot structure.

Thank you,

Mary

Name: Catherine Benamou

Date: March 2, 2026 11:16:58 am

The current plans to build a massive ballroom in the East wing of the White House is a violation of the historical integrity of this centuries-old building and does not support the mission of the Executive to serve the interests of the American people. It also threatens to alter the aesthetics of the White House as an architectural structure in a way that I believe will be profoundly displeasing to most who visit the site. This proposed change is entirely self-serving and not at all in respect to the institution and American voters.

Name: SHARON COOPER

Date: March 2, 2026 11:17:33 am

The White House is calling this the "East Wing Modernization Project"? Is that a joke?

This was done without oversight, congressional permission, or the proper protocols. In fact, it was done solely with the permission of one individual who has acted like the White House is his own personal property during his brief tenure this time just as he did the last time.

Just as he wasn't content with the first destruction of the Rose Garden during his first term, this time he paved it over. He's treated the People's House as if it's his own property, even decorating it with his own tacky gold braid.

But I digress.

The destruction of the East Wing was done without anyone's approval, and this ugly ballroom will be even larger than the White House itself. Like everything this man touches, the plans appear to be an eyesore, making a once impressive building (the White House) look off kilter. So what will this man do to it next? He has 3 years to come up with something else, which he surely will do unless he's stopped here and now and forced, FORCED, to put the East Wing right at HIS expense, not at the taxpayers' expense, since his own grandiosity is the cause of this boondoggle. Give him an inch and

he'll take 100 miles, just as the ever expanding costs and plans for this monstrosity have shown.

This plan must be stopped. The White House is a beautiful, historic building which has been horribly altered by one man's ego. This building isn't his to destroy, and he's doing his level best to do just that. Leaving your mark doesn't mean leaving your tasteless vision on something you have temporary possession of for all time!

Please, vote to put a stop to this and force him to pay to restore the East Wing out of his own pocket (for once!).

Name: Steven Wulfekuhle

Date: March 2, 2026 11:17:37 am

This should require approval by the people and governance of congress. This is the people's house and congress representing the people should have to vote and fund this not people seeking favors from the government. None of this project was reviewed or approved and needs to stop and seek approval from the people's representatives and from government funding. Not the least of it is that the size and character of what the White House has proposed is horrific and only demeans the White House building.

Name: Marilyn Bowser

Date: March 2, 2026 11:17:51 am

Dear National Trust for Historic Preservation,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed ballroom expansion at the White House moving forward at its current size and scope.

The White House is not simply a residence or a government building — it is the People's House, a symbol of American democracy and a treasured piece of our shared national heritage. Decisions of this magnitude should not be made after demolition has already begun. The public deserves an advance voice in any proposal that permanently alters this irreplaceable landmark.

While I recognize that a modern meeting and event space is both necessary and important for the functional needs of the Executive Residence, any addition must be carefully balanced against our responsibility to preserve the historic integrity of the building. It is essential that the original structure remain the prominent, defining feature of the property — not be overshadowed or diminished by new construction.

I respectfully urge the National Trust to advocate for a scaled-back proposal that honors the original footprint, ensures meaningful public input before any further work proceeds, and upholds the preservation standards this institution was founded to protect.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued stewardship of America's historic places.

Respectfully,
Marilyn Bowser

Name: Kathryn Stevens

Date: March 2, 2026 11:17:54 am

I object vehemently to the addition of a 90,000 square foot ballroom to replace the East Wing of the White House. It was a disgrace that the President's staff did not consult as required with the proper oversight authorities before rushing to destroy what was once a beautiful, yet unostentatious structure that provided proper balance to the overall architecture of the building. The planned, highly unattractive addition will overwhelm and dwarf the rest of the White House. It will cost a huge amount of money, which should not be funded by unnamed private donors. The entire undertaking smells of corruption and gross mismanagement. I urge that all entities responsible for confronting this outrage take action to intervene before it is too late. Please vote no to this most unfortunate project, which is an insult to the American people.

Name: Bob Craig
Date: March 2, 2026 11:18:06 am

We don't need a *)&B%EV&\$\$%E&\$\$%EX\$% ballroom! We need a government that works for all of us, not one that plays or entertains.

Name: Marian Castinado
Date: March 2, 2026 11:18:15 am

Having visited the White House and a rare opportunity to visit the West Wing in 2008, I was entranced by the sense of history, and the refined simplicity of every component of the building and the grounds. It would have been inconceivable to me then that the Rose Garden would be paved over, and the East Wing torn down. Surely no one could imagine these were "improvements." But alas, the current president has no care for beauty, only cheap gilt, and expensive grift. Just as we look back at the burning of the White House by British troops, we will look back at this horror, and hail those who, like Dolly Madison, saved what they could. Do likewise.

Name: Lisa McColman
Date: March 2, 2026 11:18:19 am

If by 'modernization' you mean desecration, this project is on track. I am horrified at what has been perpetrated on a historic building owned by the American people. This ballroom is unnecessary, unwanted, and takes distasteful to heretofore unthought of heights. Please stop it immediately and attempt to restore the structure to its original appearance.

Name: Sandra Perkins
Date: March 2, 2026 11:18:45 am

The proposed new ballroom is garish and out of scale with the White House. Please do not allow this project to go forward!

Name: Stephen V. Kobasa
Date: March 2, 2026 11:18:50 am

How is it possible that it should be necessary to even make a comment on how outrageous this project is? There is nothing at stake here except for the unbridled ego of the President of the United States. That is not a justification for any proposal, particularly this one.

Name: Christine Silberberg
Date: March 2, 2026 11:19:13 am

Pure insanity for Trump's endless vanity! STOP!

Name: Pamela Lindquist
Date: March 2, 2026 11:19:31 am

What a waste

Name: Douglas Bennett
Date: March 2, 2026 11:19:40 am

This is not properly understood as a "modernization project." This is selfish destruction of our 'people's house, the White

House. It changes the mission of the building. It no longer includes a welcome to all the American people and turns it into a playroom for the super-rich and well-connected. This is part of a concerted attack on our Constitution and its democratic form of government. I urge you to do all you can to stop this project and insist that what was torn down be rebuilt.

--Douglas Bennett, President Emeritus, Earlham College (Indiana).

Name: Marcia Keeney

Date: March 2, 2026 11:19:47 am

As an American, I am livid over what Donald Trump has done to the people's house with no oversight whatsoever. He should be prosecuted for this. Please stand up for us Americans who overwhelmingly are appalled at this wanton destruction.

Name: David F Spencer

Date: March 2, 2026 11:20:08 am

This monstrosity, which will dwarf the 200+ year old White House, defies the historic aesthetics of The Nation's White House (Not the GOP's or Trumps), and is being financed by a "secret" cabal of the wealthy & ultimately American taxpayers no one in the executive branch will disclose. The American people have been REPEATEDLY lied to by the Trump administration about their secretive program without any participation of anyone except Trump "Yes Men" appointees. This project is wrong and yet another GOP/Trump con game on the American taxpayers.

Name: Chase Martin

Date: March 2, 2026 11:20:14 am

The White House is America's house. It reflects our common history and ideals. No one president should decide unilaterally to alter it without first consulting the American people. All changes should go through extensive review as required by law.

Name: Sandra Burns

Date: March 2, 2026 11:20:20 am

Instead of doing that, where are the monies promised to the American people?

First, it was \$2,500 per person. That would have given us \$5K. That never came.
Then, I believe was \$1,500 that too never came.

I am disgusted. I am a senior citizen, a new widow and cannot get any answers to where or how to get my survivor benefits!! My spouse died in Aug. Trying to survive on \$806 a month.
Have used constitute services. Mark Harris in NC, and last Friday reached out to Senator Budds in NC!!

I am struggling mightily. Been sick since Oct., even with Medicare and supplemental insurance I was forced to buy, still pay a high price for my medications.

Where is my help?

Do you not care about people like me?

I quit working to care for my husband for 18 years. He had many conditions.

Does anyone even read these?

Best Regards,

Sandra Burns
Concord, NC

Name: Jennifer Martin
Date: March 2, 2026 11:20:30 am

It is with sadness that I submit my comment for the East wing of the White House. I am disheartened that the East wing was demolished at the whim of the current administration against the advice of their architect and before public review and comment. The destruction of a public building that is the "Peoples House" says it all. Building a new East wing that's mass is so out of proportion to the remainder of the building is grotesque and unnecessary. Reconsideration of massing is required before the project should continue.

Name: Gary Ander
Date: March 2, 2026 11:20:57 am

To be clear, the White House does not belong to this president anymore than it belongs to any other American. The White House has been referred to as the "People's House." This president and all past and future presidents live there as a guest of the American people. Given that the White House is a public government building it is required, as are all other public and private buildings, to meet the current parameters of the local building codes. In addition, given this is a "historic government building", it should meet all requirements that are stipulated by DC's local historical governing body. Doing any less undermines local norms, regulations and laws and can lead to general chaos when would be property owners/developers decide to do whatever they want using this White House project as precedent.

Name: Joetta Prost
Date: March 2, 2026 11:21:02 am

Please stop the madness. This gigantic project will look ridiculous and should be reduced to remain in proper proportion to the White House structure.

Name: Eddie Nelson
Date: March 2, 2026 11:21:04 am

In my opinion, the destruction of the east wing and the building of a giant ballroom is ridiculous. There is absolutely no need for the ballroom. Destroying the historic look of the White House shows no respect for our fore fathers and history. To allow this administration continue to do whatever it wants with no regard to regulations and historic preservation is horrid. The building could have been built somewhere else and not destroy the integrity of our beloved White House that belongs to the people of the USA.

Name: Katrina Smith
Date: March 2, 2026 11:21:27 am

I am not an architect, but I strongly object to a proposed new "ballroom" that will dwarf the rest of the White House. Now that the former East Wing is gone, its replacement should be in keeping with the size and tone of the rest of the White House. This is an addition that will last a long time (unless it too gets bulldozed), so design should be appropriately matched to the building it will be attached to, not simply a gaudy vanity project.

Name: Eric Colson
Date: March 2, 2026 11:21:32 am

Renovation and modernization are necessary for historic sites, especially functional sites such as the White House. Given the significant importance of the White House, the modernization must include broader input and approval than a single individual. While I endorse improvements, the proposed ballroom's size and scale overwhelms the White House and disrupts the overall White House design and site lines. Please preserve our history and tradition of proper checks and balances for the greater good of the many not the whim of an individual.

Name: Eleanor Cionco

Date: March 2, 2026 11:21:39 am

Now that the east wing has been demolished, something must be done to "fix" it. This president needs to be reined in. He is like a toddler with a hammer. It should be restored in much the same way it always was. We don't need "ballrooms". We need adults with good sense, and good intentions for the country not toys for the rich and idiotic.

Name: Lynn Moffat

Date: March 2, 2026 11:21:48 am

1. The program for a ballroom is too narrow; how often is a ballroom of the size Trump is demanding needed in Washington DC?
- 2 A ballroom does not belong at the White House. The White House is not Buckingham Palace or Versailles or even Mar-a-Lago.
- 3 The proposed footprint is too big and out of scale with the classical White House.
4. I do not trust Trump or any of his chosen architects to design and construct anything without reducing the space to the tackiest, gold-embellished hotel conference room. (This is the man who gave a thumbs up to the destruction of the Bonwit Teller art deco friezes to accelerate the build of Trump Tower in NYC. Trump needs to be stopped from sewing chaos and wreaking havoc.)

Thank you.

Name: Catharine Burns

Date: March 2, 2026 11:21:50 am

To: National Capital Planning Commission

From: Catharine Gilliam Burns

Date: March 1, 2026

Re: NCPC File # 8733

I strongly oppose the recommendation that the Commission could responsibly give final approval of the plans submitted. I am commenting to implore the members of the National Capital Planning Commission to uphold your commitment to fully consider this project and reject these plans, which violate every principle of responsible architectural design and time tested historic preservation policy and practice. Your obligation is not to mindlessly approve and support whatever the current administration submits to this critically important commission. Your responsibility and duty as an American citizen entrusted with the great responsibility of serving on the Commission is to fully consider all comments and expert analysis and only vote to approve an acceptable project.

My training is in architectural history. I studied at the University of Virginia under a world class faculty. This month I will return to Charlottesville for the celebration of 50 years of a program in Italy where my education in Classical Architecture went beyond studying books and slideshows to visit the buildings that inspired the greatness of early American architecture with brilliant teachers who instilled deep appreciation. In reviewing what this Commission is asked to approve, every fiber of my being to the marrow of my bones is offended. It is hard to believe that any self-respecting architect could have facilitated this submittal. This proposal is a slap in the face to the history of American architecture and to our democracy.

My career was devoted to working with communities throughout this country to make historic preservation work for the people and to engage the public in healthy, constructive process of building the best communities. I worked to encourage the National Park Service to explore successful, enriching relationships with neighboring landowners and communities so that all would benefit. Your consideration of this application could be an extraordinary opportunity for you to take a disastrous debacle that offends virtually all Americans and change it into a project that follows the carefully considered and professionally informed NPS Master Plan. Do not pass up this opportunity.

I had a long and rewarding career. When I was a young advocate for historic preservation, I often faced severe criticism for obstructing "progress" and slowing down what some real estate developer or politician regarded as visionary and essential. My job and my conviction was to use the laws of the United States at the federal, state and local levels to make sure that in their enforcement resulted in good public participation and a well-considered and deigned project. Again, I will never forget the offensive and hostile comments thrown my way. But what I know 50 years later is that almost every

single project came out improved and – remarkably – often those impassioned opponents thanked me for my advocacy and acknowledged that the public process and application of sound principles of historic preservation made for a better project that benefitted them significantly. They were glad they had not been able to do what seemed so right to them at the time. You have the opportunity and responsibility to slow this project down, make sure that best practices and standards of architecture and historic preservation are applied – and gain the gratitude of the American people.

I believe that if you listen to the considered and constructively offered comments on this application, you will vote to send it back to the drawing board. The specific comments of the National Trust for Historic Preservation are a minimum starting point:

REDUCE OVERALL SIZE AND VISIBILITY

REDUCE FOOTPRINT AND PROTECT KEY VIEWS

RESPECT THE ESTABLISHED CLASSICAL COMPOSITION OF THE WHITE HOUSE COMPLEX

PRESERVE THE HISTORIC EAST FAÇADE OF THE EXECUTIVE RESIDENCE

ENSURE THAT THE PROPOSED SOUTH-FACING PORTICO IS SUBORDINATE IN SCALE TO THE WHITE HOUSE SOUTH PORTICO

I would add that there are many critically important principles included in the National Park Service's Master Plan that should be noted and included in the Commission's review.

No member of the Commission should take action on this application – or feel that you have done your duty as a Commissioner – before you have read the entire NPS Master Plan and THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE by William Seale.

As I prepare to return to Charlottesville to celebrate and express my deep appreciation for the education I received there and in Italy, I feel compelled to speak up to oppose something I know that Thomas Jefferson – not to mention George Washington – and all founding fathers and defining architects of the early years of this nation, would be spinning in their graves to think might be approved in 2026.

You have the opportunity to take a destructive and disrespectful project that would desecrate The People's House and turn it into something that reflects the history and grandeur of our nation. Please do so.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Donna Colson

Date: March 2, 2026 11:21:54 am

Dear members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

Thank you for your service and for your important consideration of the White House East Wing Renovation Project. I oppose the project as it is proposed. This project should transcend partisan politics and provide the American public with a practical solution to hosting presidential events, while respecting the historic view corridors and scale and scope in relation to the current White House configuration. Please reduce the massing by about 40% to maintain these architectural elements as recommended by the National Trust experts and consider their prudent recommendations that will make the interior space more usable and efficient. I do oppose the ornate columns and window details and believe these should be revised in concert with the neoclassical elements of the White House. Also, I believe the driveway symmetry should be maintained.

Thank you,

Donna Colson
American Patriot

Name: Joseph McGill

Date: March 2, 2026 11:22:02 am

I miss the East Wing, The John F Kennedy Performing Art Center, and Jack Daniels.

Name: Tiffany Bebb

Date: March 2, 2026 11:22:02 am

The proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House represents a profound violation of established preservation norms, statutory safeguards, and basic standards of public accountability.

The White House is not a private resort, campaign property, or branding opportunity. It is a nationally significant historic structure owned by the American people and protected under multiple federal preservation frameworks. Any substantial alteration of this magnitude should, at a minimum, undergo rigorous review under the National Historic Preservation Act, comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, and be evaluated in consultation with the National Capital Planning Commission, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. There is no indication that a transparent, comprehensive public review process has occurred commensurate with a project of this scale and consequence.

A 90,000-square-foot expansion is not a minor renovation; it is effectively a major institutional annex. Such a proposal would alter the architectural balance, historic setting, and symbolic character of the White House complex. The White House is part of a carefully protected historic landscape, and its architectural evolution has traditionally been incremental, deliberate, and subject to bipartisan oversight—not unilateral executive whim.

Undertaking a project of this magnitude without robust public notice, environmental review, congressional engagement, and preservation consultation would undermine the very legal frameworks designed to prevent politicized alterations of national landmarks. It would also set a dangerous precedent: that a sitting president can dramatically reshape a national historic site without consensus or procedural safeguards.

Beyond legality, the proposal is deeply unwelcome. The White House is a shared civic symbol, not a venue for spectacle expansion. Adding a massive ballroom risks transforming a historic executive residence into something more akin to a private luxury complex—blurring the line between public stewardship and personal preference.

Respect for the White House demands restraint, transparency, and fidelity to preservation law. Anything less diminishes the institution and erodes public trust.

Tiffany Bebb

Name: Victor Ashe

Date: March 2, 2026 11:22:02 am

Dreadful. An assault on our history.

Name: Ruth Huycke-McCall

Date: March 2, 2026 11:22:04 am

We don't need more of Trump's golden plated trash at the White House. Just how much will it cost to maintain on taxpayer money? Why would you reward a president who doesn't believe in, or feels he must follow the Constitution, despite the oath he took. He acts above the law.

Name: Jon Zabowski

Date: March 2, 2026 11:22:12 am

I think that it is absolute bullshit that a child rapist was allowed to destroy our White House on his asinine whim. If this stupid, ugly project goes through, I think you should name it the EPSTEIN BALLROOM and hang pictures of all the victims that these child rapists tortured.

I will be boycotting any of the companies that donated to this abomination!

Name: Shannon Rose

Date: March 2, 2026 11:22:19 am

First of all, it's tragic that this project was initiated and demolition conducted without being approved by Congress or blessed by the American People, as it IS technically The Peoples' House!! The size and scale of the proposed East Wing addition, including the ridiculously massive ballroom is OBSCENE. Historic Preservation standards for treatment of Historic properties regarding size, scale and compatability with the original architcture, design and size of The White House should be absolutely ENFORCED! As a long advocate of Historic Preservation, I am appalled at the proposed scope of this project, which is clearly only at the whim of this POTUS' insatiable appetite for perceived grandeur, and is not necessary or called for for the function of the Federal Government or the People. The importance of maintaining the integrity of The White House, as the most prominant and important Historic property in this country should be paramount.

Name: Richard Peppin

Date: March 2, 2026 11:22:41 am

Do not allow the stupid ballroom to be built without review and approval by people not connected to tRump.

Name: Michelle Williams

Date: March 2, 2026 11:23:17 am

I think the East Wing of the White House should be restored to it original footprint. It was not approved in advance, was not approved by the historical review board and we should not be using private donations to rebuild this structure.this building belongs to the people and not one man. The proper channels need to determine if this structure needs to be enlarged and certainly not to the size that is planned.

Name: S Haynes

Date: March 2, 2026 11:23:19 am

It's shameful how this administration IGNORES all protocol, processes and mostly policies. How dare POTUS just give the "OK" to tear down the East Wing with NO REGARD for historical presence, guidelines or restrictions. If a person randomly tore down a historically designated building one would be fined up the butt, business license taken away and quite possibly serve civil jail time!!! WE THE PEOPLE pay POTUS's salary and he doesn't really get to make those sweeping decisions on what can be done with our TAXPAYER MONEY!!! And whoever told him he COULD, should be fired. The demolition of the East Wing was an EMBARRASSMENT to respect of the PEOPLE'S HOUSE! You people are a disgrace to the administration. And this perspective doesn't mean that the White House Compound may have needed a bigger event space but the disrespectful and disregard for any kind of process and policy is a typical of the way this administration handles things. Bull doze it over and then deal with the fall out. How's that been working out for you all???

Name: Charleen Chu

Date: March 2, 2026 11:23:22 am

As an American citizen that is very proud of our nation's capital, I am very concerned about several features of the proposed ballroom.

I am opposed to extraneous size of the ballroom that would dwarf existing buildings, and the inclusion of several features with no utility (e.g. fake doors and difficult access).

More time should be devoted to create a more harmonious design, to scale down the size of the building and to make it readily usable for both able-bodied and disabled participants.

The building also should not block the view to the US capital.

For these reasons I strongly urge you to NOT approve the current plan. Gaining more input for revised design, and possibly, setting up a contest for designing it, should be undertaken. Please vote NO on the White House Ballroom.

Thank you.

Name: Dani Moore

Date: March 2, 2026 11:23:38 am

This new building is a gaudy, pretentious monstrosity that will be an embarrassment to our Country for generations to come. The Historic East wing was destroyed without the notification or support from Congress or the House. Please stop construction now and allow our houses of government provide guidance on how to proceed, under the Lawful Existing Rules that should have been followed in the first place. Thank you.

Name: Rita Davenport

Date: March 2, 2026 11:23:48 am

The plans I've seen are oversized, garish and the cost is unwarranted. The United States is not a kingdom and there is no need for a ballroom.

Name: Robert Handeyside

Date: March 2, 2026 11:24:06 am

This project is ill-conceived, grossly designed and a pure waste of money. I am appalled that one man's whim and caprice can bring to fruition this outrageous memorial to himself. I have not lost all faith in my federal government, but it is certainly ebbing away.

Name: Steven Riskin

Date: March 2, 2026 11:24:25 am

This vanity project is a travesty. Its huge scale would overwhelm the scale of the White House, diminishing and degrading a national and international historical building, landmark and symbol of the American people. It should not be approved.

Name: Pam Majidy

Date: March 2, 2026 11:24:33 am

The destruction and expansion serve only to compensate for one man's smallness. Done with no regard to the historical elements of the residence. Trump has forgotten (however ill-gotten) that he is a temporary resident of this house and that he was elected to the office.

Trump and every action he's taken has shown blatant disregard for policy and procedure. He has more or less spit upon those who voted for him and smugly reaffirmed all the reasons for those who did not.

His continued presence and unchecked behavior will only further drag the declining reputation of America at home and across the globe. He is a mockery of our hard fought democracy.

Name: Dudley Cabell Vest

Date: March 2, 2026 11:25:43 am

Mr. William Scharf, Chair
National Capital Planning Commission
401 Ninth Street NW, Suite 500N
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Scharf:

I write to offer comments regarding the proposed construction of a proposed new ballroom on the White House grounds. I respectfully urge the National Capital Planning Commission to give substantial weight to the concerns raised in the February 18, 2026 comment letter submitted by David Scott Parker to the U.S. Fine Arts Commission, and the February 23, 2026 comment letter submitted to you by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and to approach this proposal with the utmost care consistent with your statutory mandate.

The White House is not simply an executive residence; it is a foundational element of the federal city as envisioned in the 1791 plan by Pierre Charles L'Enfant. L'Enfant conceived of a carefully ordered capital defined by ceremonial vistas and reciprocal relationships among the principal seats of government. Of particular importance is the significant visual and symbolic connection between the White House and the United States Capitol—a diagonal axis that reinforces the constitutional balance between the executive and legislative branches. Alterations within the White House grounds must therefore be evaluated not only at the scale of a single site, but within the larger framework of the historic federal city.

Equally significant is the architectural integrity of the Executive Mansion itself, designed by James Hoban. Hoban's restrained neoclassical composition—its balanced proportions, dignified porticos, and disciplined massing—has accommodated change over more than two centuries while maintaining a coherent architectural identity. A large, purpose-built ballroom risks introducing a new mass that could compete with or diminish the primacy of Hoban's design, particularly if it alters historic spatial relationships or overwhelms the carefully calibrated scale of the existing complex.

The landscape context is likewise of national importance. The early twentieth-century improvements by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. helped formalize the grounds into a composition that balances ceremonial function with pastoral character. Olmsted's work reinforced long views, axial clarity, and the sense of openness that distinguishes the White House landscape from surrounding urban fabric. Significant new construction has the potential to disrupt these landscape relationships, interrupt established viewsheds, and erode the visual coherence that has been sustained across generations.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Commission:

1. Affirm the primacy of preservation within the federal city framework. The White House must be considered in relation to the L'Enfant Plan and the broader civic composition of Washington, including historic sightlines and symbolic axes.
2. Require a rigorous alternatives analysis. Before approving permanent new construction, the Commission should ensure that reasonable alternatives—including adaptation of existing spaces, continued use of other federal ceremonial venues or consideration of whether a ballroom is indeed necessary at the People's House—have been fully evaluated.
3. Ensure strict standards of scale, siting, and compatibility. Any addition, if deemed appropriate in concept, must be demonstrably subordinate to the Executive Residence in height, massing, and architectural expression, and must not impair historic views or landscape integrity.
4. Provide transparent and comprehensive review. Given the White House's unparalleled national significance, all preservation analyses, visual impact studies, and compliance documentation should be made available for meaningful public review.

The White House has endured because successive generations have exercised discipline and restraint in shaping it. It is at once architecture, landscape, and civic symbol—an integral component of the historic plan of the capital and a shared national inheritance. I urge the Commission to uphold its long-standing role as steward of the federal city and to ensure that preservation principles remain central to its deliberations.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
D. Cabell Vest

Name: Julie Capozzoli

Date: March 2, 2026 11:25:58 am

The White House, designed by James Hoban, is the most iconic structure in our country. The proposed East Wing dominates and detracts from the White House in terms of proportion and height as well as destroys the historic landscape designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, who also designed the Central Park of NYC. This new East Wing design detracts and erases an important American structure and landscape that tell the story of the founding of our country. There are ways to rebuild the East Wing in proportion to the White House and still accomplish the goals of the project.

Name: Amy Klemetson

Date: March 2, 2026 11:26:04 am

I am disgusted by the destruction of our nation's history and its replacement with a gilded Trump monstrosity that will dwarf the White House. This is the people's house and we should have a say in a project of this size. Further, I am concerned about the private donations that are funding the project and what these companies are being given in exchange.

Name: Sue Bonner

Date: March 2, 2026 11:26:10 am

Mr Trump.

You have desecrated everything you and your cronies have touched. You do not abide by the law and have no, no respect for this country, its people, its constitution, public lands and public buildings, Stop your self absorption and really make America great again. A country of the people, for the people and by the people.

Sue Bonner

Name: Bruce Montgomery

Date: March 2, 2026 11:26:44 am

As Nero ate cake and feasted in his palace, Rome was burning down. Under Trump's policies and leadership that's where we're headed. Corruption, Opulence and cluelessness into what's happening in real people's lives leads to destruction and eventually the Fall of Rome.

Name: Martha McClaugherty

Date: March 2, 2026 11:27:29 am

There are guidelines in place under the Secretary of Interior for historic preservation, especially for National Landmarks. This project, which should never have been started in the first place, must follow these standards. The nation is counting on you to protect the integrity of this national symbol as much as possible. Some excellent suggestions have been made by the National Trust.

Name: Deborah Vahlkamp

Date: March 2, 2026 11:27:35 am

I respectfully request that the NCPC reconsider the current ballroom design proposal to ensure that it more carefully balances the historic character of the White House with the needs of modern use.

The White House is not simply a residence or event space; it is a symbol of national identity, history, and democratic continuity. Any addition should be approached with the utmost sensitivity to its architectural integrity and its place within the broader framework of Washington's design.

Pierre L'Enfant's original plan for Washington established a deliberate and powerful axis between the Capitol and the White House — a symbolic and physical line of sight that reinforces the relationship between the legislative and executive branches. The proposed ballroom, as currently envisioned, appears to interrupt or diminish this historic axis. Altering that relationship would have implications far beyond the footprint of the addition itself.

Additionally, I urge the Commission to evaluate whether the proposed scale of the ballroom is fully justified by its intended use. Is the size proportionate to the frequency and function of the events it is meant to accommodate? Could a more modest design meet operational needs while preserving sightlines, scale, and architectural harmony?

We have an obligation to steward our national landmarks with restraint and foresight. A design that respects the historic

context, preserves L'Enfant's vision, and thoughtfully evaluates functional necessity would better serve both present and future generations.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Name: Jen Deaderick

Date: March 2, 2026 11:28:02 am

The careless and sudden manner in which the East Wing, a site of historic and cultural significance, was destroyed suggests that the current administration cannot be trusted to preserve and respect our nation's architectural treasures. The White House is the people's house, not the President's house. The ballroom project should not go forward.

Name: Maia Duerr

Date: March 2, 2026 11:28:40 am

Leave it alone.

Name: Brett Barker

Date: March 2, 2026 11:28:45 am

I am not in support of this project. Any changes should incorporate the many partners who have dedicated themselves to preserving our history and architecture. It is an ugly and proportionally out-of-place addition. Go back to the drawing board, literally.

Name: Anne Andre

Date: March 2, 2026 11:28:46 am

This design is so over the top and unnecessary. It looks more like something from Czarist Russia or 18th century France. It does not look like American style or culture. It also seems un-American for a few billionaires to redesign America in their own liking just because they have the money to do so. It just doesn't feel like the America way. Come on...this is the people's house.

Name: Jane Gustafson

Date: March 2, 2026 11:28:55 am

The proposed ballroom building design is too large in scale and overtakes the white house. The design should be compatible with the architecture of the white house. There are too many columns in the front. A wider space is needed to showcase the main entry. Is seating for 1,000 people realistic? The headcount for official dinners and events should be verified. 500-600 people is more in line with guest lists for state dinners. The ballroom is to serve white house only diplomatic events.

Name: Helen Peterle

Date: March 2, 2026 11:28:59 am

The proposed design is simply too damn big. It destroys the symmetry of the White House and its look as a national symbol. It removes the view connection with other federal buildings and that symbolism. It is too expensive and money could be put to better use, using funding as corporate bribery for donations should not be allowed as well.

Name: Jamar Kirton

Date: March 2, 2026 11:29:09 am

I strongly oppose the proposed East Wing project at The White House. At a time when Americans are facing rising costs,

housing challenges, and strained public services, expanding facilities sends the wrong message. The White House should reflect stewardship, not expansion.

Whether publicly or privately funded, this project raises concerns about priorities and optics. Resources and focus should be directed toward critical national needs—supporting veterans, strengthening infrastructure, improving education, and aiding disaster relief.

True leadership is shown through fiscal responsibility and service to the people

Name: Robert Smythe

Date: March 2, 2026 11:29:26 am

This proposed monstrous “Ballroom” is a complete abomination! It is HUGELY oversized, inconsistent with the design and dimensions of the rest of the White House, and would be instead a disgraceful monument to one man’s egomania! It should be disapproved as both ugly and illegal and the former East Wing should be rebuilt as it was. This proposal is disgusting; anyone who supports it should be embarrassed and ashamed.

Name: Kathleen Hunt

Date: March 2, 2026 11:29:39 am

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed East Wing modernization and ballroom construction at the White House, and to respectfully state that I do not support the National Trust’s decision to pursue litigation to stop this long-overdue project.

The White House is not only a historic residence; it is the symbolic home of the American presidency and a stage on which our nation engages with the world. Every President—regardless of party—must be able to host and entertain leaders from around the globe in a setting that reflects the dignity, strength, and beauty of the United States. For too long, major events have required temporary tents to be pitched on the White House lawn. Such arrangements are not commensurate with America’s role as a global leader. We should not rely on temporary structures when we have the opportunity to create a permanent, architecturally distinguished space worthy of our country.

A thoughtfully designed ballroom and modernized East Wing will provide a secure, functional, and beautiful venue for state dinners, diplomatic gatherings, and national celebrations. It would serve not just one administration, but all future Presidents and the American people. Sensitive improvements that respect the historic fabric of the White House can coexist with preservation values; indeed, they can strengthen the site’s long-term relevance and utility.

Litigation, in this context, risks delaying a project that enhances the White House’s capacity to fulfill its ceremonial and diplomatic functions. The American people want to be proud of the White House and this project will enhance the beauty and importance of the People’s House.

We need a beautiful space that reflects our beautiful country—one that honors our past while confidently representing our future. I respectfully ask the National Trust and others to support a collaborative path forward.

Name: Barry Benton

Date: March 2, 2026 11:29:44 am

This project is another example of King Trump bypassing the law and custom because Congress, the courts, and the electorate let him. So, reportedly, this "needed" renovation is being paid for by billionaire donors, but I'm sure they're not trying to bribe Trump for favors. When you're a mafia boss like Trump, you call in your markers when you need to. The worst part of this gilded project is that after Trump is gone (which will probably require his death), it will be a reminder of him.

Name: Olivia Harris

Date: March 2, 2026 11:29:46 am

It is horrifying to see a huge part of our White House demolished. The photos are shocking. It feels so anti-American to disrespect the history and significance of this building. There was a way and still is to design a renovation that RESPECTS the White House and American history. I beg you and all involved to listen to the experts and partake in best practices of preservation. THAT is the American way.

Name: Elizabeth Snyder

Date: March 2, 2026 11:29:51 am

I object to the East Wing Modernization Project—especially the proposed ballroom addition. The plans I have seen seem to include a building that dwarfs the rest of the White House and is meant to accomodate "Elite" activities. Not my idea of our democracy - "pomp and circumstance" rather than "for the people and by the people" as it should be. In my view, citizens of the USA are not enamored of the glittering gold that our current president bows down to.

Beyond the inappropriateness of this catering to the oligarchy, the entire process of tearing down the East Wing without permission, accepting bribes from the glitteraty for the cost of the ballroom, allowing one man with a king-of-america complex to specify the realization of the project all seems more representative of an autocracy than a democracy. I vote NO! while I still can.

Name: Stephanie Ferrell

Date: March 2, 2026 11:29:52 am

Please see attached letter. Thank you for considering my comments.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Deborah Donovan

Date: March 2, 2026 11:30:25 am

It breaks my heart that the East Wing of the White House is gone and can never be restored.

I support the plans from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for building something that fits the White House design.

Thank you for your work.

Name: David Chapin

Date: March 2, 2026 11:31:09 am

I write to object to the design of the proposed Ballroom replacing the East Wing of the White House. It is out of scale with the White House, and is architecturally incompatible with the original executive mansion building. If it is constructed as proposed, it will do irreparable harm to the White House,

I ask that the project be disapproved.

Sincerely,
David Chapin
Baltimore, Maryland

Name: Louise Buchanan

Date: March 2, 2026 11:31:42 am

The White House is truly, and importantly, the PEOPLE's HOUSE. Decisions related to additions or changes to its' architectural dimensions should reflect the will of the American people. I urge the NCPC to listen to our voices. DO NOT APPROVE THE PRESENT BALLROOM DESIGN.

I was grieved by the unannounced destruction of the East Wing of the White House, and I

am adamantly opposed to the dimensions of the Ballroom as currently proposed. It violates architectural standards and dwarfs the White House proper. It is designed to seat 1,500 guests - a number which exceeds most White House dinners/receptions. It's enormous size, ceiling height, destruction of surrounding lawn are all negative factors in the present plan. It cuts off lines of vision which we the people value and cherish. It is essentially a Presidential vanity project which is aligned with his pattern of making everything "bigger, bolder, and more gold-saturated"!

I urge the NCPC to reject the present design and demand that the project be re-designed to honor sound architectural principles and proportional logic. You have a vital duty to make certain that the White House remains a symbol of beauty in which we, its's owners, may take pride. Thank you.

Name: Edward Russell

Date: March 2, 2026 11:31:55 am

Because of the hasty and unilateral action of the administration in destruction of the East Wing without consultation with Congress or other authorized design bodies and rushing plans for a new structure out of scale with the White House itself, The Commission should pause any consideration of new plans for at least three years until there is a new administration and time for the Congress to establish its role in the process. Thank you.

Name: Denise M Brown

Date: March 2, 2026 11:32:09 am

He (orange) is destroying, on the taxpayers dollars, so much in our country. To think, the Rose Garden-a place of beauty and serenity, razed so his ego has adulation! He is SICK!

Name: Rebecca Myers

Date: March 2, 2026 11:33:28 am

First of all, how was it that Trump was able to demolish the East Wing without going through the proper channels? The public has a right to see the planning in advance. I understand that upgrades are needed, but judging on the aesthetic abilities of our current president and what he did to the oval office, I am appalled that the East Wing could reflect his taste. Is anyone in charge???

The East wing is a "wing" of the white house. The white house has always reflected a symmetrical design. The "wing" should not be larger than the main "house" and it should not overpower the existing design. The "ballroom" reflects the inequity of citizens now.. How many of us (other than those who pay out huge sums of money" to Trump, will ever have the opportunity to even see the "ballroom".?

Trump doesn't own the White House, the citizens of USA own it. I grew up in the DC area and I am thoroughly disgusted with the way Trump has destroyed the classic taste of Mrs. Kennedy and others who have some sense of aesthetics and elegant structure..

This president certainly has no concept of class and dignity.. just crude, gaudy, gold colored elements with his name on it. Will the "ballroom" be named the "Trump" ballroom??

Name: Flo Stevenson

Date: March 2, 2026 11:33:31 am

This is the people's building. The people should have been notified when their property was scheduled for demolition. I was not notified. Hence, it needs to be restored to its original look. Thanks you,

Name: Gail Lee

Date: March 2, 2026 11:33:46 am

Your ballroom plans are an abomination! Stop the construction immediately.

Name: Robert Worden

Date: March 2, 2026 11:34:25 am

An addition to such a major historical structure as the White House should be substantially smaller than the historic site itself. If the square footage cannot be decreased, its overall height can be lowered to an appropriate one-story level by excavating deeply into the ground and constructing the bulk of the building below ground level. The above-ground portion can be used to accommodate connection to the White House, security entrances, windows for light, and visual effect. The technology and construction materials for such below-grade structures is widely available.

Name: Chuck Henager

Date: March 2, 2026 11:34:57 am

The East Wing should never have been demolished but now that it has, the new ballroom plans are for a structure that is too large for the existing White House. The proposed ballroom is disproportionately big and will dwarf the current White House. Therefore, it will not look good. I am against this project as it will result in an ugly addition. The White House will be diminished and degraded by this project. I am not sure what should be done at this point but a proportionally smaller structure is called for. Go back to the drawing board, as they say.

Name: Terry Nagel

Date: March 2, 2026 11:35:12 am

Commissioners, please support the National Trust for Historic Preservation's request for an preliminary injunction to stop the renovation of the East Wing of the White House. This is the people's house and it deserves the people's input in a thoughtful process for the new design. If current plans are permitted to go forward, there will be stopping the construction of the out-of-proportion edifice that is planned.

Thank you for your consideration.

Terry Nagel

Former Mayor, City of Burlingame, CA

Name: John Mayer

Date: March 2, 2026 11:35:23 am

I reviewed the limited details for the new White House Ballroom.

Objectionable is the scale and size of the proposed structure. This view is supported by numerous trained architects .

Fake doors and windows with an entry stairs to no where are details that are disturbing and wasteful.

As a practicing Landscape Architect, I find the structure's connection to the ground imposing and grandiose.

The disturbance of the original Olmsted driveway and DC axial views is not warranted.

Washington DC is NOT LAS VEGAS ! Vote down is abomination.

Name: Thomas Jahl

Date: March 2, 2026 11:35:23 am

The trump concept is tasteless. A heartbreaking circumstance that must sadden all Americans.

Plant a garden there instead, for the time being.

Name: Miriam Dustin

Date: March 2, 2026 11:35:30 am

Where are your brains? The over-the-top ballroom project is so divorced from reality!! Stop spending money on ego-maniac design! It doesn't make us look better or make us look powerful. It's silly. Move on to something that improves people's lives!

Name: Carolyn Gutierrez

Date: March 2, 2026 11:35:35 am

In years past I read books written by White House staff who lamented about how difficult it was to have large events, especially when they had to be set up outside. I would have thought that the modernization of the ballroom would have been joyfully received by anyone who works in White House events. I consider it to be long overdue. That it is being funded by outsiders is marvelous and we should be grateful for it.

Name: Janis Oliver

Date: March 2, 2026 11:35:48 am

I believe that the portico, as designed, serves no purpose other than opulence. It is not scaled to the body of the WH, there is no direct access so it is not functional, the floor is elevated and the columns will block views. Plus it is overpowering the structure of the WH. It should be on scale with the porticos of the other build/monuments.

Name: Leigh Lambert Goff

Date: March 2, 2026 11:35:57 am

Every enduring historical structure requires care, maintenance, and thoughtful renovations. The East Wing of the White House is no exception.

It will be a mistake if "thoughtful" is ignored.

Name: Suzanne Morris

Date: March 2, 2026 11:35:58 am

Until ALL the Medicaid funding, ALL the ACA support, and ALL the food stamp support is returned to the budget, this project should be halted completely. It is an abomination.

I could go on but in the interest of your valuable time, I will stop here.

Thank you for giving me a voice.

Truly,

Suzanne Morris

Name: Sur Alvarez

Date: March 2, 2026 11:36:25 am

Trump initiated this Project without any legitimate/formal authorization. He had no formal commitments for funding. His designs And plans were not reviewed by any of the entities authorized to do prior to construction. Any homeowner or legitimate contractor knows there are many Steps to go through -especially on historic buildings - before construction can begin.

Trump ignored all of these steps/considerations.
If any citizen did this the local authority would require that the edifice be restored to its original condition (but including any updates to meet current building codes)
AT THEIR OWN PERSONAL EXPENSE and within the timeline for completion set by that authority.

I strongly recommend that Trump be subject to the same laws, requirements, and penalties that would apply to any of the rest of the citizens of these United States!

Most sincerely
Sue Alvarez

Name: Pamela Kaiser
Date: March 2, 2026 11:37:11 am

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
I am completely against the modernization project. I strongly support the preservation of the White House as it currently exists. I think there should be a proper process for any President to submit ideas to a Review Committee for approval, and that the Committee include a large number of the American people that represents our society, NOT just a bunch of "connected" Society figures seeking glam.
Thank you,
Dr. Pamela Kaiser

Name: Susanna Lea
Date: March 2, 2026 11:37:39 am

The demolition of the East Wing, the First Lady's offices, an historic building belonging to the people of the United States, is an embarrassment to our country. It's obscene.

Name: Dorothy Knight
Date: March 2, 2026 11:37:57 am

Please halt the process of building a ballroom as an addition to the White House, which is owned by the United States of America and not the current president. The money used in creating a ballroom which will not benefit 99 percent of the people who live in the United States could and should be used to support the people who are living in poverty and need help with affordable housing, affordable and nourishing food, affordable childcare for working families, and education for all children who reside in the United States regardless of their heritage and the status of their parents as citizens. This is what we should do as Christians who love each other.

Name: Cheryl Marckx
Date: March 2, 2026 11:37:58 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

<https://www.ncpc.gov/participate/guidelines/>

(Photo: PBS)

Name: cYNTHIA DISANTO

Date: March 2, 2026 11:38:01 am

HOW DARE YOU DEMOLISH AND RUIN THE HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY OF THE WHITE HOUSE!!!!?? IT'S NOT YOURS TO FUCK WITH!!!! YOU ARE AN EGOTISTICAL FREAKING MANIAC WHO HAS NO RESPECT FOR HISTORY, TRADITION AND THE RULE OF LAW!! IT'S NOT A "PROPERTY YOU FUCKING OWN". YOU ARE A DISGUSTING EXCUSE FOR A LEADER OF MY COUNTRY. YOU SHOULD BE FINED, AND REMOVED FROM OFFICE YOU EGOTISICAL CRETIN

Name: Clare Stuempfig

Date: March 2, 2026 11:39:06 am

I am writing about the New Ballroom, not East Wing modernization. .

To let the President design a vanity project to have his name on the building in perpetuity is shameful. He has no concept of classical architecture or the scale of what should be considered next to the historic White House building. To overshadow this building for his own vanity and feed his narcissistic ego is a permanent blight on the site , which belongs to the American people and not The current president. He has not the authority to build another Trump Tower to appease his vanity.

Please vote no to this project in its current scale and design. And please return this authority to where it belongs, to your committee, who needs to do the right thing for all American Tax payers and Americans.

Thank you for considering my opinion, as a patriotic American.

Clare Stuempfig

Name: John Updike

Date: March 2, 2026 11:40:10 am

The proposed project overwhelms the White House. Move the back of house functions (kitchen, prep, etc) below grade. Reduce the ballroom size to accommodate 1,000 as claimed is the goal of project. Scale back the volume of the project so that the White House remains the centerpiece of democracy!

Name: Gina Stefanini

Date: March 2, 2026 11:40:30 am

A YouGov poll indicated 54% of Americans disapproved of the demolition. The project did not get the oversight or citizen approval. This is a "huge loss" and a "sad" destruction of history. The construction of a luxury ballroom is "shameless" and a luxury only the ego-in-chief needs to make him feel better. We were lied to. The East Wing was not to be touched. The baby-in-chief violated the National Environmental Policy Act and was done without proper consultation or congressional approval. The project is funded by private donors, raising concerns from Democrats about potential "pay-to-play" schemes, and the scammer-in-chief just wants to fill his accounts with money and another thing to name as himself (which will be taken down once he is gone). The massive ballroom structure would overpower the existing historic White House. This will be remembered as an administration that could not control the toddler room in the White House. Shame on you.

Name: Philip Burtner

Date: March 2, 2026 11:41:39 am

The proposed "East Wing Ballroom" plan, as currently designed, is an oversized and gaudy replacement of what was a properly planned, built and illegally demolished historic extension to the White House. I hereby request that this current project be rejected and sent back to the drawing board, so a structure that better fits within the architectural context of the overall site can be designed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Philip Burtner

Name: Violet Rae Webster

Date: March 2, 2026 11:42:14 am

I appreciate the detail shared by the NCPC and the opportunity to view the video of the presentation.

The plans originally shared are not the best plan to enable a larger seating capacity for White House events.

I am strongly in favor of and support the indepth alternatives presented by the NCPC to preserve the history and purpose of the Washington DC relational complex to maintain the originally designed sightlines and concepts of our Nation's seat of government.

Thank you, for this work. I look forward to hearing more.

Name: Judith Hunt

Date: March 2, 2026 11:42:50 am

Do not build anything that will dwarf the historically most important White House!

Name: ROBERT PAULUS

Date: March 2, 2026 11:42:52 am

I believe the Commission should reject the East Wing of the White House Modernization Project. The current plan would result in a wing that is larger than the White House residence. It violates the most basic principles of classical architecture: symmetry and balance. Its columns would be Corinthian instead of the Ionic columns that adorn the residence. The ballroom would be far larger than needed judging by historical standards of White House events. The proposed wing would disrupt the symmetry of the South Lawn drive designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and destroy the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden. The proposed second level of the East Wing connector colonnade would further violate the symmetry of the White House, particularly when viewed from the north (Lafayette Park), and remove some of the historic east wall of the residence.

I strongly urge the Commission to reject the proposed project, or, at the least, downsize the project in height, area, and volume. Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Name: Andrea & Steve Ozyck

Date: March 2, 2026 11:43:40 am

Please see the attached letter expressing our strong opposition to the proposed White House ballroom project. We respectfully urge the Commission to reject the proposal for the reasons outlined in the attached public comment.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Laura Bennett

Date: March 2, 2026 11:43:50 am

I am writing as a preservation professional and longtime steward of historic buildings.

Regardless of politics or administration, the White House is one of the most important historic structures in the United States. Its significance transcends any presidency. It belongs to the American people — past, present, and future.

Major alteration or removal of historic fabric, particularly in an area such as the East Wing, should involve transparency and adherence to accepted preservation review standards. Federal historic properties are expected to follow the spirit of Section 106 consultation and public stewardship principles. When work appears to proceed without public notice or professional review, it undermines confidence in the preservation framework that protects historic buildings nationwide.

This is not a partisan issue. Preservation depends on precedent. If the nation's most visible historic property can be altered without clear process, it weakens preservation protections for every courthouse, train station, lighthouse, and historic home in the country.

I urge full documentation, disclosure of scope, and consultation with preservation professionals and organizations so the White House remains not just a residence, but a responsibly stewarded national monument.

— A concerned preservationist, Connecticut

Name: Alyssa Burgin

Date: March 2, 2026 11:44:01 am

Like every one of the people I know, I am completely opposed to the East Wing ballroom on the scale of which it has been proposed. As a former general contractor, I know how to read and understand what I see, and what I see is completely out of scale to the rest of the White House, and as such, truly laughable.

Yes, you read that correctly: the proposed ballroom is laughable. When world leaders, professional Americans, and all other people of taste and discernment look at it, here is what they see—the fantasy of a man so desperate to make up for his mental, educational, physical and other shortcomings that he wants to create something BIG. He thinks this will make him look important. He thinks it will make him look powerful. And STRONG, so strong. And since at heart he knows he is none of those things, he wants to project these qualities through his actions.

But what he doesn't understand is that he will only elicit laughter from those who see it. Because it's so ridiculously over-scaled that it's a cartoon, a very bad joke. It's a hideous caricature of truly terrible taste, displayed for the world to see. Sure, his sycophants will tell him it's "like nothing the world has ever seen," but they too will be laughing at it. Laughing and laughing and laughing. Yes, that is the legacy of this overblown piece of trash.

Please do not let it become a part of the timeless, historic buildings in Washington DC.

Name: Janelle Schneider

Date: March 2, 2026 11:45:09 am

I write in strong opposition to the proposed Trump ballroom project at the White House.

The White House is not a private residence, nor a branding opportunity. It is the People's House — a living symbol of constitutional democracy, restraint, and continuity. Any addition motivated by personal legacy or self-aggrandizement diminishes that shared inheritance and undermines the architectural integrity of one of our nation's most historic civic spaces.

Major alterations to this site must meet the highest standard of historical stewardship and public purpose. A grand ballroom bearing the imprint of any one individual risks transforming a national symbol into a monument to ego.

I respectfully urge the Committee to reject this proposal and to prioritize instead the careful restoration and rebuilding of the East Wing in keeping with its historic character and public function. Preservation demands humility. The White House belongs to the American people — past, present, and future.

Sincerely,

Name: C P Saul

Date: March 2, 2026 11:45:14 am

The gaudy and oversized Ballroom addition is a disgrace.

This benighted project to replace the East Wing is out of scale and adds nothing to the grace and grandeur of the White House. It is nothing more than a monument to the 47th President's ego. It does not belong on the People's House. Also, despite protestations to the contrary, I do not believe that the enormous multibillion-dollar cost will be borne by the president's billionaire supporters. I believe it will come from my tax money. I VOCIFEROUSLY PROTEST the use of

public tax dollars which could and should be better spent on health care, education, child care and community infrastructure improvement.

Name: Neil Hoerstman

Date: March 2, 2026 11:45:17 am

Oversized for the historic nature of the building. Too closely resembles Trump's oversized ego.

Thanks.

Neil

Name: Joseph Koestner

Date: March 2, 2026 11:45:38 am

I object to the scale of the proposed addition and how the current proposal negatively impacts the visual importance of the White House and its relationship to other buildings and perspectives.

Dr. Joe Koestner

St. Louis, MO

Name: Carol Garnett

Date: March 2, 2026 11:46:11 am

The East Wing of the White House was demolished illegally in order to build a massive ballroom. This ballroom does not fit in with our White House and I am strongly opposed to it being built. It is unnecessary and will detract from the beauty of the people's house. It should not be built.

Name: Charles Mccullagh

Date: March 2, 2026 11:46:22 am

How much is this really going to cost us.

SHOW ME THE MONEY!

Name: Erin Anheier

Date: March 2, 2026 11:46:29 am

The proposed ball room addition will overwhelm the White House. It is too large and too tall. It will also disrupt the historical street and landscape plans. The White House is a symbol of our democracy. Its aesthetic values, including that of the landscape, should be maintained in recognition of the longevity of our Country. Please honor the intentions of our ancestors and do not allow the new ballroom to destroy the beauty of the White House and its grounds.

Name: Matthew Miller

Date: March 2, 2026 11:46:50 am

I oppose to the White House ballroom project, a \$400 million, 89,000-square-foot expansion aimed at replacing the East Wing, is driven by concerns over the destruction of historic structures, the project's scale, and bypassing standard review processes. Polls show 56–58% of Americans oppose the project.

Key points:

*Destruction of History: The project involved demolishing the historic East Wing, which previously housed the First Lady's office.

*Bypassed Processes: Critics, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, argue the project moved forward without proper public notice or review by independent, legally required agencies.

*Scale and Design: Experts and opponents criticize the structure as overly massive, threatening to overwhelm the aesthetic of the White House residence.

*Funding and Influence: I am concerned t about the reliance on private donors, with critics questioning if corporate donors—such as Amazon, Google, and Palantir—will receive special access.

*Legal Challenges: Despite lawsuits from preservationists, courts have so far declined to halt the construction, allowing the project to proceed with underground work while legal battles continue.

Name: Cathy Humphers Smith

Date: March 2, 2026 11:47:05 am

The National trust for historic preservation has guidelines which should be respected and implemented for honoring the history of our White House,building and any changes made dovetail with the modern requirements and needs of a space in which to entertain heads of state off the east wing of the White House. I encourage you to follow the guidelines provided by the national trust for historic preservation, which are there to protect remember and honor our history. Thank you.

Name: Suzanne Borozny

Date: March 2, 2026 11:47:42 am

With the economy so far down the toilet, it's not time to waste more money on a stupid ballroom. Start spending money on the people you are supposed to represent.

Name: Ha Ande

Date: March 2, 2026 11:48:18 am

Ballroom is ridiculous

Name: Frederick Stroiney

Date: March 2, 2026 11:48:39 am

I agree with the Comm Member who stated that the two wings must be hidden from view and balanced as far as height, lower than the White House roof, and should have good handycap access from all levels of access. I believe that the West Wing future "general" plans should be part of the East Wing process.

I also believe that this commission must be involved in any future Historical Building process before any demolition is started.

Fred Stroiney
Enfield CT

Name: Maria Spence

Date: March 2, 2026 11:48:52 am

Building a new ballroom at the White House is unnecessary and a bad use of money that could be going to people that need it! Lots of hurting voters that need grocery money, money for child care, rent, medical care and health care! This is an egregious situation!

Name: Jeremy Frost

Date: March 2, 2026 11:49:20 am

i have been involved in Historic preservation locally in CT (Chair of the Southport Conservancy), statewide (on the Board of Preservation CT) and am a supporter of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

They had a presentation given by David Parker and Bates - both as good as it gets when it comes to Historic preservation

- which addressed the concerns raised by the proposed plans for “modernizaiton”.

A structure sized to accommodate 1,000 people need not be intruding on Olmstead’s garden approach, blocking axis viewsapes or dwarfing the White House.

It could be smaller in scale and have the kitchen dug into the ground to reduce its height.

There is no reason to denigrate beautiful proportions, historic and wonderful viewpoints when so little need be done to preserve the wonderful relationship of this site and the careful consideration paid to the whole beginning with George Washington.

Please preserve our history with the suggested changes.

Thank you for all you do,

Jeremy Frost

Name: Darren Looker

Date: March 2, 2026 11:49:28 am

Public Comment Submission

To: National Capital Planning Commission

From: Darren Looker

Date: March 2, 2026

Subject: Opposition to Proposed “Trump Ballroom” at the White House Complex

Dear Commissioners,

I respectfully submit this comment in opposition to the proposed construction of the so-called “Trump Ballroom” within the White House complex.

The White House is a historic and symbolic institution representing the unity of our nation and the impartial administration of its executive functions. Any addition or renovation to this site must preserve that integrity, remain free of overt personal branding, and comply with longstanding preservation guidelines under the National Historic Preservation Act, the Federal Historic Preservation Policy, and NCPC design standards.

The “Trump Ballroom” proposal appears to introduce a politically associated name and use that could compromise the nonpartisan and civic character of the Executive Residence and its surrounding grounds. The proposal also raises concerns about adherence to principles of historic preservation, transparency in federal design review, and appropriate public use of a federally protected landmark.

I urge the Commission to:

Deny or defer approval of the “Trump Ballroom” proposal pending a full, public review;

Request a comprehensive historic impact assessment from the Commission of Fine Arts, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Park Service; and

Ensure all naming and design decisions uphold the White House’s role as a nonpartisan symbol of national governance—not a vehicle for individual recognition or branding.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the integrity and dignity of our nation’s landmarks.

Respectfully submitted,

Darren Looker

Name: Grace McGee

Date: March 2, 2026 11:49:36 am

The White House does not belong to the occupant but to the citizens of this great country; therefore it should not be torn down and rebuilt at the whim of the occupant, particularly outside of the process already legislated to GOVERN changes to these structures. The way we are experiencing this administration’s disregard of processes already established by Congress is of Pillage and plunder of what we hold as sacred. There are issues more urgent than building “the best ballroom in all history” such as healthcare for our most vulnerable citizens, reducing the cost of living or bringing wages

up to align with costs. Less than one percent of Americans will every attend an event in the Ballroom. The White house a historic mansion and should be maintained as such, not changing its character to fit the incumbent.

Name: Tim Keeton

Date: March 2, 2026 11:50:15 am

Our nation is celebrating 250 years this year. We are YOUNG, compared to Europe and most of Asia and Africa. And to think that one person, duly elected president, is able to on their own wave a hand and destroy a historic landmark, part of the History belonging to the American People, seems criminal. It certainly is short-sighted. It does not matter where the funds are coming from - the White House is the People's House, and not up for any renovations involving destruction of an entire wing of the historic building, without oversight. As this slow-motion disaster unfolds, we are watching the beginning of the death of the Republic.

So much of our history and day to day governing is by CUSTOM, and for 250 years that has been OK, but we obviously are entering a new age, and sadly we could stop this, but likely won't.

PLEASE see to it that there is at least SOME MODICUM of oversight, and for God's sake don't let Trump name the building after himself, or his wife, or kids, or the highest bidder, or whatever.

Name: Mary Lee Montfort

Date: March 2, 2026 11:50:32 am

Please do not allow this project to proceed without the NORMAL and required review and approval process. As a long-time resident of the DMV, I'm so concerned that our historic buildings have been allowed to be partially destroyed (East Wing) without oversight and approval, and that a ballroom of such massive proportions is being quickly rammed through. Please stop this project!

Name: Marilyn Gladstone

Date: March 2, 2026 11:50:40 am

The ballroom proposal is a product of a sick need for Trump to feel elevated at the expense of our history. It is shameful that it has not been shut down before this.

Name: Janelle Whalen

Date: March 2, 2026 11:51:16 am

Washington, DC, is what we all think of as "OUR capital city." It's historic. We don't want to change ANYTHING. Up keep maybe, but not the outward appearance. We want our ancestors to see it just like it is today. Building a ballroom, or an "Arch de Trump" is a TERRIBLE IDEA. Let Trump go outside the city to build his ballroom. He can hire buses, black SUVs, or whatever to take his guests out there. That's only if Virginia or Maryland wants it in their states. Let him build one in Florida. If he's remembered as the worst president ever, which he probably will be, we certainly don't want his name all over DC for future tourists to have to look at. AND BUILD BACK THE EAST WING NOW. WHILE HE'S STILL THERE. I'm disgusted that historians let that happen.

Name: Patrick Rafferty

Date: March 2, 2026 11:51:39 am

Hello,

I am very concerned that the East wing addition will overshadow the White House. Any changes to the Executive mansion should be very carefully considered by a variety of experts in architecture, historic preservation and the objective, non political staff members charged with protection our built heritage. I object to this project as presented. It has and will continue to harm the White House as a symbol of the people's house.

Please don't proceed any further.

Name: Bruce Marquis
Date: March 2, 2026 11:51:44 am

Hello -

I wish to register my objections to the planned White House East Wing Ballroom project. As a taxpayer, voter and an American citizen I object to this project for several reasons:

- 1) The East Wing demolition and new building plans did not follow standard procedures and historic practices for approval, but rather were rushed with demolition occurring with no notice.
- 2) I am not aware of any public needs assessment being published, projecting the number of uses per year the new ballroom would accommodate, justifying its construction.
- 3) The manner in which the project is being funded, 100% via unmonitored private gifts solicited by the President, is highly unusual and raises questions about the propriety of these gifts
- 4) Major changes to the White House - the symbolic "people's house" of our democracy should involve significant public input. This project is simply the whim of one person. A practice that goes against the tenets of what our government should stand for - representing and serving the people.
- 5) The size of the addition is out of scale with the main structure of the property, the White House itself, and is visually inappropriate for the site.

I thank the Commission for the opportunity to share my views about this project. I strongly recommend that the Commission reject the plans currently proposed and halt all further construction until a thorough review following all established protocols has taken place.

Sincerely,

Bruce Marquis
Roanoke, VA

Name: Melanie Rugg
Date: March 2, 2026 11:51:51 am

The 'White House Ballroom' project is another of trump's vanity projects. Tasteless, it will look like a tart's boudoir. As if plowing under the iconic Rose Garden wasn't horrific enough. It is called 'the People's House' for a reason. Shame on them for treating it like one of their rentals and not asking the people before they acted. Shame on all involved.

Name: Lynn Hanlin
Date: March 2, 2026 11:51:58 am

I believe the Trump plans for the new ball room are completely out of scale with the White House. The White House is arguably the most important buildings in Washington and it should be respected. I urge the commission to develop a sensitive plan, one that respects this historic place.

Name: Florrie Darwin
Date: March 2, 2026 11:52:02 am

Criticisms of the White House Ballroom Project:

Historical & Architectural Destruction: The project involves the demolition of the East Wing, which houses the First Lady's offices, to make way for a 90,000-square-foot, 1,000-person capacity venue. This destroys a significant, historic structure, with some critics even calling it an act of "vandalism".

Lack of Oversight and Transparency: The construction has proceeded with minimal public or architectural review, raising concerns about bypassing legal, and ethical standards. Over 99% of public feedback is reported to be against the project. The current composition of boards that need to give approval has been stacked with yes-people who won't dare to deny any whim of the president.

Aesthetic Concerns: Critics describe the proposed design as "gaudy" and "gilded," arguing it clashes with the traditional,

humble aesthetic of the White House, resembling Trump Tower or Mar-a-Lago rather than a federal building.

Ethical and Financial Concerns: The project is financed by private donors, including tech and crypto firms, raising suspicions about influence-peddling. While proponents argue it replaces the need for temporary event tents, opponents question spending \$300 million on a party venue.

Impact on Grounds: A National Park Service report indicated the annex would disrupt the historical continuity and design of the White House grounds.

Name: J. TURRIGIANO

Date: March 2, 2026 11:52:11 am

This section of the White House belongs to the PEOPLE not one dictator with a inferior ego complex..

Name: Bridget Cassidy

Date: March 2, 2026 11:52:35 am

First off, this project is illegal. There has not been any correct legal action taken to begin this project, if you can call it a project. It's more a destruction of our nations house.

I implore you to deny the current proposal. The proposal, as it stands, is entirely too large and out of proportion to our White House. The main focus should not be a "ballroom". This is not a party house. This is our government house. It should be respected and revered. Building this abomination of an illegal ballroom as it is currently proposed, will make the White House look like a toy house that is adjacent to a party room. This is Unacceptable and should not in any way shape or form be allowed.

Name: Harrison Goodall

Date: March 2, 2026 11:52:54 am

First: The Ballroom and East Wing of the White House is NOT a modernizing project. The East Wing was illegally demolished and the Ballroom has NO is only a box for rich people to play in. Further, the Ballroom does NOT COMPLY WITH NATIONAL PRESERVATION STANDARDS.

How could one of the most historically significant structures in Washington be demolished? Why wasn't it stopped immediately ?

As and Architectural Conservator, I am required to follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Historic Preservation. I do so with pride in being part of retaining the heritage of this great country. Under NO RATIONAL could changes to the cultural landscape.character or fabric be modified without review and approval.

DO NOT ALLOW FURTHER DISRESPECT FOR THE GUIDELINES FOR PRESERVING OUR CULTURE. This is your DUTY AND CHARGE. If not, it will be a message to owners and preservation professionals that standards and guidelines do not matter anymore.

Harrison Goodall

Name: Ruth Fraser

Date: March 2, 2026 11:52:56 am

I'll start with the East Wing. DJT should NEVER have torn it down. Period. Please do all that you can to prevent him from just making EGO monuments in DC and any other State. We do not need a grand ballroom when there are plenty of venues located in the DC area. I am sick that he put his name on the John F. Kennedy Center. His name should be removed. Actually, just remove it from any building. He must go thru proper procedure and authorization on his EGO projects. Say No to the Triumph Arch. He should be made to pay with his money for the rebuilding of the East Wing. I am tired of paying for his "projects" with my tax money. Sorry to rant but he must be stopped from defiling our Nations Monuments, Parks, Historic buildings and so much more I can't keep track off. Please stop him!
Thank you for your time.

Name: Toni Barton

Date: March 2, 2026 11:52:56 am

It is appalling what this *cough* president (sans cap deliberate) has done to our White House. The guilding and other lavishness that has been brought is an affront to all that is our democratic republic. He should be ordered to restore it to its original condition at his own expense. This *cough* man is filth and hopefully soon we will be free of him.

Name: Sally Everhardus

Date: March 2, 2026 11:53:14 am

My dream would be to reconstruct the east wing with modern technical improvements but leave it architecturally true to the original design. The proposed ballroom is gaudy, did not go through any established process for design/build and would be a visual blot on the landscape. It has no redeeming qualities other than those in the mind of the oligarch in charge.

Name: Molly Huddleston

Date: March 2, 2026 11:53:14 am

This is a comment regarding the proposed ballroom project. The plans as submitted are horrendous and take up entirely way too much space. It completely overwhelms the white house and the other buildings in the area. It does not fit with the rest of the architecture and includes an immense amount of wasted space! It can be resized and still accommodate a large number of people. The building as presented includes doors that don't go anywhere, rooms that are too high (19') and fake windows. Please resize this ballroom so that it can tastefully fit in with the adjoining buildings.

Name: Keli Fisher

Date: March 2, 2026 11:54:08 am

His vanity, gold plated atrocity of a ballroom is an affront to our country's history and the historical value of the East wing, that he DESTROYED without any oversight or agreement from Congress. I do not want my tax dollars going to such a disgusting show of wealth. RESTORE IT TO ORIGINAL and put the money that is left into restoring the understated glory of the wing that WAS.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Name: Linda Lee D Roberts

Date: March 2, 2026 11:54:09 am

The White House is the people's house, and the Eat Wing project should reflect and preserve our national history and the historical significance of the White Hoyse and important properties in Washington DC. It is unconscionable that the East Wing was torn down hastily and without due consideration and guidance from historic preservationists whose expertise is vital for such a property. Please take sufficient time and consideration to guide any project replacing that structure so that it is compatible with the current and historical use of the White Hoyse, and limit the scale of the proposed ballroom or any other project I. That location,, to keep it compatible with the size of the historic property. A huge ballroom, if needed at all, should be planned for a different site that does not compromise the historical integrity and significance of the Whit House property. Do not let the people down, especially in support of hasty and partisan vanity projects. Please listen to the people, and follow the expert advice of public servants who value our nations rich history.

Name: Sally Reinholdt

Date: March 2, 2026 11:54:26 am

I am totally against the construction of the ballroom. The East Wing was torn down without any input from the appropriate agencies/commissions. The proposed ballroom will dwarf the White House and despite the fact that the White House complex is supposed to be "the People's House", I sincerely doubt that the average person will ever see the inside

of the ballroom. The wealthy people who are supposedly funding it are merely trying to stay on the good side of the president. In my opinion the East Wing should be restored as it was before it was illegally torn down.

Name: Bob Bartlett

Date: March 2, 2026 11:54:34 am

This expansion of the ballroom sends a message to the world of American being a country of self-serving royalty. This money would be better used to create jobs and help struggling American families. I strongly oppose my taxes going to Trump's palace. Even if he personally financed the expansion it is not his house. The White House belongs to us. Not Trump.

Name: Gina Campoli

Date: March 2, 2026 11:54:43 am

The White House is a treasured symbol for our country. It is one of the most important buildings in US history (along with the Capitol and Supreme Court) that transcends any one administration. It was the stage on which countless historic events occurred. Its overall appearance - the design, size and scale - is held dear. Changes as drastic as those proposed - an oversized appendage that fails to fit within its context and destroys the building's symmetry - must be scrutinized by historic preservation experts. This has not occurred. One administration should not be allowed to desecrate a sacred American monument for the benefit of an ultra wealthy few.

Name: Angie Dixon

Date: March 2, 2026 11:54:48 am

Shame on you all! You destroy and destroy and destroy for no reason. You need to return the East Wing as it was for the history of this country. You claim you have donors paying for this project, but I don't believe it. You will take taxpayer funds to do the job even with donors. You destroyed the rose garden and you are destroying our remaining wild places, historic places and property that actually provide health and inspiration to all of us. You are corrupt shameful and you have no value for history or health or what truly supports us. You are an embarrassment to the office of the president and an embarrassment to this country as well as a felon, so shame on you!

Name: Lynn Snyder

Date: March 2, 2026 11:54:49 am

The current design for the East Wing of the White House is completely unacceptable. There are many reasons for this:

1. The White House is 'the people's house' and is a sacred symbol of the best of what the U.S. stands for. It is restrained, balanced, and beloved. The 'modernization' project as it stands now is a mockery of the original White House design and a grotesque statement of defamation. The entire District was designed to be balanced. The proposed design completely destroys that balance.
2. The current design violates history and the design intent of the District of Columbia because of its grossly out of proportion scaling; the scale can only be described as monstrous and completely distorts James Hoban's original White House plans. A ballroom has an accepted standard of 15 square feet per person. The proposed design exceeds this standard significantly; the square footage of the ballroom and the ceiling height would make it impossible to section off the area for smaller gatherings and makes the ballroom useless except for unimaginable gatherings.
3. It desecrates L'Enfant's beautiful plan for the District of Columbia by obliterating the axial vistas that visually connect the legislative branch (the Capitol) and the executive branch (the White House).
4. It violates Olmstead's beautiful landscaping design requiring reshaping and distortion of the drive around the White House.

The architecture of the proposed design disrupts the balance and symmetry of the White House and does not honor the

nomenclature of classical design such as the use of Corinthian columns on the ballroom instead of the White House's ionic ones. The potential for private donors to be paying for it further distorts the integrity of 'the people's house'.

I strongly object to building such a blatant attempt at defacing the decency the White House represents.

Name: David Pedersen

Date: March 2, 2026 11:55:24 am

I resent Trump tearing down a public building without the consent of the American people. Who asked for it and when was that decision delegated to the president. Stop this hideous project from proceeding.

Name: Hannah Lee

Date: March 2, 2026 11:55:27 am

The destruction of the East Wing, especially in the illegal manner that it was done, is obscene. The perpetrator, POTUS, should be charged with all the crimes this destruction graphically illustrates, convicted, and imprisoned. The entire area should be protected as a green area and meditation shrine where people can mourn the death of democracy. The only building should be a shrine to what has been lost, with images showing the history of the East Wing, detailed accounts of all the violations of law, his oath of office, his disregard for due process, and his demonstrated contempt for Americans that the crimes represent. There should be a small meditation area containing either NO religious iconography of any kind, OR some image or icon representing all the major religions practiced in the US, including the general category of "Indigenous."

This space and the building that once stood on it belongs to the American people, and no one else. It should be clearly marked as stolen, and protected as a place for mourning.

Name: Breeze Azrael

Date: March 2, 2026 11:55:29 am

Trump's corrupt ballroom is a waste of money and everyone knows he's not paying with his own money. I'm disappointed the republicans allowed him to run rampant destroying everything we the people hold dear. This project should not continue and Trump and his admin should be jailed.

Name: Dana Cochran

Date: March 2, 2026 11:55:40 am

The White House is the PEOPLE's house. It does not belong to one cretin. Destroying the East Wing without authority or permission was a desecration. Rebuilding a tasteless, classless monstrosity, also without authority or permission, would only serve to reward the illegal actions of a dictator.

Rebuild the East Wing in keeping with the architectural design and scale that would fit current structures and grounds. Reject the rantings and ravings of an incompetent and illegitimate occupant of the White House. He has ruined enough. Restore proper authority over the PEOPLE's property, and reinsert dignity and protocol into the decision making process.

Name: Thomas Huth

Date: March 2, 2026 11:55:41 am

I believe the proposed project is out of scale with the existing historic structure and will be a detrimental addition to one of the most historic and important structures in our nation's capitol. I am also affronted by the arbitrary process by which this project has proceeded thus far and strongly urge the commission to at least require further study of the proposal before approval.

Name: Lorraine Brochu

Date: March 2, 2026 11:56:10 am

Unilateral destruction of a historic place, without public input or Congressional oversight is criminal and should be stopped. This unnecessary atrocity is happening at a time when our population is hurting from prices soaring, and the king declares « let them eat cake. » I urge Congress to cease the wasteful expenditure on « modernization » of the East Wing.

Name: Sarah Locke

Date: March 2, 2026 11:56:12 am

A site that serves as a unifying symbol for the American people must be managed through a process that reflects democratic values. The exclusion of public and professional voices from the decision-making process prior to demolition of the East Wing represents a grave departure from established preservation standards and has eroded public trust. Now is the time to act to ensure that any further interventions on the site do not result in further unmitigated loss of the site's historic integrity.

The proposed replacement structure is fundamentally incompatible with the existing architectural hierarchy of the Executive Mansion. A structure of this magnitude—nearly doubling the square footage of the original White House—overwhelms the historic core and disrupts the delicate neoclassical proportions established by Hoban and McKim, Mead & White. The scale prioritizes contemporary utility over the site's primary significance as a historic cultural landscape.

We urge the Commission to defer final approval until a revised design—one that respects the scale and historic character of the Executive Mansion—is presented for genuine, open public deliberation.

Name: James Holm

Date: March 2, 2026 11:56:14 am

Hello,

I usually do not take time to write, but on this new ballroom issue, I do not understand the Democratic Parties objection to completing a project that needs to proceed. This area/ballroom has been needed for a long time, hosting visiting dignitaries in basically circus tents on grass during inclement weather, not to mention limited occupancy... The objection is nothing more than Democrats with TDS playing politics.

Thanks for allowing me to put in my two cents

Jim Holm

Name: Steve Morgan

Date: March 2, 2026 11:56:27 am

this is a comment

Name: Susanne Wean

Date: March 2, 2026 11:56:27 am

I understand the need for additional space at the White House to entertain and hold important functions. Our country has grown since the original design was conceived and thus the need to accommodate more people. However, the proposed design appears to be way out of scale with the surrounding buildings especially the White House itself. Retaining the original axis design of the White House in relation to the Capital is important. The new building will overshadow everything because the scale is too grand. The size of the portico which does not serve a purpose and has no access to the building could be reduced in height and made more useful for entertaining. The service areas and ballroom space for 1000 people could be reduced and the service area moved below grade so the building doesn't need to protrude into the Ellipse. The space allotted is more than necessary to accommodate 1000 persons. The connecting theatre and restroom are could be reduced in scale as well. This building will be here for years to come and needs to be carefully designed so that it is an asset and something that all Americans can be proud to view. It should not serve one person's ego and be too grand for the people's house.

Name: Olivia Gaddini

Date: March 2, 2026 11:56:37 am

The White House is the People's House. It is NOT the personal property of the President.

The current proposed project foot print is 90,000 square feet SF, including a 22,000 SF 1,000 person ballroom. The White House is 55,000 square feet (on multiple levels, not all on ground floor). Current capacity average for most State Department events in the West Wing is 140 people. The project is grossly out of scale to the White House. There are extreme concerns regarding massing, height, scale, proportionality and design harmony.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation provide clear federal guidance for construction projects affecting historic properties which have not been followed. New construction should be comparable with existing massing, size, scale, and architectural features which the project does not. These standards have guided preservation of the White House since the 1792 public design competition.

This project is not being a good Steward of a national icon of historical nature. The People's House represents the Republic and all that it stands for. It is historically intrinsic to the fabric of the American story.

Name: John Vett

Date: March 2, 2026 11:56:49 am

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,

The proposed addition to the White House, a 90,000-square-foot ballroom and East Wing replacement, represents a significant alteration to one of America's most iconic architectural landmarks. While functional needs for larger event spaces may exist, the project's scale and execution undermine the building's historical integrity and established preservation protocols.

The White House, designed by James Hoban in the late 18th century and refined through neoclassical additions over two centuries, derives its symbolic power from restrained elegance and proportional harmony. Its massing centers on the compact Executive Residence, with subordinate wings that maintain visual deference to the central pavilion. The current proposal, however, introduces a structure of comparable or greater footprint and height to the main house itself. Renderings depict a sprawling, ornate edifice that visually competes with rather than supports the original composition, disrupting the carefully calibrated hierarchy of forms that has defined the ensemble since the early 20th century.

Equally concerning is the apparent bypass of rigorous review processes. Major modifications to National Historic Landmarks typically require scrutiny by bodies such as the Commission of Fine Arts, National Capital Planning Commission, and adherence to the National Historic Preservation Act, including environmental assessments and public input. Proceeding with demolition and construction prior to full, transparent evaluations sets a dangerous precedent, prioritizing expediency over stewardship.

A more modest intervention—perhaps an adaptive reuse or smaller annex—could address programmatic needs without overshadowing the historic core. Respecting context demands restraint, not aggrandizement. The White House endures as a symbol of democratic continuity precisely because it has evolved thoughtfully, not through outsized gestures that diminish its timeless dignity.

Name: Susan Sutton

Date: March 2, 2026 11:57:33 am

The changes to the White House are disgraceful, self-indulgent, and self-aggrandizing. They do not benefit the American people; in fact they are an embarrassment to the American people.

As I understand it, the process has disrespected, if not ignored, standard procedures for approval.

I regret and disapprove of the project.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

Name: Judith Rubin

Date: March 2, 2026 11:58:08 am

How dare he. There should be Commission findings to stop this travesty.

Name: Judy Frank

Date: March 2, 2026 11:59:06 am

The Ballroom is TOO BIG. It dwarfs the White House. It will be extremely costly to dismantle.

The Ballroom is larger than needed, with no provision for reducing the interior size when smaller groups are in attendance. The huge volume blocks visual access to the Capitol. The service departments could be lower to reduce overall above grade mass. Judy

Name: Eithne Clarke

Date: March 2, 2026 11:59:11 am

Shame on President Trump and his "MINIONS" who are too cowardly to push back on the Ballroom project that's a waste of money!

I have decided that I will no longer support "Trumpty Dumpty" and will be marching in every "No Kings" parade and demonstration there is in my home area of Orlando, Florida!!!!

Name: Randall Bos

Date: March 2, 2026 11:59:15 am

I believe it was questionably justified to demolish the east wing in the first place but having done so I believe it is necessary to replace it with something keeping with the traditional look and use of that wing. It seems like destroying the east wing and making a questionable ballroom in its place seems like yet another attack on women. Where is the 1st spouse/partner supposed to reside and have offices? Overall I feel strongly this rebuild should reflect national interests and not the interest of a single person.

Name: Patrick Drake

Date: March 2, 2026 11:59:53 am

The East Wing of the White House is not simply functional space; it is part of a living historic complex that carries architectural, cultural, and civic significance. Any proposed ballroom should be designed with disciplined restraint and a clear respect for the scale, materials, and proportions of the existing White House and the former East Wing that once stood on the site.

The White House is defined by balance, symmetry, and classical understatement. A new structure should follow that tradition rather than compete with it. The goal should be continuity, not spectacle. Materials, massing, rooflines, fenestration, and exterior detailing should harmonize with the historic fabric of the Executive Mansion and the remaining East Wing, avoiding oversized forms, excessive ornamentation, or contemporary elements that would read as visually dominant or discordant.

This is a rare opportunity to reinforce the architectural coherence of one of the nation's most important landmarks. The design should prioritize durability, dignity, and contextual sensitivity over novelty. A well-executed addition can meet functional needs while remaining subordinate to, and respectful of, the historic structure it serves.

I encourage the Commission to insist on a design that reflects the White House's longstanding architectural language, measured, classical, and refined, so that the addition enhances the campus rather than distracts from it.

Name: Valeria Scott

Date: March 2, 2026 12:00:20 pm

I am requesting that the ballroom be 38% smaller in scale and have a functional portico for seating and entrances. Follow the requirements to keep the buildings congruent in the classical architecture style and size. Build the extension to match the existing white house.

Name: Tanya Smart

Date: March 2, 2026 12:00:31 pm

The demolition of the beautiful and historic East Wing of the White House was a direct insult to the citizens of the United States who own the building. The current occupant is temporary and should not be empowered to substantially change the character or footprint of the historic building. Unfortunately, the demolition has already occurred and happened without public comment or input but the rebuilding should not exacerbate the tragedy. The proposed building of a monstrously sized (90,000 square foot) ballroom cannot be permitted. Any addition must respect the historic scale and design of the White House. This proposed ballroom does not respect the historic scale or design of the White House. Rebuilding the East Wing should be done, but it must be compatible in scale and must preserve the character of the original structure.

Name: David Wells

Date: March 2, 2026 12:00:39 pm

We, as a country, do not need a 90,000 sq ft ballroom. There are plenty of public spaces available in DC in which to consort with public officials and celebrants from around the world. It is a waste of taxpayer dollars.

I have taken several architecture courses in my life in conservative states. I have a BFA in Art and a Master's in Urban Planning. I know good architecture, and this is NOT good architecture. The design presented is pretentious, outdated, oversized, and most of all, unnecessary. I believe it was selfish and heinous for the President to tear down existing structures and commence such a project - with his name attached to it (which is the ultimate in egotistical reach) - without express authority of the bicameral congress, with input from the public. And to propose such a monstrosity as a "public need" is equally vile.

We do not need ANY new ballroom, especially not a mal-proportioned, ego-driven throwback to an architectural style unbefitting anything being deemed a "modernization." The proposed ballroom overshadows the White House, and it should not. It is poorly designed and thoughtlessly large... a disgusting blight about to be approved because everyone is afraid of the President's ire.

It should NOT be built. Period.

Name: Randell Norton

Date: March 2, 2026 12:00:39 pm

The White House is an iconic structure that has great meaning for every American, but particularly for those of us in the DC area. Adding a "wing" that will dwarf the house itself is a travesty. Whatever need there may be for very occasional state dinners or large events at the White House does not come close to outweighing the architectural disaster - and the unnecessary expense - that this addition would entail. It has been argued that having to have large events in tents is somehow undignified. I would argue that having such events in a tent captures the American spirit far better than the proposed architectural monstrosity. American presidents have somehow managed to have significant and dignified events for many years without complaint or criticism from foreign heads of state. Please do not abandon this tradition in favor of a construction that will permanently mar the White House.

Name: Brenda Murphy

Date: March 2, 2026 12:00:55 pm

This is an ill advised & ill conceived vanity project.

Americans are suffering. The amateur fiddling, in DC, while the USA burns is reprehensible.

Name: Fran Cilella

Date: March 2, 2026 12:00:59 pm

I urge you to carefully consider the merits, or lack of merit in the East Wing Modernization Project. While the need for modernization is real, careful consideration must be taken to preserve any remaining historical artifacts of what was so carelessly razed to the ground already. Additionally, a 90,000 square foot ballroom as currently planned is excessive and negatively impacts the aesthetics of The White House. It serves only to prop up the ego of the current president and given his propensity for excessive and gawdy decor, it is likely to end up as a historical embarrassment that cannot easily be erased.

Additionally, the American people are suffering from ever increasingly expensive every day costs. The optics do not look good for this administration. Anything that is built to replace the old East Wing needs to be simple and elegant with an eye to minimizing the use of tax payer dollars and design must reflect the greatness of this entire nation - its history and its diversity- and it must not end up as an ode to failing narcissist.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Name: Betty A Clark

Date: March 2, 2026 12:01:05 pm

We don't need a ballroom. Rebuild the wing to its original use only modernize it tastefully

Name: Joseph Schwab

Date: March 2, 2026 12:01:11 pm

CANCEL THIS WASTEFUL PROJECT!
RESTORE THE EAST WING TO ITS PREVIOUS CONFIGURATION!

Name: David Alonso

Date: March 2, 2026 12:01:33 pm

The “ Ballroom “ currently sized to be twice the area of the White House should not be allowed ! The scale planned will be a scar on the White House , grotesque in size . The East Wing should never have been destroyed, an absolute travesty ! And now the planned scale of the Ballroom rivals this destruction ! Scale this monster down !!

Name: Gary Wallace

Date: March 2, 2026 12:02:00 pm

What the president is doing is repulsive. The only thing bigger than this idiotic ballroom is the ego of Trump: not to mention his poor taste.

Name: Richard Cowan

Date: March 2, 2026 12:02:23 pm

Ballroom is way too big for the overall structure.

Name: Linda Stewart-Oaten

Date: March 2, 2026 12:02:38 pm

It was never made clear that this extensive, expensive and extravagant project was intended to be useful, important or necessary in the running of our country. Very few average American citizens will ever have the opportunity to behold the proposed overwrought splendor, much less waltz across those vast floors. Aside from that, the plans themselves really don't make a lot of sense. Odd elevations, fake doors, a portico with no discernible purpose. If anyone wants that sort of thing, I suggest a tour of the Winchester Mystery House, in California.

It's tragic, shameful and infuriating that all the history and depth of meaning contained in this, The People's House, are being ripped apart to create a monument to one man's inflated ego.

Name: Walt Coleman

Date: March 2, 2026 12:02:56 pm

I want to encourage the consideration of the historical significance of the original White House structure and its connection to the US Capital. Previous expansions of White House stayed true to this.

The size of the ballroom and its elements that serve no purpose do not reflect the legacy of what the White House was supposed to represent. The President is the people's representative not an individual to be feted and regaled in an excessively sized ballroom.

The White House is a humble building that symbolizes America as an example to the world that its citizens decide the direction of the country not an all powerful leader living in a palace.

Name: Jeanne Finstein

Date: March 2, 2026 12:02:58 pm

Please, please reconsider the design for the new ballroom. The current plan shows a very large building that is out of proportion to the original, historic design and would destroy the symmetry of the complex. Additionally, the proposed building would disrupt one sightline to the White House and would require a realignment of the circular drive in front. Please consider other options.

Name: Margaret Fortier

Date: March 2, 2026 12:03:09 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I am very concerned about the impact the East Wing Modernization Project will have on the Capitol area. The proposed design threatens to disrupt the graceful axial connection established by L'Enfant. Additionally, it fails to consider the historic value of the existing buildings and landscapes.

Our Capitol belongs to the American people.

I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law. Allowing this project to proceed without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Nancy Bell

Date: March 2, 2026 12:03:21 pm

The design of the proposed ballroom needs to be redrawn so that it does not completely overwhelm the White House. The proposed ballroom is significantly out of scale with the White House and does not respect the country's most important residence. The historic significance of the White House can not be overstated and it should be considered above any new construction, regardless of who is demanding the new construction. This house, after all, belongs to all Americans, not to one individual or political party. I believe that a ballroom can be designed to blend with and complement "our house," but should not overshadow it.

Name: Suzanne Lamborn

Date: March 2, 2026 12:03:40 pm

How dare Trump think he can change any historic buildings, He is not KING. How do we get this message to him?

Date: March 2, 2026 12:03:41 pm

The President, his staff, his donors and supporters, indeed everyone who is involved in this crime must be held accountable to the fullest extent of civil and criminal law.

Date: March 2, 2026 12:03:43 pm

While I agree, the cat's out of the bag with the rushed demolition of the East Wing and now construction is necessary, please pull back the scale of the proposed East addition and please respect that the People's House should ALWAYS be the dominant structure on the White House grounds.

Joseph F. Munroe
Interiors Architect

Date: March 2, 2026 12:04:10 pm

Trump belongs in prison for destruction of east wing and desecration of the entire White House historic site, thus far. He is a vulgarian who must be controlled, never enabled. If I did millions of dollars of damage to the White House, I'd be in prison. That's where he needs to be.

[illegible]

Date: March 2, 2026 12:04:17 pm

Millions of citizens in our beautiful country are starving and don't know where their next meal is coming from and thousands of veterans don't have a roof over their heads after fighting for their country. The money that's being used or donated for a 400 million dollar BALLROOM could help all these people. T**** shouldn't be ashamed of this

Name: Marlene Hockbein

Date: March 2, 2026 12:04:26 pm

The ballroom is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard of. Donald Trump is trying to recreate the White House, our house, into another tacky image of Mar a Lago. If anything, the Trump family should be compelled to rebuild and replace everything they have torn down or ruined , including the "gold" ornaments placed all over the Oval Office and other public places in the White House.

Name: Aven Wright McIntosh Aven Wright McIntosh

Date: March 2, 2026 12:04:29 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review.

It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history.

I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design.

No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Gwen Baxter

Date: March 2, 2026 12:04:54 pm

I strongly object to the construction of massive ballroom which would dwarf the Whit House. I support an addition appropriately to the existing structure. Let's not waste taxpayers dollars on a monument which would glorify the current president but keep a design which is consistent in size and style with what is in place. Thank you.

Name: Julie Wilson

Date: March 2, 2026 12:04:58 pm

I do not want this project. He never should have torn down the East Wing. It is the people's house not his house. The ballroom is way too big for the space and will be tacky as hell. The White House has survived this long without a ballroom. The Pedo in Chief will be using it for personal reason. I hope he passes away before he sees the completion of it. May he rot in hell!!!

Name: Michele Ryan

Date: March 2, 2026 12:06:57 pm

Dear members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

Thank you for your service and for your important consideration of the White House East Wing Renovation Project. I oppose the project as it is proposed. This project should transcend partisan politics and provide the American public with a practical solution to hosting presidential events, while respecting the historic view corridors and scale and scope in relation to the current White House configuration. Please reduce the massing by about 40% to maintain these architectural elements as recommended by the National Trust experts and consider their prudent recommendations that will make the interior space more usable and efficient. I do oppose the ornate columns and window details and believe these should be revised in concert with the neoclassical elements of the White House. Also, I believe the driveway symmetry should be maintained.

Thank you,

Michele Ryan
American Patriot

Name: John Gregory

Date: March 2, 2026 12:07:42 pm

This is a travesty to have the most sacred of houses in the United States so blatantly and without permission or authorization destroyed to seemingly appease the ego of a single individual. I have sat on my local historic commission for nearly 20 years. Our historic ordinance would not have allowed this to go forward without a hearings, site visits, our recommendation and a final review by our Board of Supervisors. To think that the most important building in the United States does not get the respect, due diligence and procedural due process afforded a late 1800's barn in rural Chester County, PA, is astounding and disheartening. Again, why should a single individual be above the law and not have to comply with the safeguards in place to protect such important historic structures. Did he proclaim the absence of action to be a national emergency? As Americans we are being robbed of the right to due representation in opposing this action. I hope that the Commission please my reasoned objection to allowing this to take place.

Name: Myrna Sullivan

Date: March 2, 2026 12:08:30 pm

It is HORRIBLE that any president can destroy any part of the White House. The Rose Garden is gone, and it looks like some cheap outdoor area that you find outside of the US.

This president wants his way on everything and his name of everything.

IF THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE DON'T SPEAK UP, THERE WONT BE ANYTHING LEFT IN WASHINGTON DC WHEN THE PRESIDENT LEAVES OFFICE.

Name: LAKEIA Madison

Date: March 2, 2026 12:08:37 pm

I strongly oppose the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House. Such a massive expansion risks undermining the historical integrity and architectural significance of this national landmark. The scale of this project seems excessive, environmentally impactful, and out of proportion with surrounding structures. Public input is essential for projects of this magnitude, and I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to carefully consider preservation, sustainability, and community concerns before moving forward.

Name: Kathryn Oti

Date: March 2, 2026 12:08:50 pm

The tearing down of our beloved East Wing with zero planning and/or input from the National Trust or our nation's great Architectural historians is a total disgrace. It should never have happened the way it did. I have serious doubts about the care with which this administration will take to insure historic continuity for the new Wing. The fact that it is slated to be 90,000 square feet and almost 3 times the size of the existing West Wing is a travesty in itself! This administration seems to have little regard for the traditions of our nation, the sanctity of our historic properties or appropriateness of any kind. Furthermore, the expense of this garish addition is utterly disgusting at a time when healthcare costs, housing and basic necessities are out of reach and the administration had no problem cutting funding for hungry children both at home and around the globe. With all the atrocities this administration has committed I suppose the tearing down of buildings and replacing them with giant monstrosities pales in comparison.

Name: Elizabeth Yount

Date: March 2, 2026 12:09:26 pm

The destruction of the East Wing of the White House without meaningful public input represents a failure of stewardship and democratic process. The ballroom project should be stopped immediately until all relevant organizations, preservation authorities, and the American public are given a genuine opportunity to be heard. Our national heritage does not belong to any one administration—it belongs to the people.

Name: Dale Eichholz

Date: March 2, 2026 12:09:36 pm

I think it is disgusting that one man regardless of his position is doing whatever he wants to do including demolishing current buildings at the White House or his design to put in his face on some mountain top or changing names of public places that the American people regard as sacred at his whim--a power seeking sick and mentally deranged individual who apparently does not have any self-confidence so he uses his position to gain that which he wants! I believe this man is unfit to be the President of these United States.

Name: robert Woolard

Date: March 2, 2026 12:10:04 pm

The destruction of the East Wing was a criminal act, a defacement of public property. The East Wing itself should be rebuilt as a replica. The East Wing has ties to the 1902 Roosevelt renovations and the 1942 expansion during World War II.

The proposed massive 90,000-square-foot ballroom is an abomination unwanted by the citizens. As a mimic of a Trump golf course venue it will dwarf the residence itself. The classical design of McKim, Mead & White is self sufficient.

Replacing the East Wing, the "heart" of the White House is a "desecration of national heritage"!

The project is illegal, criminal for bypassing the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). Unlike previous renovations, such as the Truman reconstruction, Trump has not followed rigorous federal standards, this construction began before receiving official approvals or conducting public reviews.

The Whitehouse is the "People's House" not a private development or personal property to be altered at will.

The ballroom's scale—1,000 guests—all paying \$1M each to kowtow to Trump is disgusting and contradicts American values. The Whitehouse is a modest executive residence to be distinct from opulent dictatorships and monarchies who build castles as tributes to themselves. Trump's privately funded, \$300 million "gilded stage" should be built any Trump Club of his choice, but not our Whitehouse. We know the donations are a tool for pay-to-play influence. The gilded stage once built will be a monument to the complete lack of civic responsibility and inherent corruption of Trump. The American presidency will outlive Trump and does not need a shrine to corruption replacing the East Wing of the Whitehouse.

If this abomination is built it will need to be removed for all of the reasons listed above..

Name: Rob Peterson

Date: March 2, 2026 12:10:08 pm

I feel the size and scope of the East Wing Project (Ballroom) is much too large and will detract from the "People House" AKA The Whitehouse. A project half that size -500 people-may be acceptable. Also I believe Congress should have some input with regards to any alterations to the White House or any other government building.

Name: Alan Gullette

Date: March 2, 2026 12:10:25 pm

I think that having a Ballroom at the White House is a terrible idea! It only caters to the rich and invites corruption, while it diminishes the reputation of the White House as "the people's house" and a democratic institution that serves The People.

Instead, the East Wing should be rebuilt, modernized, and kept within the size framework of the original East Wing, which should never have been destroyed -- at least not without input from the appropriate historical/preservation societies and committees.

I repeat, having a glorified Ballroom is a terrible idea!

Name: Adrienne Doherty

Date: March 2, 2026 12:12:23 pm

To whom it may concern,

The many current issues swirling around the historical and publicly owned United States White House and its supporting structures and grounds are a cause for grave concern.

The facts in the matter are fraught and unprecedented. Whether the building has been found to need structural and mechanical upgrades or not.

The White House is a National Historic Landmark and National Park, owned by the American people and stewarded by the National Park Service. It has been home to our presidents since 1800 and is perhaps the most significant historic site in the United States. Before nationally significant places are permanently altered, the public deserves an opportunity to be heard and to help shape decisions that affect our shared national heritage.

This is a legally required federal review process, and public participation is essential. Major construction projects in Washington, D.C. must be reviewed by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and receive congressional approval. These safeguards exist to ensure transparency, accountability, and meaningful public input.

What the current administration has illegally done by their willfully ignoring the long standing proscribed processes is tantamount to Grand Larceny.

The current administration and its various oversight board appointees must cease and desist any further desecration / destruction of publicly owned property, and be taken to task for their wanton disregard the American people and their hard won democratic processes.

Name: Kelsey Ayers

Date: March 2, 2026 12:12:46 pm

Please do not allow this President's vanity project to destroy the people's house. This building represents more than just being a place to house offices, it's representative of American ideals. This President does not care for history and only wants to create a tacky, gold-plated memorial to himself. It's a disgrace, and frankly, it's incredibly ugly.

Name: Deborah Alexander

Date: March 2, 2026 12:13:16 pm

I am commenting on the building of a 90,000 feet ballroom that President Trump wants to build after removing the East Wing of the White House without consulting the NCPC. This ballroom is an unnecessary addition and expenditure even if it's privately funded. It will destroy the symmetry of the White House. This President is building yet another monument to himself. That is much too large and will destroy the simple elegance of the White House given how much gold has been added. He destroyed what was and could be again the office of the First Lady.

Name: Robert Bell

Date: March 2, 2026 12:13:20 pm

The out of scale, massive, ugly, Trump vanity project, the Trump Ballroom project is absolutely not needed by the "people". The design is basically a lie, just like Trump. It is shocking that there is an architect and engineer willing to prostrate themselves to participate in the design of this monstrosity. I have seen the presentation, available to the public at long last. DO NOT FIND WAYS TO MODIFY THE PROJECT SO IT IS "MORE ACCEPTABLE". JUST KILL IT. IT IS NOT NEEDED. IT'S A WASTE OF RESOURCES TO BUILD.

I am an 87 year old practicing architect, graduated from the Cornell U. College of Architecture, Art & Planning in 1961. I worked for Harry Weese and Assoc. for 6 years, when Weese and his team designed the D.C. Subway stations. The designs were reviewed by the Fine Arts Commission, modified, and resulted in the magnificent designs which were built.

Just who decided a new, larger (humongous) "Ballroom" was needed? This project must be stopped and never considered again.

Name: Marcia Friedlander

Date: March 2, 2026 12:13:51 pm

THE FACT THAT A WING OF THE WHITEHOUSE HAS BEEN DESTROYED TO BUILD A BALLROOM FOR THE MANIACAL , SELF-LOVING JERK IN THE WHITEHOUSE IS DISGUSTING. A BALLROOM WASN'T NEEDED IN THE PAST AND IS NOT NEEDED NOW. IT'S A "f" ING WASTE OF MONEY AND THE RUINATION OF A BUILDING THAT'S BEEN STANDING AS IS FOR MANY YEARS.

THE FACT THAT DJT DESTROYED THE ROSE GARDEN IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE..

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE IMPEACHED NOW!!!!!!!!!!

Name: John Empfield

Date: March 2, 2026 12:13:53 pm

What the Current Resident has done to the Whitehouse is appalling, tearing down the East Wing, a building full of history and meaning, was illegal. All changes to the Peoples House should be on hold until fully reviewed and vetted.

Name: Kathryn Christopher

Date: March 2, 2026 12:14:08 pm

No vanity project should've allowed without prior authorization! The demolition of the historic East Wing and the construction of the abomination called the Ballroom should only be done under close scrutiny by NPS, The Historic Trust, and Congress. Our tax dollars would be willingly spent to "renovate and preserve" as in the past. Adding extra "ballroom" and the destruction of the People's House is mind boggling.

Name: Sean Stucker

Date: March 2, 2026 12:14:34 pm

The idea that this is classified as a "Modernization project" is laughable, and the fact that it is only in the midst of a comment period because Trump illegally bypassed a series of standards that I regularly follow for something as simple as state road bridge replacement is a perfect illustration of the state of our union. One set of rules for Trump (which shift upon a whim), and one set of rules for everyone else.

Having said that, the plans are just plain bad and stupid, and I am amazed that any architect would pen his or her name to such design drivel. If it is built - along with arch de'drump - it will be an eyesore on our nations capitol, and it will likely be torn down by a successive administration - or perhaps Modernized! - which will once again be a perfect encapsulation of the waste of time, energy, and money that most of this guy's ideas yield. Oh yeah, and will keep our nation divided, because that's how he likes it.

Name: Sharon Levitan

Date: March 2, 2026 12:14:35 pm

As someone who worked in construction, I do not understand why this White House Ballroom is so large. How many balls are going to be held in this room? There are not enough events held to warrant this room being designed for a single purpose alone. The cost (which is too expensive for what this is) of building a limited use room seems wasteful and actually stupid. Plus, why is it so large in general? It does not balance the appearance of the White House structure. It is not impossible to design for function and style which is lacking in this proposal.

Name: Robert Snook

Date: March 2, 2026 12:15:08 pm

I am opposed to the Trump plan regarding changing a Ball Room! The current Ballroom should not be changed!

Name: Charles Ahlberg
Date: March 2, 2026 12:15:10 pm

What a destruction of the history of the White House!!!

Name: Tom Whitaker
Date: March 2, 2026 12:15:13 pm

I am writing to oppose approval of the "East Wing Modernization Project." It is entirely out of scale with the White House, which is primarily meant to serve as the official residence and office of the President--not a convention center the size of a hockey rink. If there was a genuine need for a larger event space within the White House complex, there should have been a proper study done to evaluate suitable locations and a design that was compatible with the existing White House building and the EEOB. To remove the entire East Wing with no prior review or approval by any of the agencies charged with overseeing changes to our most cherished public buildings was a crime, and it should not be rewarded with a blanket approval for anything the President wants to build. This goes against the most basic principles of American democracy. The White House is not the President's private palace to do with as he pleases.

Please send this proposal back to the White House for a complete redesign, including reconstruction of the more notable elements of the East Wing that were demolished.

Thank you.

Name: Maureen Serbu
Date: March 2, 2026 12:15:22 pm

I am absolutely opposed to this project. The demolition of the East Wing was done in haste and without following procedures and protocol. This property does not belong to the inhabitant of the White House and proper due diligence was not performed nor submitted for public comment prior to the demolition.

The proposed construction is not within the scope and historical significance of the well-planned designs of the White House property, including the landscaping by Olmstead and the placement of buildings in line with the Capitol to maintain beauty and dignity.

I do not support this proposal for a "ballroom." I do not support the secrecy with which this has taken place and I want and expect full disclosure of any bunkers and other secure areas that are to be "hidden" from the public.

Name: Kim Kensler-Prager
Date: March 2, 2026 12:17:29 pm

President Trump doesn't need a ballroom. He is only thinking about his narcissistic self. Destroying the East wing just grieves me to no end. Stop it now!

Name: David Kane
Date: March 2, 2026 12:18:54 pm

Regarding the East Wing Ballroom. It is appallingly tacky, out of scale to the rest of the structure, disrespectful to the original architecture, and unnecessary. That said Trump will build whatever he wants. We need to start thinking about tear down once he is gone and replacement with something suitable, including a complete restoration of the original East Wing.

Name: Eileene Gillson
Date: March 2, 2026 12:20:05 pm

The symbols of our heritage must be protected. Please take the steps needed to put a stop to the further destruction of our national significant sites.

Name: Richard Crevelt

Date: March 2, 2026 12:20:13 pm

This action is an so wrong! First; to begin a project and demolish historical building without proper approval is beyond wrongful authority by anyone not alone a president of the United States. Besides not following any sense of the law or process why are we investing millions of dollars for a Ballroom when millions of people can't put food on their table. If you tell me that the costs to construct this Ballroom is by private donations then that is even more wrong. Enough Quid pro quo. This democracy should not be bought.

Name: Julia Welbon

Date: March 2, 2026 12:20:13 pm

It is outrageous and unthinkable that President Trump would demolish the East Wing of the White House without securing the proper clearances. Just another dictatorial move that should be repulsed by our citizenry.

Name: Misty Iwatsu

Date: March 2, 2026 12:20:29 pm

This ballroom does not conform to the architectural design standards set by the original plans for the "people's house". This project needs to be reduced by at least 75% to keep the historical integrity of what our founders had envisioned set forth by historic documents.

This is not ADA compliant and having false portico's and false entrances does nothing to contribute to the function of the building. The sizes of each floor are exponentially expanded for no inherent reason.

The view from the White House to the capital must not be impeded as it was intended symbolically for the legislative branch, the executive branch , and the judicial branch to work together for checks and balances.

These plans as it should be rejected.

Name: Louise Cort

Date: March 2, 2026 12:20:31 pm

The title for this project is shamefully misleading: the east wing is being destroyed, replaced by a grossly oversized ballroom. This project never received proper evaluation by knowledgeable experts. It glorifies the ego of a single person. Regardless of the source of the funding, this project should not proceed.

Name: Lynn Burtner

Date: March 2, 2026 12:21:40 pm

Please reject the current proposal for the reconstruction of the White House East Wing. It is an inappropriately sized monstrosity that does not meet the needs of the people in either purpose or esthetics. It will alter the landscape of the people's house beyond recognition, sacrificing all historic references.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynn Burtner

Name: Daniel Holeva

Date: March 2, 2026 12:21:42 pm

The "East Wing Modernization Project" has not been a project as much as a destructive act by the President of the United

States.

All actions by this Whitehouse Administration should be immediately ceased, and the National Capital Planning Commission should take over the rescue of the property before any other renovations or the building of the ballroom begins.

This is a tragedy on all levels and from any perspective.

Daniel H. Holeva

Name: Rodney Sato

Date: March 2, 2026 12:22:08 pm

I agree with Preservationists and some lawmakers that the historic significance of the East Wing requires public input and Congressional oversight to prevent irreversible damage to a national landmark.

I object to the likelihood that citizens will pay in taxes the cost of design and construction the new subsurface bunker / command post , which without doubt Congress have not discussed and should

Name: Geoffrey Darby

Date: March 2, 2026 12:23:53 pm

I don't believe the proposed addition conforms with Dept of Interior guidelines for additions to historic structures. The size of the new construction should not overpower the site or dramatically alter the character of the lot.

The proposed structure should be reduced in scale to conform with Dept of Interior guidelines.

Name: Dean Ibsen

Date: March 2, 2026 12:24:08 pm

I object to the entire, fast-tracked process, which resulted in the demolition of the east wing with no review, and the proposed construction of a ballroom with limited and biased review. The size and massing of the ballroom will overwhelm the White House complex and interrupt the view of the White House from the Capitol. The proposed size of the structure exceeds the industry standards for a facility of this type. The south portico leads to nowhere. As a taxpayer, I have to presume that the funds of citizens will ultimately be required for maintenance of this structure and that those donating funds for its construction will receive financial and policy benefits from their cronies in this administration. I believe the entire project should be tabled if not cancelled.

Name: Elizabeth Rutz

Date: March 2, 2026 12:24:11 pm

Thank you for taking our public comment on all of these important issues. In terms of the East Wing Modernization Project, I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project. This White House project was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

As a historian in Michigan I see the reverence citizens have for our White House. We know the changes it has gone through over its 226 years of presidential residents. The demolition of the East Wing is a shame and not what anyone's time and resources should be going to. Please restore the American White House to its former design, and keep all of this within framework of our own law of the land. Thank you for taking my comments.

Name: Denise Curry

Date: March 2, 2026 12:24:14 pm

Do not let Trump further turn the rose garden into a ballroom. We the people own the White House. Congress should stop it now!!! I don't know why congress did not stop the demolition of half of it. Make Trump pay to put the rose garden back. NO BALLROOM

Sincerely,
Denise Curry

Name: Robert Jansen

Date: March 2, 2026 12:24:44 pm

Stop the contruction of the White House ballroom completely, and restore the East WIng.

Nothing less is acceptable.

Name: Mitch Lashman

Date: March 2, 2026 12:25:26 pm

The size and scale of the proposed "ballroom" addition to the White House is completely inappropriate. There are certainly ways to accommodate a larger space to host events without overwhelming the scale and size of the historic White House. I strongly urge you to reject any renovations or addition to the existing White House that will diminish the grandeur of the existing structure. This is the peoples house and no destruction or renovation should have been initiated without review and approval!

Name: Deborah O'Connor

Date: March 2, 2026 12:25:32 pm

I wish that hey would rebuild the white house they way that it was. I don't want the new ball room.

Name: Catherine Motycka

Date: March 2, 2026 12:25:49 pm

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the modernization of the East Wing of the White House. Firstly, it is the prevue of Congress to authorize any changes to the White House. This administration, specifically President Trump, has skirted the legislative steps that are in place for any alterations of the White House to take place. This is unlawful, an abuse of power, and a dereliction of duty on the part of Mr. Trump. Secondly, the White House is We The People's house. It is a public symbol and monument of great importance to all Americans and should not be altered by any president (let alone the whims of one man) without the knowledge and expressed consent of Congress. The unlawful demolition of the East Wing, without any accountability on the part of this administration, specifically President Trump, has given him unauthorized power. In turn, Americans and the World look on in complete horror that one would be so bold as to make such a move on the most historic building in the United States, all for one's personal satisfactions. Thirdly, the idea that the rebuilding/restructuring of the East Wing to accommodate up to one thousand persons is directly out of line with what the White House stands for, what the White House represents, and what the White House's function is. And fourthly, that the modernization of the East Wing is being almost entirely funded by donations from millionaires and billionaires--most...personal friends and acquaintances of the president, business partners, those wanting preferential treatment, participants of unilateral politics, business prospects and the like--is a slap in the face to the American people who have paid throughout past centuries for the upkeep of the White House and the maintenance of its grounds through the tax placed on their hard-earned incomes. Who then will the White House belong to? Who will be privy to being inside its walls--the unvetted billionaire business prospector who wants preferential treatment, or the unvetted foreign personal friend of a president that already has questionable ties to adversaries? Will it no longer be We The People's house if donations originate from an upper-class that has little to do with middle and lower income Americans?

I urge you to consider the insurmountable historical significance the White House represents to Americans and to the world and restore its image of glory; and find the unlawful demolition and modernization of the East Wing to be nothing other than a wholly inappropriate attempt at self-aggrandizement on the part of Mr. Trump. It is as clear as the Sun rising from the east to shed its light on "the beacon on the hill".

Name: Elaine Epstein

Date: March 2, 2026 12:26:08 pm

Ballroom???? For whose use? Certainly not mine nor for the millions of Americans who will be asked to pay for it who don't live within striking distance or don't own ball gowns.

I AM AGAINST IT 100%. Probably it's for the already wealthy and powerful, particularly if they are in your party.

How about giving the rest of us a break with improved parks and recreation?

Or maybe a few ballrooms in our parks although parks could be improved for the masses during the daytime with live music in the evening.

Please, please look to our values and live by them.

Name: Robert Lang

Date: March 2, 2026 12:26:37 pm

I am a member of The National Trust for Historic Preservation and retired from the architectural profession. My comment is that the East Wing Modernization Project should immediately suspended until it has been reviewed, commented upon and approved through proper channels. This is the "People's House", not some vanity project for one particular president. The East Wing was already destroyed without proper authorization. Building this monstrosity would be an affront to every "real" architect and the "real" American public.

Name: John Rodman

Date: March 2, 2026 12:26:42 pm

'Modernization Project' is not the same as razing. This project should be treated and designed as it would have been had Trump not unilaterally destroyed the entire East Wing. This should not be a vanity project, but a carefully crafted plan for the needs of the presidency, not just for the current occupant of that office. Trump should be assessed personally for all ensuing expenses going forward for his wilful disregard of process.

Thank you.

Name: Susan Mraz

Date: March 2, 2026 12:27:01 pm

Dear Committee,

I strongly urge you to stop the building plans for the unnecessary monstrosity that is the Trump ballroom. Our country doesn't need a ballroom. How does that help the country? When Trump tore down the East Wing, it was so sad to have lost the history of that wing. I request that it be rebuilt to the same specifications as before at Trump's personal expense. We should not be paying for this. The responsibility lies solely with Trump.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan

Name: Mary Scharf

Date: March 2, 2026 12:27:50 pm

The White House belongs to us, not to an individual President. He has no right what-so-ever to deface our building. It has history, real history, and deserved the respect of elected officials. They are elected for a term...for a reason. History is forever, and our history belongs to all of us.

Name: Dawn Riley

Date: March 2, 2026 12:28:01 pm

This is ridiculous people can't to afford to eat or buy food and the most important thing is a ballroom that money should go to the people who are working hard and can't afford food or medical care or medicine the last thing needed is a ballroom what about the living breathing people trying to survive that money would be better used putting back into the people

Name: Judith McGovern

Date: March 2, 2026 12:29:06 pm

Why can't I make a comment??? This thing keeps throwing me out.

Name: Denise Garrett

Date: March 2, 2026 12:29:17 pm

Hello,

I'm writing in opposition to President Trump's decisions to demolish the White House East Wing and replace it with an out-of-scale ballroom.

Watching the wrecking balls and hydraulic chisels tear into the East Wing and thoughtless treatment of a historic landmark was heartbreaking. Questions on the need, justification and authority to tear it down go unanswered. I recommend the National Capital Planning Commission pause the project immediately and dig into these early stages of the planning, permitting, and demolition process.

Notably, the demolition appears to have proceeded so hastily that no consideration was given to stability and integrity of the White House structure, preservation of historic elements, and disposal of materials.

Since the East Wing is no more, I do wish to submit comments directly on the White House East Wing "Modernization" project. First, modernization implies interior updates and renovations to better fit intended purposes. President Trump is not upgrading and modernizing the office, small event, and storage spaces of the East Wing! Modernization is minimization of the President's intent.

The White House and East Wing specifically were not intended for ostentatious lodging and hospitality of 5,000 seated guests. I urge the scale and scope of the replacement East Wing be designed to meet the needs of a busy office serving the citizens of our country first and foremost. The people do not need a grand, glitzy ballroom.

Sincerely,

Denise Garrett

Name: Jim Labarge

Date: March 2, 2026 12:29:54 pm

this obnoxious "ball room" is wanted by ONE person.

Guess who, the obnoxious donny trumpy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

the most disgusting piece of shit we ever let in our beautiful white house!!

Name: Joseph Zakrzewski

Date: March 2, 2026 12:31:08 pm

Bad taste and self aggrandizement must not be deciding factors lead by a Fascist monster as to what the new structure should look like.

Name: Eric Searcy

Date: March 2, 2026 12:31:16 pm

In the long history of the built environment, many or most buildings could be called utilitarian. Some bigger, some

smaller, some more attractive, some less. Some with historic overtones, others seemingly out of the blue. But there sometimes arises out of the efforts of societies to make buildings, that some structures arise which elevate above the rest, and attain an iconic status. This may be due to the size of the structures, like the Empire State Building, or the late Twin Towers. Or it could be explained by the fineness of choice of the architect creators, as with the Taj Mahal, or the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. Occasionally, buildings of distinction become revered on account of their history and/or mystery, as with the Great Pyramids of Egypt, or Stonehenge. For buildings with some or all of these out-of-the-ordinary distinctions, it has become normal in the course of history for the public and its representative governments to treat such structures with exceeding care and discretion, and not to tamper with, alter or manipulate them without first exercising utmost caution and deliberation. Due to its history, it is fair to think of the White House in Washington D.C. as one such example of architecture: singular, exceptional and without a doubt, rightfully revered.

For this reason, the recent efforts by President Trump to demolish part of the White House, with the intention of adding a much larger construction in its place, strike many as shocking. Coming out of nowhere as it did, this endeavor appears utterly devoid of the deliberate, intentional care that such a structure as the White House deserves. Agency review and informed public discourse before the bulldozers started running was utterly absent. The motivations for this project have not to date been articulated and justified in any kind of thoughtful way to the public. Not to mention the fact that the normal approvals process involving building and planning departments (or their local equivalents) was entirely circumvented and ignored.

Now, it's often been observed that architecture is a living, growing thing, responsive to its time and reflective of its evolving context. Buildings don't need to be fossilized and locked in time. But equally, architecture becomes so due to a long process of design and consideration, and it matures into its final state of recognition usually with the passage of time. The White House meets this measure. Its treatment by the President and his minions does not reflect this.

Likewise, it has been recognized by commentators more than once that architecture can be an expression of power. That's a fact. But it is worth reflecting upon, that generally the individuals, groups and governments that are most inclined to display their strength in such a way are the most authoritarian and autocratic. The constructions of Adolph Hitler, Benito Mussolini, the Shah of Iran, Muammar Khadafi, Saddam Hussein...the list goes on...Military parades and grandiose architecture are the blatant visual symbols intended to impress upon a yielding public the overwhelming force and might of a repressive regime. It would not be unreasonable to interpret the White House remodel project as an attempt by President Trump to demonstrate to America and the world his ability to control events and circumstances as he wishes. And it would be a good question for Americans to ask themselves: does one man tearing down part of the White House to rebuild it to his liking reflect the kind of President and the kind of values one might hold in honor as something noble and true?

Architecture is a historic artifact, deeply embedded in its culture. It speaks eloquently of its place, time and values. Whether President Trump's grand White House Ballroom adventure goes forward to completion, or whether it's left as nothing more than construction barricades and dismal tarps flapping around a forlornly wounded White House when he leaves office, the state of the project will painfully and truly speak to the man and President he was, and to the people we were or were afraid to be. A sad and sorry epitaph, indeed.

Name: Thomas Swegle

Date: March 2, 2026 12:31:57 pm

I am writing to urge the National Capital Planning Commission to reject the proposed addition of a 90,000 square foot ballroom to the 55,000 square foot White House. The over two century old White House is a precious symbol of our country. It is the People's House, a landmark that all Americans look to with pride. Indeed, it is recognized by people all over the world as a symbol of our magnificent country. But in reality, the proportions of the White House are relatively modest as compared to massive homes of other heads of state such as Buckingham Palace. It was erected by our founding fathers as an appropriate home for the Head of State in a young country that was the first to be governed democratically. It is beautiful but not majestically huge.

The ballroom being proposed by the current Administration is massive in scale and will dominate the current People's House, especially when viewed from the Ellipse. I almost can't believe it is being proposed. It is massive and the proportions lack any sense of architectural scale and taste.

I urge the Commission members to take their responsibilities seriously and to act as responsible stewards of this great symbol of our country. This is a decision of momentous impact. Please do not allow the currently proposed ballroom to move forward. Instead, direct the Administration to be guided by a public and transparent process to design a replacement for the East Wing that was so hastily demolished without public input.

Name: George Steinrock

Date: March 2, 2026 12:32:12 pm

The proposed White House Ballroom design leaves many open and unanswered questions (at least to the general public). Foremost is explaining, if not justifying, the rationale for the scale (volume, height, bulk) and size (square footage) of a facility proposed to seat 1,000 people in a dining configuration (or is it 999 people!!). 90,000 square feet far, far exceeds what is needed to accommodate the stated number of people. Even at half that area, the facility should more than accommodate the desired audience.

The apparent total disregard for the L'Enfant urban design plan, in particular the White House - Capitol axis, could easily be rectified by sizing the facility appropriately and eliminating the non-functional south portico (which itself competes architecturally with the White House in scale with its bombastic colonnade).

I support the National Trust's efforts not to thwart this project entirely, but to reach a design that respects the "People's House" and the Capital City's historic fabric while achieving the President's goal for a suitable venue when hosting dignitaries (and maybe even some "common folk" at some times?) In my opinion, the National Capital Planning Commission would be vacating its responsibility to obtain answers to these questions before entertaining any thought of approving the current design.

Thank you.

George Steinrock AIA

Baltimore, Maryland

Name: Robert Pauly

Date: March 2, 2026 12:32:35 pm

The ballroom is a vanity project that nobody asked for and that must be rejected. Nobody seems to know who will actually fund this construction, but if that turns out to be the American taxpayer, then those funds should be used to restore the East Wing to its original purpose and serve as the gateway to the People's House. Conversely, any private funding should be carefully vetted and likely rejected on the grounds that the People's House belongs to the people and is not subject to the whims and desires of private individuals or interests. The ONLY private funding allowable is, in my view, funding used to restore the East Wing to its original configuration and undo the damage done by the President by his unilateral decision to change the People's House to conform to his own private desires.

Name: Mark Green

Date: March 2, 2026 12:33:01 pm

While the ballroom addition, as a standalone project, may be proportionally correct and respectful of classical vocabulary, it is considerably out of scale with the rest of the White House campus. The lack of direct access to its south portico demonstrates more design development is required. Opportunities such as locating the kitchen in a basement should be further explored. As currently proposed it will be a sophomoric embarrassment until it's eventually demolished by more mature decision makers.

A more aesthetically correct solution would be to incorporate a ballroom into one of the courtyards of the treasury building or the executive office building.

Name: Arthur Stables

Date: March 2, 2026 12:33:26 pm

Thank you. The typical process for a review of a consequential historic project has been subverted by the Administration to this point: the previous demolitions were callous and conducted outside the precincts of typically required review and consideration. The proposed project itself as currently advertised seems to flout typical preservation considerations, such as overpowering the original historic structure, and demolition of an historic structure (the East Wing) with no review at all. There is also the possibility that hazardous abatement considerations were totally ignored.

Information available to this point does not fully describe the intended assembly building and does not provide enough detail to make a reasonable judgement as to its appropriateness for this significant historic site.

I can only hope that the Commission will bring objective reason to bear, and not be swayed by the crushing political pressures being brought to bear on the process by this Administration, in its zeal to accommodate the whims and

obsessions of the current President.

Thank you.

Arthur Stables

former Historic Commission member and Plans Review Subcommittee member, City of Tucson, Arizona

Name: Randy Juras

Date: March 2, 2026 12:33:56 pm

I have watched as the Whitehouse has been under attack. I have no idea why on earth the East Wing was destroyed. No just removed, but in my opinion, destroyed.

It makes no sense to me, as a citizen of the USA, why any of this happening?

It seems to me that the only purpose of any of these "changes" are to simply put Trump on as many things as possible.

And that just seems so wrong.

I watched as under Trump, a great part of our history was taken down. And I also do not understand any of that.

Germany did not turn a blind eye toward what the Nazi did in World War 2. Instead, they faced what happened. And said they would not do that again.

Slavery was a part of America. Some would say systemic racism still exists. And at 78 years of age, I know what I have seen growing up.

I feel it is entirely wrong to simply ignore our past. We should learn from our mistakes. Not hide from them.

Doing that would make us as wrong as Putin is about restoring the Russian Empire.

Leave our history alone!

Name: Cheri Wallace

Date: March 2, 2026 12:34:44 pm

It will be beautiful and I can not wait to see it. How long will it take? Im sending good energy all the way to the very last lightbulb!

Name: Marcia Stanton

Date: March 2, 2026 12:34:59 pm

Having seen the ariel view of the project, I have the following concerns.

1) Because of the size of the ballroom, it interrupts the visual line-of-site of the White House from the Capitol that was an important concern of President Washington. This must be maintained, and

2) It interrupts Omstead landscape symmetry of the circular drive that is in front of the White House.

Adjusting the size to generous, standard building proportions could eliminate both of these problems.

Please don't discount 250 years of our history to insert this massive ballroom on the White House campus!

Name: Walter Burns

Date: March 2, 2026 12:35:35 pm

I strongly oppose the East Wing Modernization Project as submitted. I support the comments of the National Trust For Historic Preservation. Please do not approve this project unless dramatically redesigned in accordance with those principles.

Walter Woodrow Burns Jr. MD

USNA 1960

Name: David Penrey

Date: March 2, 2026 12:35:48 pm

Hello. Not sure your who to send my thoughts on this proposed project's merits but my concerns are as follows.

#1 the costs have doubled and it's not even out of the ground. At this rate and given Mr Trumps poor track record on builds under his control this project will be closer to \$1.000.000.000 than this now advertised cost to our country.

#2 scope of the project. It's common for builders to shape shift and have fluid design and scope to open the door and justify cost overruns and vender charge backs for changes in production and engineering of the structure. Mr Trump also has had a terrible record of difficulty managing and exploitation of the norms cost his projects to be delayed and miles of change documents and cost over runs to occur resulting in suppliers and contractors having to file law suits to recover their additional cost. By the way it's been trump's operational style to wear them out with smoke and mirror questioning of these added charges they have incurred on his jobs then filing bankruptcy so he can walk away for settling his debts in a honest way.

#3 I've spent years working with builders and individuals making improvements to their properties. The goal was to have things blend in twill. Well that a moving target but from what I've seen what he's come up with looks like a straw hat on a baby. Ugleeey kind funny looking. And all the glitter. Double yuck

#4. Any responsible professional builder would welcome working through the regular channels for permitting, plan approvals and the like. This proposed build has been sideways from the start. I see no other ways it will end that sideways. Again it's a trump build thing I think. He relishes in keeping everyone on their back foot then working them over with blustery bullshit excuses to mask his mismanagement.

if this is allowed to go forward given the disrespect for proper procedures why should the respectable, honest hard working folks who do have dignity and follow rule every day follow the rules. Its will bastardized the whole process for all.

#5. It's a proven fact Mr Trump has trouble with the facts you might say. All this talk of the finding does come to mine. Do you really think it's being paid for totally by donations? I sure don't. And I would like to see all checks written in this regard. I'm betting you and I are going to be getting out our winners in the end.

#6 then the fact Mr trump had the audacity to say it's too late to stop, I've ordered everythin* and we can't cancel those orders for product and services.

Well that black mail my our president and sets the horrible example that I'd you act like. Petulant 15 yr old you get your way.

Every responsible parent should shudder at the thought.

Thanks for your time and please feel free to share any thoughts expressed with those who have some influence in pulling the plug on this trump mistake of a project before the real mayhem gets going.

Thanks and hope someone can get a short leash on this man soon.

Name: Margaret Boyce-Furey

Date: March 2, 2026 12:36:18 pm

As a 3rd generation United States Citizen , I was appalled at the unauthorized destruction of the East Wing of the White House, the

home of the President since John Adams. This is the people's house and the President is a tenant until his term is ended and a new President is elected, who then becomes the tenant/resident of the White House. No President is authorized to destroy any structural part of the White House, without authorization from the National Preservation Society and the other organizations responsible for making decisions, regarding any destruction or redesign of the people's house.

I urge thie NCPC to vote NO on the design proposed by this Administration. It is not in keeping with American Ideals and its citizens, who fought hard to preserve the foundation of our country . Big, Gaudy and Glitz do not conform to my values7 that of the majority of our citizens.

Please do not convert the White House into a casino as President Trump built in Atlantic City, all of which went bankrupt under Mr. Trump's management. These casinos went under because not only were they gaudy and ugly but reflected the Trump design & penchant for gold , which was unattractive and failed to display the sophistication and style people preferred . Please stop the People's House from Trump's plan to turn it into a Tribute to HImself and exhibit his penchant for gold and gaudiness.

Name: Janet Koester

Date: March 2, 2026 12:37:10 pm

I like the idea of a ballroom on the White House grounds, but I feel that the large ballroom proposed by President Trump is too large. I viewed the video by David Scott Parker and Bill Bates for The National Trust for Historic Preservation would provide the needed Ballroom, but would be more harmonic and balanced with the grounds, and the L'Enfant plan for Washington DC.

Name: Janice Dannhauser

Date: March 2, 2026 12:37:41 pm

PLEASE, do not allow a monstrous, tacky ballroom to replace the historical East Wing of the White House. Rebuild the East Wing exactly as it was. Replace the six trees honoring former presidents that were so callously ripped away. Replace the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden. Replace the Rose Garden.

As you are aware, this destruction occurred without the required formal, public historic preservation review, In my eyes, this is intentional disdain for the people of the United States by a demented old fool who believes he is above the law. Who cares about nothing and no one but himself.

The majority of Americans are not in favor of this tacky ballroom which will exceed the size of the White House.

Please do not allow this ballroom to move forward. Instead, rebuild the White House and its grounds to its former historic glory.

Thank you.

Name: Tracie Wilson

Date: March 2, 2026 12:38:08 pm

I have only been to the White House once. The occasion was when we went to Arlington Cemetery for the burial service of my father, Charles Steven Dopirak 111. It was a feeling of sadness and pride. Sadness because I had lost my dad way to early to Agent Orancge from the Vietnam War and pride for the fact that from generations of our family we can come to Washington, not only to tour our beautiful capital but to pay respect to our family's fallen hero.

Donald Trump and my dad were the same age. He never in his lifetime that he would have dreamt of a TV star to become the President of the United States. My dad was from Philadelphia, and he was well aware of what Trump had done to Atlantic City. Now Donald Trump has decided that our beautiful White House needed his medias touch. The White House is not a resort. It is not his property to tear up or rebuild without the permission of the Commission that is supposed to be taking care of our historic buildings. The wing of the White House has been ripped from the main structure and now it has to be rebuilt. The proposed plans would make it bigger than the main building. He even wants to name it the Trump Ball Room with gold everywhere. If I had a vote, I would say put it back the way it was before the wrecking ball started tearing it apart. But all I can do is submit a comment.

Thank you for this opportunity to tell how I feel concerning our beautiful White House east wing.

Name: Janet Woudenberg

Date: March 2, 2026 12:39:18 pm

I think it is a disgrace that the East Wing was simply demolished. This is an historic building that belongs to the people of the United States and not one person. I believe it needs to be restored to its prior design, at the expense of those who did it and not at taxpayer expense.

Thank you,

Janet Woudenberg

Name: Maureen Mastropierro

Date: March 2, 2026 12:40:36 pm

The scale of the proposed construction is overpowering to the White House and West Wing. It would be less costly to return the building to its former footprint, for the amount of times a ballroom is needed a place can be rented elsewhere., Taxpayers will be footing the bill of heating and cooling for limited functions. Professional designers need to review all plans for the building, the destruction of historical buildings need to stop.

The White House is the peoples house.

Name: Kate Clifford

Date: March 2, 2026 12:40:54 pm

I have been in the Preservation field for over 20 years and am currently a Preservation Planner near Philadelphia. These are my personal comments and not reflective of my employer's opinions. I often comment on Section 106 reviews for impacts on historic resources and I appreciate the opportunity to provide applicants and municipalities information on the historic resources in the vicinity of the projects and how they will be impacted by the projects. I have seen so many buildings being demolished that did not go through the Section 106 process because the funding was not federal. It is a terrible loophole that does not provide preservationists, activists, archaeologists, or others the opportunity to research and document the buildings prior to demolition, or to not seek other alternatives to demolition such as adaptive reuse or rehabilitation. I was appalled that the most important house in the country was not subject to review because of a loophole in the wording of the Historic Preservation Act. The house is not Donald Trump's house. It is the People's house. It is owned by the people of the United States of America, and we own it, not him. He should not be able to do what he wants to the house, including the paving of the Rose Garden and all of the very gaudy interior decorations to the Oval Office and bathrooms, without any review by preservationists, architects, and similar professionals. I have also learned that the demolition debris from the east wing was dumped on a historic golf course, possibly to change a public golf course to a private one. This is not an environmentally sound way of dealing with construction demolition. If the East Wing was reviewed and demolition was accepted, careful hand-demolition and salvage should have happened so that important architectural elements could be reused elsewhere, not just thrown on a golf course (not even in a landfill). It is extremely hard for local planners and preservationists to convince historic homeowners and developers to preserve their shared history and not demolish their buildings. Without local preservation ordinances, all we can hope for is them wanting to do the right thing. Now, with the President flaunting the loopholes in preservation regulations and demolishing portions of a house he does not own, it is nearly impossible. He has to set a good example for the people. Regardless of political disposition, this is a cause all of us can get behind. We do not need a ballroom at the White House. We need normalcy and fiscal responsibility and a reasonable set of rules that the government has to follow with regards to changes to buildings owned by the people.

Name: Mark LoRusso

Date: March 2, 2026 12:41:14 pm

Who cares about this? Trump will do whatever he wants no matter. No he's started a war and still talking about this? Insane

Name: MICHELLE EIMER

Date: March 2, 2026 12:41:32 pm

Please do not let Trump ruin the beautiful White House view with an unnecessary monster of a building next to it. It is sad enough the people lost their rose garden. You need to protect the people's house from this cancerous growth.

Name: Barbara Cromer

Date: March 2, 2026 12:41:36 pm

On the Monday morning after the No Kings event , Washington woke to news that the East Wing of the White House was being demolished. The demolition was apparently not approved, but proceeded with at lightening speed before it could be halted, leaving a hideous mess. There are no words to describe the demolition of the East Wing of the People's House. The complete razing of the East Wing was akin to a terrorist act. As a former DC resident it felt like a personal assault. Disturbing, insulting, and enraging are also words that come to mind. What we citizens witnessed was a brutal assault on our legacy. We were told as recently as July, 2025 that a proposed ballroom addition would not affect the existing structure of the White House. That, was a lie. Now it is scrap that is being, so I have read, illegally dumped in a park. There was no asbestos mitigation conducted either.

We have now been shown a series of ever more grandiose renderings of a ballroom that dwarfs the Executive Mansion. A building, that if completed, will irreparably alter the site lines of the White House grounds. At best, any structure that replaces the East Wing should be no larger than the footprint previously taken. We were told that everyone always wanted a ballroom, although there was an existing ballroom that was grand enough to entertain Queen Elizabeth, and Princess Diana. If the goal is a modernized space for events, surely that can be accomplished within the shell of the East Wing's

former dimensions. The dimensions currently proposed for the ballroom should not be considered viable for the White House grounds. The proposed building will dwarf the existing White House and destroy a visible symbol of the USA. I will add something that has not been discussed, the potential entry and parking situation that would result from an event of the scale being proposed.

Name: David Brunk

Date: March 2, 2026 12:41:48 pm

The destruction of the east wing and the historic rose garden without public or congressional approval and with fake financing was a crime against the people.
a glorious ballroom for the elite is not in the public interest, cancel

Name: Lisa O'Daly

Date: March 2, 2026 12:41:48 pm

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on the East Wing Modernization Project. I submit these comments with some level of professional expertise as a retired 33-year urban and environmental planner for Federal, State, Regional and Local government levels in the Lake Tahoe Basin (1985-2018).

I urge the Commission to place particular focus on the Context (environmental and historical setting), Mass and Scale (which transcends simple square footage), and basic Design principles (balance of aesthetic appeal with functional, safety, and environmental needs) in its review of the proposal. Finally, I beg for your consideration of the project from not only the President's perspective, but also the perspective of the average American citizen, cultural resource specialists, and urban design professionals.

CONTEXT: The project should reflect Pierre Charles L'Enfant's ideal of Washington D.C.'s layout and architecture representing a republic of equals governed by law, rather than the dominance of one of the co-equal branches of government. Civic spaces should be grand, as opposed to the residence of the country's leader. This proposed building's review should be considered within the larger Washington D.C. context, rather than simply as a disconnected complex of structures on a large urban parcel. How does the proposal affect views from the Capitol building? Does it further, or contradict, L'Enfant's plan for the city, including its physical and visual connections?

MASS AND SCALE: Please remember that it's "The People's House." First Lady Jackie Kennedy said it best: "Everything in the White House must have a reason for being there" (Life Magazine, 1961). "It would be a sacrilege merely to redecorate it - a word I hate. It must be restored, and that has nothing to do with decoration. That is a question of scholarship." The White House, itself, should be the dominant feature of its property. It should not appear more diminutive than its ballroom in its mass, scale, or location on the site.

DESIGN: L'Enfant's restrained neoclassical style should be in the forefront of the design, not a Baroque theme. The individual preferences of the various presidents who occupy the People's House should be reflected in its transitory decor, not the structure's architectural "bones."

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Name: Lisa Cogger

Date: March 2, 2026 12:42:05 pm

The proposed East Wing Ballroom plan, as currently designed, is an oversized and gaudy replacement to an illegally demolished historic extension to the White House. The current project needs to be rejected and redesigned. The design needs to better fit within the current architectural context and be size appropriate for the site.

Thank you,
Lisa Cogger

Name: Susan Cox

Date: March 2, 2026 12:42:07 pm

Please adopt and incorporate the information presented in the Crucial Insights and Viable Alternatives for a More Sensitive White House Ballroom webinar featuring National Trust trustees and fellows of The American Institute of Architects, David Scott Parker and Bill Bates. (The alternative designs and related information are the opinions of David Scott Parker and Bill Bates based on what they've been able to discern from the limited plans that have been released.) No one, not even the President, should be permitted to activate tasteless plans based on ego alone with no respect for history or thoughtful decision making.

Name: Cheryl Eisenhauer

Date: March 2, 2026 12:42:11 pm

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,

As an American citizen, I am adamantly opposed to the destruction of the East Wing of the White House and would like my opposition to be officially noted by the NCPC. I am grateful that the National Trust for Preservation has given me the opportunity to express my opposition, and I am truly thankful that the Commission is giving voice to the concerns and opposition of the many Americans who feel as I do.

Though I realistically realize that the original East Wing cannot be raised from the destructive dust left behind, I am encouraging you to take whatever steps you can to limit the size of any reconstruction in order to maintain the prior symmetry of this beautiful historic structure. Also I ask you to seriously consider any other problems that a 90,000 square feet addition may cause, such as safety and security issues, helicopter landings, and additional future ongoing costs such as energy fees and maintenance that will not be covered by those contributing to the building of the proposed ballroom.

I would also like the NCPC to read and take to heart the feeling of frustration and abandonment that many Americans feel, such as those of mine shared as follows:

Among my stationary, I have a few small note cards that display the White House as it has existed from 1942 when a second level was added to the East Wing's 1902 first level. Recently when I pulled one of these note cards to use, I was struck by a deep sadness that this beautiful historic structure, lovingly called "The Peoples House", a recognized American symbol, no longer existed due to the whim of one man to add a 90,000 square foot ballroom in its place.

My sadness quickly changes to anger when I think about how this decision was made by the President of the USA, with no consent of Congress which is to represent its citizenry. For a president to feel so entitled to do whatever he wants without input, to destroy over 120 years of history, is enraging.

It also shows an underlying disrespect for the First Ladies, not only his own wife, but all those who came before her as the East Wing's destruction meant the elimination of the work quarters for the First Lady and her staff. Additionally without any consideration or input, the treasured Rose Garden, another American symbol, created during the time of the much respected and beloved First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, was destroyed.

Furthermore, even if one does not feel the deep opposition I feel, the fact that this destruction occurred in order to allow for construction of a monstrous sized, unneeded ballroom (regardless of how it is being funded) certainly exhibits a presidency that is completely out of touch with the lives of many throughout the USA who are struggling to put food on the table and pay their medical bills. The entire situation brings to mind the familiar saying often attributed to France's Marie Antoinette, "Let them eat cake."

Thank you for allowing my voice to be heard,
Cheryl Eisenhauer

Name: Peter Johnson

Date: March 2, 2026 12:42:48 pm

I am architect.

This ballroom is a bloated insult to existing White House.

The United States should not have an occasional-use function room that tries to compete with banquet halls found in royal palaces in Europe.

Wrong place, wrong design, wrong program.
It should not be built.

Name: Linda McNeal

Date: March 2, 2026 12:43:06 pm

I have no problem with our president remodeling the White House to his liking and for future Presidents!

Name: Michael Gioulis

Date: March 2, 2026 12:44:01 pm

I have been a historic preservation professional for over 45 years. As such, I advise on successful projects that Interpret the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects to protect and preserve significant historic resources.

I have reviewed available material regarding the proposed ballroom addition to the White House, a 90,000 square-foot ballroom, by the Office of the Executive Residence (EXR). My comments are limited to the proposed addition and do not reflect any opinions on the demolition of the East Wing.

The White house was designed by James Hoban, and includes elements of Classical Architecture that define the significance of the building. The White House is arguably the most recognized building in America and around the world; and the most important "house".

In addition, the grounds were designed by noted Landscape Architect, Frederick Law Olmsted. And finally, the White House is located strategically in the City design plan of L'Enfant, commissioned by George Washington for the new nation's capital.

In my opinion, the proposed design that I was able to review does not meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for additions. The Standards state that new work should be "...compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing" of the existing structure. Some inconsistencies with these standards are noted:

- The balance of the Classical symmetry of the original design is negatively impacted by the proposed design.
 - o The footprint of the proposed addition is larger than the original White House.
 - o The height of the proposed addition is taller than the White House.
 - o The symmetry of balance between the west wing and the addition is destroyed.
 - o The connector wing is too tall and negatively impacts the significant Palladian window on the east facade of the White House.
 - o The proposed design elements of the addition include Corinthian columns. The columns in the White House are Ionic. The introduction of Corinthian columns creates design conflicts. It also introduces a major significant order to a secondary building or façade. The white house's details should take precedent over any addition or added details.
 - The detailing and columns may also create a false sense of history in the addition.
 - o The siting and massing of the proposed addition interrupts L'Enfant's plans for Washington, by blocking the view from the Capital along Pennsylvania Avenue. It destroys L'Enfant's axial concepts.
 - The proposal not only impacts the White House, but also all of Washington DC.
 - o The proposed addition interrupts Olmsted's plan of the grounds, by intersecting and creating a strange dog leg in the oval drive. It also interrupts the overall plan of the landscape.

Other design considerations include:

- The insertion of monumental scale stairs that lead to nowhere and are not symmetrical with themselves, the White House or the addition.
- Based on industry standards and fire code computations the building is too large for its stated occupancy of 1000.
- The relationship of plan levels/floor plates of the existing White House to the proposed addition do not align.

Though the Comprehensive Design Plan for the White House, issued in 2000, recognized the need for expanded event space, it suggested that such facilities be sensitively designed and located to minimize their impact on the White House.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Name: Lisa Kerwin

Date: March 2, 2026 12:44:03 pm

Like many others, I find this "modernization" completely unnecessary and utterly inappropriate. I lived in the District for a decade, and was, for a time, a licensed tour guide. I introduced visitors from all over the country (and the world) to our beautiful White House and described its history. I regularly heard comments about the beautiful simplicity of the building. It had classic lines and an obvious symmetry.

This new construction, which was started without permission or advice of any kind, has already spoiled the beauty of the People's House; where the lovely East Wing once stood, there is now a hole in the ground. The proposed ballroom would only make matters worse. It would dwarf the main structure and create a lopsided effect to the entire building.

Washington, DC, was designed and purpose-built. There are laws in effect which prevent new constructions from ruining the overall look of our capital city. Why should this be any different?

I also question the need for such a construction. How many balls are hosted at the White House annually? Most modern presidents have chosen to hold state dinners, which are generally smaller affairs and occur on average only 2-3 times a year. Why should we waste the space on a structure that will stand empty 99% of the time? Truly, only someone who styles himself some sort of royalty would think this is a good use of time, money, and other resources.

In short, I believe the committee should not allow this construction to go forward. If anything, those responsible should be required to rebuild the East Wing at their own expense.

Thank you for your time.

L. Kerwin

Name: Dolores Slizewski

Date: March 2, 2026 12:44:26 pm

The Dictator/president did not have the legal right to destroy the East Room. He must be stopped in all his illegal acts. IMPEACH HIM.... Do not allow him to continue the IRAN war without the permission of Congress.

Name: angela teta

Date: March 2, 2026 12:44:29 pm

Why should ANY ELECTED PRESIDENT have the right to singlehandedly make a MAJOR RENOVATION to the White House let alone a ballroom? REALLY? This is not your residence, to allow you to make major modifications other than necessary repairs during your tenure of 4 elected years.

MY BEST SUGGESTION THEREFORE IS TO LEAVE IT THE WAY IT WAS WHEN YOU ARRIVED.

IF ANY CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE CONGRESS SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO ACHIEVE A 3/4THS MAJORITY VOTE TO MAKE ANY MODIFICATIONS TO THE WHITE HOUSE AS THEY TRULY REPRESENT THEIR CONSTITUENTS IN THIS REGARDS.

Name: Michael Lowe

Date: March 2, 2026 12:44:37 pm

The NCPC should not approve the East Wing Modernization Project.

The addition of a massive "ballroom" bigger than the White House itself on one side of the complex will grossly distort and unbalance one of the most iconic viewscapes in the capital and the nation. The architecture of public buildings and spaces in Washington can provide inspiration and meaning for those lucky enough to visit. The White House is second only to the Capitol in serving this sacred function. Hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the nation and the world see the White house complex from the southerly view each year. The symmetrical and calming view of the Executive Mansion from the Ellipse, Pennsylvania Avenue and the Washington Monument grounds reflects the Founding Fathers' respect for enduring humanistic values in its classical architecture. And its relatively humble scale reminds that

we are a democratic republic built by and for its people, not a monarchy built on the grandiosity and exclusion of a ruling class.

Adding a massive ballroom to one side of the White House complex will forever destroy that calm symmetry and replace it with an overpowering out of scale appendage that viewers will forever know was built to aggrandize an individual over our democratic values.

I hope the Commission has the strength to say no.

Name: LuAnn Kowar

Date: March 2, 2026 12:45:18 pm

I am writing to express my profound sadness and dismay that the East Wing, renovated so recently, was torn asunder by an obtuse President without priorities. The President has already wasted money and intends to waste more with an oversized (proposed) Ballroom that is completely out of touch with the 18th and 19th Century architectures of the White House, Capital Building, and other D.C. properties that stand-in for national pride and progress. The gutting of the East Wing was an insult to the public at large, and the proposed attached Ballroom whose size dwarfs the Residence makes not architectural (or civic) sense, none at all.

A smaller, detached Ballroom could have been achieved? Why not? If security is a concern, I would argue that a attached structure provides convenience, but not Security? And there is no need for vaulting ceilings and ugly chandeliers in a Ballroom; there are talented Architects that could come-up with a structure of size and functionality sufficient to need? All this is also to mourn the (now) necessity of restructuring the gutted East Wing of the White House, which historic preservationists, if asked, wouldn't have allowed. It was functional as it was, given recent retrofits. So much money spent on egotistical monstrosities.

Sincerely,

LuAnn K (Chicago, IL)

Name: Carrie Savage-Zimmerman

Date: March 2, 2026 12:45:19 pm

What a mess, to uproot a time-honored WH attraction destroyed on the whim of a presiding president, a tenant, if you will. To have submitted plans and requests, working thru channels, due to the status of the White House being THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE, would have been disappointing but acceptable.

However, to treat a national emblem of America as his own private property to do as he pleases with NO regard for anyone else, is a complete travesty.

My request is to have the East Wing returned to its original state as a garden. The President can be financially responsible with the funds he has profited during his time in office. After all, this is his boondoggle; he is capable, and culpable, of such a determination.

Respectfully submitted,

Name: Russell Jones

Date: March 2, 2026 12:46:09 pm

I am opposed!

Name: John Kaliski

Date: March 2, 2026 12:46:12 pm

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my opposition to the East Wing Modernization project as presently designed.

o The footptint of the design alters the historic geometry and openness of the South Lawn.

- o The scale and bulk of the addition diminishes the centrality and symbolic function of the People's house.
- o The neo-classical elements, the porticos and detailing, are larger, longer, and taller than any of the adjacent classical expressions, introducing a mega scale that competes with the more intimate detailing of the historic surrounds.

I urge you to send this design back for reconsideration and refinement.

Respectfully,

John Kaliski, FAIA
John Kaliski Architects | JK A

Name: David Gonzalez

Date: March 2, 2026 12:46:54 pm

This is a waste of taxpayer money. This is THEFT.

I am disgusted by the petty, insecure behavior of the beings who deem themselves "leaders" of humanity.

I want this project cancelled immediately.

Name: jennie Dotts

Date: March 2, 2026 12:47:16 pm

The behemoth ballroom is a monstrous display of glutinous egotism. A palatial pigpen for a murderous swine. Where is Elon Musk's chainsaw?

At a time when health care and food assistance are cut to inhumane levels, why is our Criminal-in-Chief allowed to spend so foolishly?

Name: Lorie Radina

Date: March 2, 2026 12:47:30 pm

I do not want the Ballroom to impede the sight line of the Capitol Portico, but I do want it to hold as many as possible. Can it use land to the back of the Capitol? In your rendering of the original axis I could see available square footage. With a smaller footprint can they make seating and service on a second level balcony to allow the higher number of attendees. Add public and service elevators and stairs.

Use the Ballroom more often for the public, not just high ranking officials, wealthy business people or those whose accomplishments or issues became known to the public. Throw a Ball from a drawing of all citizens at any income and position in life.

I agree with all the concerns raised and they need addressed. Access to the outside during an event and windows sound lovely but what about safety? It is most important, the experience may have to be within the building instead of outside, how do people exit in case of emergency? Do they go to the basement in case of threat?

As for the architecture...the Capitol columns are so sparse but regal that you can't help but overshadow it with architecture on other buildings, I think the flanking buildings could have more columns but smaller. It's a way to compromise and give symmetry to the whole landscape that leaves the Capitol portico as the focal point.

This was interesting, thanks for the presentation.

Name: Katy McReynolds

Date: March 2, 2026 12:47:32 pm

The National Trust for Historic Preservation should be and have been involved in this project. This is a landmark property that belongs to the people of the USA. From my understanding, what has already been done is, the demolition is a shame and new proposed ballroom is not what is needed. Please reconsider how this change will be properly impactful for call the people not just a few.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Name: Christina Criss

Date: March 2, 2026 12:47:39 pm

F....the Ballroom!

Name: Gail Ryan

Date: March 2, 2026 12:48:45 pm

The people have a great deal of pride in The White House for its historical significance and structural integrity. The preservation of its beauty is paramount and the new addition should closely mirror the style that has existed and been carefully maintained throughout history.

Respectfully,

Gail Fredette Ryan

Name: Annie Farmiga

Date: March 2, 2026 12:49:09 pm

Very excited that this is being renovated given that the space has never been a historic space in the building. Also thrilled that the taxpayers are not paying for it and there will be a large and secure space for entertainment at the White House.

Name: Nancy Greenwood

Date: March 2, 2026 12:49:21 pm

First, the East Wing of the White House should never have been dismantled. This is the People's House and it should not be subject to the whims of one person with no credentials in historic preservation or architectural integrity. Too late for that. But the least we can do now is assure that the replacement is sensitive to its role as a functional, architecturally compatible wing of a historically important building, not an out-of-scale feature that looms over and dominates the original. Anything built on behalf of the people of the United States in our nation's Capitol should be meritorious, not meretricious. The plans for this are meretricious. Out of scale. Gawdy. Inappropriate. Embarrassing. This work should be motivated by historical and architectural considerations, not political ones. Please, please, please reconsider these plans and enroll architects and architectural historians who recognize the gravity of this endeavor and can bring their expertise to bear in an attempt to right this terrible wrong.

Name: George Oetter

Date: March 2, 2026 12:49:31 pm

Greetings from Macon, Georgia. Thank you for considering my comments.

Concerning the 2025 White House ballroom design, I endorse 2026 expert assessment by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and oppose the project as presented.

The ballroom design disrespects 1790s plans for our nation's capital that include meaningful vista connection of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. There is an important message in the layout of Pennsylvania Avenue, the Olmstead landscape of our White House grounds, and Supreme Court placement close behind the US Capitol building.

Following rules for size, scale, proportion, and function requires a major change of the ballroom plans. Future designs

should greatly correct cubic feet to conservative proportions, acknowledging the current proposed design is overbuilt for the site, its stated programmatic need when hospitality industry factors are addressed, and its misfit with classical content. The portico without a purpose, service areas that could be below ground, 19 foot ceiling height on the third floor, and gross inconsistency with adjacent buildings all direct a major re-do before this project goes forward.

As said at the meeting of our Fine Arts Commission, we should take advantage of the rare opportunity to build something beautiful.

Name: Nanette deMaine

Date: March 2, 2026 12:49:33 pm

Since the White House is called the "People's House", and since I am certifiably one of the people, I have mustered up the courage to write to you about its proposed new wing. I have no formal training in art or architecture. I'm just a person who appreciates the beauty of American Georgian and Federal Period houses. That's why when I retired I moved to a 1790 house in Salem, Mass. where I can admire them daily on my walks.

When I first saw the drawing sent me by the National Trust, I had two reactions. First, the new wing seems to dominate in size over the historic White House. Second, the new wing seems heavier and bulkier than its neighbor. The original historic building, where the president lives and works, should clearly predominate in size because of its function and its history. It should set the standard for any later additions. So, in my opinion, anything added to it should be secondary to it in size and should reflect its subtle and delicate neoclassical balance and style.

With regard to the proposed change in the shape of Pennsylvania Avenue, the current shape dates to George Washington's time! It is part of our history, and part of our experience as citizens. We have all enjoyed watching new presidents ride and walk in a straight line to the White House after their inaugurations. In my opinion, the shape of this avenue should not be altered without a national vote by us. And I don't think there's a chance that the alteration would win.

Last, I think it would be disrespectful to alter Mr. Olmsted's design of a circular driveway for the White House. He is famous for creating beautiful outdoor spaces. It's obvious to me that his circle is far more dignified and attractive than the proposed zig zag alteration. Anyway, if the addition is made smaller, as I believe it should be, there won't be any need to change the shape of his drive.

Thank you for reading my comments. Yours sincerely,

Nanette deMaine, [REDACTED]

Name: Thomas Slavin

Date: March 2, 2026 12:50:11 pm

It is misleading, intentionally so, to refer to the Ballroom project as the "East Wing Modernization Project". It is not a "modernization"; it is a complete demolition and a replacement by a building with a totally different look, size and function.

I strongly oppose this project. The President bypassed the established process for modifying a government (our) building for what appears to be a vanity project.

Name: John Sparks

Date: March 2, 2026 12:50:12 pm

Having reviewed the proposal and the presentation created by the National Trust I would like to voice my opposition to the proposal as submitted by the white house. It seems that a more nuanced, sensitive design would accommodate the objectives desired by the administration while respecting the historical and classical aspects of the nations capital.

Name: Bill Funk

Date: March 2, 2026 12:50:15 pm

Sad we must go through this and we never should have had to face this so-called "East Wing Modernization Project" to begin with. What this "project" is doing is trying to cover up felony vandalism pure and simple.

This so-called "Ballroom" and destruction of the East Wing is the wish of only one disturbed individual. And just why neither congress nor the senate did not deem it necessary or even possible to stop this is unbelievable. MOST all

Americans were shocked beyond belief when we heard of the East Wing's destruction. Total wanton destruction to garner headlines and what he got was the ire of real Americans.

Rebuild the East wing to its former glory and while you are at it, rebuild that beautiful Rose Garden. There was no reason for that to be torn up either.

Then if trump is so rich, make him pay for the damages he's done. Yeah, good luck on that.

Please. America is in harm's way as it is and that's shamefully clear enough by now. A gaudy unnecessary and unwanted "Ballroom" is not what we need. Besides, in case you don't know, we now have a war with casualties.

Thanks for your time. Good luck.

Bill Funk

Name: Joan McNamara

Date: March 2, 2026 12:50:46 pm

Good Afternoon

As a business consultant working on capital projects in Maryland, I value the importance of collaboration and oversight on projects from a planning commission so as to preserve the historical integrity of construction projects. It was heartbreaking to see the demolition that has taken place with no public comment, or indeed any forethought to including necessary parties in this process. It seems the current administration is focused on the hubris legacy of creating a building, rather than making meaningful decisions on design and use of space.

I was grateful for the presentation from David Scott Parker and Bill Bates on the projected impact of the current project design, as it brought to the forefront the disregard for the historic documents leading to the creation of the White House and lawns as well as the indifference to classical architectural rules in creating this monstrosity of a ballroom. It's my fervent hope that the National Trust will prevail in curtailing this project. The legacy that the current administration is trying to solidify may not bear the wanted result, as history will attest.

Addressing the needs of the people rather than stroking the ego of a narcissist does not seem to be a priority with our government. If the president's comeuppance is as spectacular as his gaffs, his legacy will be quite well deserved.

Name: Janet Felsten

Date: March 2, 2026 12:51:43 pm

I strongly oppose the current design for the East Wing of the White House. The addition plans and elevations dwarf the historic "People's House." The design clearly exceeds the architectural standards for the purported use; person/square foot allowance is way over even the most generous allowances that govern similar building programs. The opaque allocation of uses and spaces makes no argument for the proposed size. The relationship between the exterior and interior makes little sense. The awkward disruption of the important historic view corridor between the Capitol and the White House is especially troubling...and unnecessary. If allowed to go forward as depicted, this will be a monument to one man's ego and a slap in the face to the citizenry who are faced with supporting its maintenance for years to come. A critique in a graduate level architecture studio would tear this design to shreds.

I urge the National Capitol Planning Council to reject this design proposal and send it back to the drawing board for a more appropriately-scaled, sensitive-to-context East Wing.

Name: Manuel Sanchez

Date: March 2, 2026 12:51:49 pm

From what has been published this unwelcome addition is a monstrosity completely at odds with the existing structure. Please reconsider.

Name: Mollie Louis

Date: March 2, 2026 12:51:53 pm

Ballroom is too big. Not necessary to hold over 900 people.

Name: Kay Schofield

Date: March 2, 2026 12:52:08 pm

I wish what I understand to be the appropriate channels had been followed before the east wing was torn down. I believe and respect history and historical renovation. If a ballroom is going to be built I hope the architects and designers will respect the history of the People's House and make decisions that fit in with the rest of the historic home. I do not want to see a lot of gold and a gaudy decor. Our current president will serve a little less than 3 years now and any design should reflect the tradition and history of the People's House and not a particular president's tastes and preferences.

And, while some feel a ballroom would be a nice addition to the home I feel like priorities should be to serve the people, some who don't even have a home.

This is not a political statement nor is it intended to reflect negatively on our current president. For me it's not about him but about priorities in serving the people and respecting historic renovation. I would make these comments regardless of who was in office..

Thank you.

Name: Clare Engel

Date: March 2, 2026 12:52:14 pm

The proposed 90,000-square-foot White House ballroom would significantly disrupt the historic symmetry and visual coherence that define the White House grounds. Renderings submitted to the National Capital Planning Commission illustrate how the new structure introduces major massing visible from vantage points near the U.S. Capitol, underscoring the scale of this alteration within a landscape long organized around balanced sightlines and classical proportions. This intrusion is especially troubling given that the White House's historic design has evolved through carefully considered modifications—such as Jefferson's colonnades and later additions—that reinforced classical principles of symmetry and proportionality rather than challenging them. Also consider the importance of the sightline connection between the White House and the Capital Building - connecting the executive branch and the legislative branch - that was carefully designed by L'Enfant in 1791. The Ballroom proposal as designed disrupts this important connection. The demolition of the East Wing without robust public input further reflects a troubling neglect of established preservation safeguards intended to protect these historic spatial relationships.

During the February 25 webinar (https://savingplaces.org/public-comment-period-white-house-ballroom?utm_medium=email&utm_source=update#resources), preservation architects emphasized that viable alternatives exist which better respect the White House's classical design and its broader historic landscape. Even the project's own architect acknowledged the need to consider additional construction on the West Wing colonnade solely to "restore symmetry" after the ballroom's insertion—an acknowledgment that the ballroom itself disrupts the historic balance of the site's composition, rather than complementing it. This reactive approach underscores why the current proposal is incompatible with the site's longstanding axial and symmetrical planning. I urge the Commission to reject the ballroom proposal in its present form and require solutions that uphold the White House's historic character, its carefully orchestrated visual relationships, and the broader national landscape it anchors.

Name: daniel burval

Date: March 2, 2026 12:52:48 pm

The white house does not need a 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition as a self-commemorative exhibitionist signal by an emotionally stunted imbecile. Firstly, that monster doesn't deserve commemoration. And more importantly, trmp's spending of millions of tax dollars on self-serving useless idiot's projects must not be allowed.

thanks

Name: Andrea Van Voorhis

Date: March 2, 2026 12:53:00 pm

This project is objectionable on many levels: the scale is completely disproportionate to the site. It obstructs views of and overwhelms the original, and programmatically more important, main building. The program doesn't make sense. A

ballroom? That seems like the program of an 1880's hotel, not a needed modern update. There seems to be virtually no consideration given to the building's programming and no peer review by architectural historians.

Name: Diane Selvaggio

Date: March 2, 2026 12:53:36 pm

When iconic public buildings are in need of repair or upgrade, there are protocols in place to move that forward. As a nation, we should not want our tax dollars to be misspent, we should not want our public spaces to be demolished or retro-fitted in ways that demean or betray their architecture, landscape, history, or purpose, and we should not want any hint of corruption to taint our public resources.

With the East Wing of the White House, the protocols were ignored, the structure was demolished at the whim of the current president, as part of a strategy that appears designed as yet another means to grab power that does not belong to him or his cronies, to offer major political donors the chance to curry his favor (that will translate into profit, influence, or both), and to stroke his ego.

These are among the worst reasons to allow this project to move forward. While the East Wing is gone, and its rubble apparently dumped at a public space with a historical golf club that Mr. Trump wants to control, this project should be stopped in its tracks until a proper review can be done - without short-cuts, and proper permitting can be granted - again, without short-cuts, and a fully functional, complementary design approved.

The precedent of allowing a president or other high official to simply decree his wishes for changes to public land and structures is a foolhardy one that should never have been able to get this far. Stop it now.

Name: Janice Minotti

Date: March 2, 2026 12:53:50 pm

Please don't change it. You can update it, but architecturally it would be offensive to do anything different to the east wing modernization visually Trump's plans are vulgar look what he did to the rose garden and the ballroom is vulgar as well. Don't do it.

Name: kristen baldwin deathridge

Date: March 2, 2026 12:55:25 pm

American essential buildings must of course be updated, particularly for security purposes, but also to maintain their usefulness to the American people. However, as someone with a graduate specialization in historic preservation, I want to urge the NCPC to only approve plans that accomplish this modernization while remaining committed to these buildings' historical importance. The proposed plans for the East Wing project overshadow the people's house quite literally.

As you know, the nation's Capital area was designed with clear intent. The proposed East Wing size would disrupt the sightlines to the White House and unbalance the connections between significant places dedicated to the American people. The scale of the addition also does not match industry standards that meet the stated need. Modernization with the appropriate volume and massing would enable upgrades while continuing in the architectural traditions that have made the Nation's Capital area what it is today.

I urge the members to reject plans for the East Wing Modernization Project that do not foreground the views and balance of the Capital area. Thank you

Name: Gloria Picchetti

Date: March 2, 2026 12:55:50 pm

The ballroom is frivolous. Bring back things the citizens need.

Name: Ron Pellegrino

Date: March 2, 2026 12:55:51 pm

The White House, like all government buildings, belongs to the people, and not any one individual, subject to the whims and fantasies of the current occupant. Please treat our honored buildings with the respect they deserve. Keep to the design process that's in place.

Thank you,
Ron

Name: Richard Kahn

Date: March 2, 2026 12:56:14 pm

I despise the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House. the White House does not belong to Trump and he should never have gotten his recking team in without careful consideration of Historic preservation experts. We don't need a gaudy golden ballroom. I am sick that he has destroyed an historic building that belongs to all of us. He'll be gone and we'll be stuck with his idea of taste and function of the building.

Name: Elise Richman

Date: March 2, 2026 12:56:40 pm

Please r3efuse permission for the new ballroom and demand the restoration of the people's East Wing. The proposed gaudy ballroom trashes our beautiful and historic home.

Name: Glenn Andres

Date: March 2, 2026 12:56:48 pm

I have reviewed the analyses of the proposed ballroom design with despair. I am a trained architect and architectural and urban historian who, among other things, served for thirty years on the Vermont Advisory Council for Historic Preservation. The Council deliberations often faced the difficult issues, complexities, and necessary compromises of conserving the essential historic character of a building while providing for change that will give it an ongoing life and validity. Among the most sensitive cases that we examined was the perennial desire to add to the iconic Vermont Statehouse. We considered the functional needs, the appropriate massing and character, and the conservation of the historic vision and presence of the Statehouse. I find the proposed ballroom design rather arrogantly avoiding addressing these considerations.

Function: If one accepts the necessity for such an addition to the White House facilities, supplementing the traditional functions of the

East Room, is the scale of this design required to satisfy those functions? The desired program seems to be to be able to accommodate functions for up to 1000 attendees, changing the character of the intimacy, dignity, and elegance of State dinners and entertainment. The analysis demonstrates that the proposed volume can accommodate 1500. This begins to seem more like a pompous political rally than an exclusive and honorary event. Beyond the scale of the ballroom itself, the volume of the proposed building is inflated with much unnecessary space.

Mass: This hugely scaled structure necessarily violates the principles of the planning for Washington, blocking the Pennsylvania

avenue relationship of the Capitol and the White House, diminishing the symbolic significance of the latter. Is an occasionally utilized ballroom an appropriate symbol for the executive residence? Its volume grossly upstages the White House and, with the expanded link, imbalances the entire composition of the executive mansion complex. Trying to expand the West Wing link does less than rebalance the composition than to further diminish the sense of scale of the White House.

Architectural integrity: The design seems more intended to compete with the Treasury Building than to compliment the White House. It is a pastiche of huge classical forms that in themselves have little meaning with relation to the function of the building.. Overscaled temple fronts, false windows and doors, grand staircases to unenterable porticoes leave it an indefensible exercise in meaningless facadism.

This is a project that cries out for reduction to essential functions and a toning down of meaningless imperial pomp to honor both the White House and its setting. It can be done, but only if there is a will to integrity.

Name: Bill McCarthy

Date: March 2, 2026 12:57:08 pm

I object strenuously to this project. The White House is public property, not the personal property of the man who happens to occupy it. Was the project authorized by Congress? I believe not. It is being carried out at public expense without public authorization.

Name: Caroline Picard

Date: March 2, 2026 12:57:29 pm

I am strongly opposed by this proposed renovation project. It represent a gross overreach of presidential authority on the architectural bones of America's seat of power, all for the sake of one man's vanity.

Name: Gary Schilling

Date: March 2, 2026 12:57:41 pm

RE: Proposed East Wing Ballroom

I am writing to strongly urge the Commission to not approve the proposed construction of a ballroom as the East Wing of the White House. The destruction of the East Wing, conducted without proper review, has already obliterated decades of our nation's history. The proposed replacement will dwarf the historic White House, destroying its significance with an addition which echos the scale and aesthetic of authoritarian regimes. The proposed structure is an abomination and should be stopped.

Respectfully,
Gary Schilling
Licensed Architect

Name: Catherine Giovannoni

Date: March 2, 2026 12:57:42 pm

Dear Sir or Madam:

I object strongly to the proposed ballroom being added to the White House. I want the East Wing rebuilt as it was. It should never have been torn down to start with.

The White House belongs to the American people, not to any president, even if they are living there at the time. As it existed before the East Wing was torn down, the White House was a beautiful symbol of the fact that Americans have elected servants, not kings, dictators, or emperors, We don't have Versailles-style balls. The proposed ballroom was never wanted or needed. It is far too large, gaudy, and tacky. The White House is not a cheap wedding venue.

Please do not approve the proposed ballroom or any ballroom.

Thank you,
Catherine Giovannoni

Name: Larry Fitch

Date: March 2, 2026 12:58:01 pm

What a waste of resources and flaunting of egotistical urges that this project represents.

Name: Augusta Moravec

Date: March 2, 2026 12:58:13 pm

I am writing about the White House Ballroom. I do not object to buiding a ballroom. I do object to the size of the project. It is oversized for 1,000 people. This kitchen is oversized. The building will dwarf the White house and interfere with views of the White House. It is just too large.
Please do not approve it.

Augusta Moravec

Name: Howard Jaffe

Date: March 2, 2026 12:58:32 pm

Issues concerning demolition of East Wing for ballroom

1. The East Wing, though expanded over time (notably in 1942 during Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency), is part of the historic White House complex.

It houses important offices, including that of the First Lady.

Even later additions to historic buildings acquire significance over time.

2. Architectural Integrity

The White House is not just a residence but a carefully evolved architectural ensemble.

Demolishing a wing disrupts the visual balance and historic fabric of the complex.

Preservationists argue alterations should be reversible and minimally invasive.

3. National Symbolism

The White House represents continuity of American democracy.

Major structural demolition for optional additions (like a ballroom) could be seen as prioritizing personal preference over national heritage.

4. Precedent Concerns

Allowing demolition could set a precedent for future large-scale alterations.

Preservation policy often depends on maintaining strong standards for nationally significant landmarks.

5. Legal & Regulatory Protections

The White House is a protected historic site.

Changes typically involve oversight from preservation bodies and federal review processes.

Large-scale demolition would face significant procedural and public scrutiny.

6. Functional Alternatives

Large state dinners and events are traditionally held in existing spaces such as:

The East Room

Temporary event structures (tents) on the South Lawn

Preservationists argued that functional needs did not justify permanent demolition.

Name: Brooks Stevens

Date: March 2, 2026 12:58:48 pm

Pls don't build a huge ballroom at the White House. Use that money instead to fund health care and hunger projects.

Name: Judy Rodenstein

Date: March 2, 2026 12:59:56 pm

Any proposed new addition to the White House complex should accommodate and respect the primary historic importance of the original Executive Residence. To do so, the ballroom addition should be subordinate in scale to the Executive Residence. We appreciate the submission of plans that continue to revise the design of the addition. That being said, having reviewed the revised plans, the National Trust for Historic Preservation continues to recommend several modifications to the proposed project, including:

Reduce Overall Size and Visibility. The size, volume, and massing of the proposed new construction (90,000 square feet)

should be reduced or disguised (such as by placing portions underground, as recommended in the 2000 Comprehensive Design Plan) so the new building appears smaller than the Executive Residence itself (55,000 square feet). Its height should also be substantially lower than the Executive Residence.

Reduce Footprint and Protect Key Views. The footprint of the proposed building should not extend past the existing south-facing façade of the historic Treasury Building, nor further interrupt the views of the Executive Residence from Pennsylvania Avenue.

Respect the Established Classical Composition of the White House Complex. The new addition should retain the carefully balanced classical design of the White House complex with its two smaller, lower, and substantially symmetrical East and West Wings.

Preserve the Historic East Façade of the Executive Residence. The connection of the colonnade to the Executive Residence should protect and preserve the original historic materials of the east façade of the Executive Residence and should not cover or demolish the existing fenestration and detailing of the east façade.

Ensure that the Proposed South-facing Portico Is Subordinate in Scale to the White House South Portico. The proposed portico on the south façade should be smaller and less grand in scale than the existing portico on the south façade of the Executive Residence.

I respectfully urge the National Capitol Planning Commission to consider these recommendations of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Doing so will help ensure that the project both honors the exceptional historic significance of the White House complex and acknowledges the investment that the American people have in the preservation of this beloved place.

I fully support these comments. The National Trust stands ready to assist the White House, the National Park Service, relevant review agencies, and Congress in exploring design alternatives and modifications that would accomplish the objectives of the Administration while preserving the historic integrity and symbolism of the People's House.

As we approach the 250th Anniversary of our country's founding, the preservation of historic places that represent our nation's history has never been more relevant or important. I urge you to consider the deep reverence that all Americans hold for this iconic place and undertake a review process that ensures the protection of the historic White House complex for future generations.

Name: Rosanne Azarian

Date: March 2, 2026 1:00:09 pm

Please do not approve building this "ballroom" project. It has not been approved aesthetically or legally. I believe we have greater need for use of the funds for above ground construction.

Name: Joan Adam

Date: March 2, 2026 1:00:26 pm

I am very opposed to the size and scale of the proposed edition. It would be a travesty to dwarf the iconic and historic White House with this large unnecessary building. There also should be a wide based and public process before the grounds around the White House are altered. I urge a reconsideration of this proposal.

Name: Stephanie Jones

Date: March 2, 2026 1:00:30 pm

This is the people's house; not open to Trump's outright demands. He demolished part of the White House with no jurisdiction to do so. Apprehensible. More has to be done to protect the White House and not just bend to his desires.

Name: Margaret Goldsborough

Date: March 2, 2026 1:00:36 pm

A concerned citizen here, writing to endorse the suggestions of National Trust board members and accomplished architects David Parker and Bill Bates regarding the new East Wing project. Respect must be shown to the original L'Enfant plan for the capital city with the direct axial connection between the White House and the Congress, the Holben

design of the White House itself, and the Olmstead design of the grounds. The scale of the proposed new building is entirely out of bounds and unnecessary even for the proposed uses. The inclusion of a useless south portico is offensive to history and to the eye. After the illegal destruction of the East Wing and irreplaceable landscape elements, the people of this country deserve a careful plan for rebuilding that respects and preserves historic views and honors history while creating a useful structure to reasonably accommodate contemporary needs.

Name: Peter Dolkas

Date: March 2, 2026 1:00:40 pm

The size and scale of the new East Wing project, which includes the proposed ballroom, dwarfs the massing of the historic residence, and significantly impacts the historic landscape, including the elliptical drive laid out by the Olmsted Brothers. While a new space for entertaining is needed, the White House ballroom does not need to seat 999 people. In the past, tented events on the South Lawn held approximately 400 people. Anything more than that starts to feel like a convention center and loses the unique aspects of attending an event at such a special place. The design plan proposes a new garden space adjacent to the proposed building, but appears to be a poorly thought out paved patio with adjacent plant beds - a concept which pales in comparison to the elegant Jacqueline Kennedy Garden which was completed removed. There are two enormously scaled "grand" staircases depicted, one to access the garden patio, and one on the south elevation of the new building, which seemingly leads to nowhere. We do not need a ballroom this big, and it could be located further away from the historic residence while still on the White House campus. Whatever your political party may be, if you follow me, you know good design, when you see it. This is not a sensitive and tasteful design approach.

Name: Joseph Glass

Date: March 2, 2026 1:01:53 pm

Dear Government,
Restore the White House as it was before it was illegally demolished.
Thank you

Name: Doranne Hardt

Date: March 2, 2026 1:02:16 pm

The current ballroom plan is way too large in scale. It looks silly and takes away from the dignity of the White House. The proposed addition looks like a joke.

Name: Tim Diemer

Date: March 2, 2026 1:02:43 pm

Forget about the ***** ballroom. Restore the East Wing.

Name: Charles Scarlett

Date: March 2, 2026 1:03:08 pm

As President of the Brandywine Foundation, owner of Whitehall, a National Historic Landmark in Annapolis, MD, I fully support the efforts of the National Trust for Historic Preservation to prevent the construction of the proposed colossal ballroom in favor of a structure that honors and preserves the traditions, legacy, balance, scale, symmetry and integrity of the original design of the White House and its place in our nation's capital.

Name: Allison David

Date: March 2, 2026 1:03:32 pm

I strongly oppose the proposed East Wing modernization project at the White House. A project of this scale and symbolism should reflect the priorities and input of the American people, yet there has been little meaningful public engagement or transparency surrounding its planning and approval. Decisions involving a historic national landmark and

significant public funding deserve broader consultation and congressional oversight.

At a time when many Americans are facing economic uncertainty, rising housing costs, strained public schools, infrastructure needs, and underfunded social services, allocating substantial taxpayer dollars toward renovating or modernizing an already functional executive space sends the wrong message. Those funds could instead support veterans' services, disaster relief, public health initiatives, or community-based programs that have a direct and immediate impact on families.

Additionally, the National Park Service and preservation experts have long emphasized the importance of maintaining the historic integrity of nationally significant sites. Any modernization effort risks altering the architectural and historical character of one of the country's most recognized and symbolic buildings. Once historic features are changed or removed, they cannot truly be restored.

There are also legitimate concerns about precedent. When executive leadership moves forward with large-scale projects at nationally significant properties without broad public dialogue, it raises questions about transparency, accountability, and adherence to appropriate process. Major changes to iconic public landmarks should involve clear cost disclosures, preservation reviews, and congressional input.

The White House belongs to the American people. Any modernization project should prioritize fiscal responsibility, historical preservation, and meaningful public engagement before moving forward.

Name: Candace Cochran

Date: March 2, 2026 1:05:14 pm

I don't know whether the White House needs a large gathering room or not, but the discussion of one never happened before the President started demolition of the east wing. That was not only wrong but illegal. Why didn't anyone stop him at the time? In any case, the proposed gigantic room is way too big, ruins the design of our most important and historic building; and the interior design suggests a monarchy - a tasteless one at that - when the Founding Fathers specifically played down that kind of excess. All things considered, I am opposed to the design, the process, and cost (private or not) of the desecration of the White House building and surrounding property with the current East Wing Modernization Project as currently in illegal progress.

Name: Gail Amshel

Date: March 2, 2026 1:05:22 pm

It makes me sick that Donald J. tRump would tear down the East Wing of the White House, as if he owned it. This building belongs to all of the people of the United States!!! He had no right to do this. He thinks he is a king and everything belongs to him. I feel, plus so many other things, this orange thing needs to be put in jail, ASAP! HE IS RUINING OUR COUNTRY!!! I am embarrassed to be a U.S. citizen! PLEASE GET RID OF THIS WANNA BE KING!!!

Name: Jennifer Cathey

Date: March 2, 2026 1:05:41 pm

I am writing to urge NCPC to protect significant design aspects of the White House and grounds by ensuring that proposed East Wing construction is of scale that is subsidiary to the White House itself. The scale of the proposed ballroom wing must be reduced in height and in length, and simplified in form. Any design for new construction at this location must reference the essential planning documents relevant to the White House complex: the L'Enfant Plan that created an open axis and sightline between the US Capitol Building and the White House; Hoban's design for the front elevation of the White House; and F. L. Olmstead's design for the White House grounds. Construction of the White House Ballroom/East Wing as proposed disrupts and violates every one of these foundational documents for what is arguably the most significant historic place in America. The ballroom use and attendant functions can be accommodated in a scaled-down design that observes principals of Classical design, and that does not upset the hierarchy of buildings that Washington and his colleagues in the founding of our capital city intended. The White House must remain the most visually prominent building on site, without the oversized and imbalanced addition now proposed. Please observe the practical input and good advice provided by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and other organizations, promote the best and most sensitive design possible for this iconic place, and do not cave to pressure to approve an inflated design that is not necessary and does not respect either process or tradition.

Name: Joseph Getty

Date: March 2, 2026 1:06:51 pm

Our history is important to us. The American people have always been proud of the White House. I think it is unconscionable to more than double the size of the White House, simply in order to have huge dining crowds inside it at various times. As far as I am concerned, it is akin to demolishing the entire building.

Name: Michael Cummings

Date: March 2, 2026 1:06:57 pm

A National Ballroom at the White House is a great project. It would consolidate national celebrations at one place. It would provide a single point to entertain guest and to conduct National Awards and Ceremonies. The Ballroom's managing staff and our President should ensure that the Ballroom is more than just a Presidential residence venue. The project must include security and event transparency for the public.

Name: Kira Hartz

Date: March 2, 2026 1:08:02 pm

I fully support the building of the ballroom. It's embarrassing to have large gatherings under a tent! The White House has been upgraded, modernized and modified a number of times in the past by various presidents.

Name: Sharon Johnson

Date: March 2, 2026 1:08:35 pm

I recall vividly seeing the news in October of last year (2025) as views of the East Wing being demolished were live on TV stations. I felt a deep pit and ache in my stomach, and a welling of sad emotion, to see this historic and symbolic building - that has stood for 123 years in our country, since being built in 1902 -- being recklessly rammed into by bulldozers and other equipment.

Such an important symbol and historic monument to our country and what we stand for - the People's House - being torn apart without our consent no less, and for what?

To build a ballroom? One that by the plans laid out (thanks to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for sharing!) appears to not only grossly outsize the stated needs for holding 1000 people, but has purely ornamental structural elements that do not take into account access for all people (fake doors, no entrance at all from a huge portico, non ADA accessible). What kind of message does that inaccessibility send to the people of this country?

The White House - the People's House - is not a place that requires any demolition or renovation like an outdated hotel might, as just one example. And the addition of an oversized ballroom, inaccessible to many, feels both incongruent and disingenuous to what the People's House is supposed to be -- a symbol of American democracy and public service. The "People's House" emphasizes that the building and the office it represents are accessible to all citizens, reinforcing the notion that leaders serve the people rather than rule over them. A giant ballroom, with limited access to all, does not, in my estimation as a citizen of the United States reflect the values of Democracy, nor of the people of the USA.

I firmly believe and suggest that these plans be withdrawn, and reimagined, to allow for ease of access to ALL citizens, including those requiring mobility assistance, include real working doors, and no unnecessary decorative only embellishments and structures that would in any way impede or block the historic footprint of Washington DC, nor the view from the Capitol building to the White House. We must uphold our Democracy, our sacred institutions, and our historic and symbolic structures. The White House is not a vanity project for the President of the US, and it's appalling that the demolition even took place at all.

Name: Mel Savidis

Date: March 2, 2026 1:08:43 pm

This is an outrage! The White House belongs to the people and must be restored! There is no need for a ballroom. History must be respected.

Name: Kathleen Bennett

Date: March 2, 2026 1:09:02 pm

Dear Committee Members,

As a member of the National Historic Trust, I am deeply interested in preserving and celebrating the integrity of our American historic buildings. The new East Wing Modernization projects does not conform to the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines for historic preservation, which include the following:

New additions should not destroy the relationship with existing buildings; they should conform to the size, scale and mass of existing buildings. The new Ballroom is three times the size of the White House. It destroys the relationship of the White House and the East Wing. Furthermore, the plan emphasizes presentation over functionality. The front portico has no doors that work, does not provide access. I am confused about whether or not it provide ADA access. Certainly it must.

I urge you to reject this design. Please communicate that a new design in keeping with classical architecture and conforms to the historic preservation guidelines of the secretary of the interior is imperative.

Name: Steven Adams

Date: March 2, 2026 1:09:25 pm

From what I have seen, the proposed East Wing ballroom is an abomination. It is way out of scale for the area -- much bigger than the White House. I urge the commission to reject the proposed plan for a more reasonably sized ballroom.

Name: Mariana Perinot Morrow

Date: March 2, 2026 1:09:38 pm

This is not a priority in this country. Let's remodel healthcare for all, food and shelter for all, and good education for every child.

Name: Lucy Knowles

Date: March 2, 2026 1:10:15 pm

The scale of the proposed ballroom is too large for the White House. Has the President or anyone else submitted an analysis for the need for such a large ballroom? Is there an analysis of the cost to the taxpayers of operating and maintaining such a large ballroom? A large ballroom creates security concerns with having to vet 1000 guests and staff to operate it. A smaller ballroom more appropriate to the scale of the White House would be more efficient to operate and meet the needs of the White House.

Name: Stephen Prudente

Date: March 2, 2026 1:10:19 pm

The White House is the "peoples house"; no singular President should be allowed to make the significant changes currently underway. I've viewed the plans. If allowed to continue the addition will dwarf the existing White House and make the building lopsided and out of proportion. It is entirely unnecessary. The end product will be a disgrace.

Respectfully,

Stephen Prudente



Name: Liz Newman

Date: March 2, 2026 1:10:58 pm

Irreversible damage has already been done.

After 40 years as an architect working on historic structures, I do not feel that any entity who presided over the illegal demolition of such an important structure should be anywhere near a project to rebuild it. There has been no demonstration of respect for the history, context, public interest, aesthetics, scale, or function of the White House in the new design. It is such a travesty and so obviously and embarrassingly a paean to one egotist that there is almost no place to begin, except to say that this project should not exist and, despite a court ruling allowing it to proceed, I do not think it should in anything like its current form.

What might proceed is a carefully considered remaking of what was there. This could accommodate new functions and at this point would obviously have to be rebuilt, and it would take years to research and design. A major buzz-word in dealing with historic structures is what is "appropriate." The whole current project is inappropriate at its core and deserves, demands to be thrown out.

Name: Betsy Agey

Date: March 2, 2026 1:11:00 pm

The size of the proposed ball room is excessive. No reason for it to be so big and grand. Trump likes thing bigger than anyone else's. How often will it be used? Heating the massive space will be prohibitive. It destroys the architecture of historic DC. The design could be downsized and still accomplish the purpose.

Name: cherise bell

Date: March 2, 2026 1:11:09 pm

The new White House Ball Room is out of scale with its surrounding buildings as currently planned. The following changes would preserve Olmsted's 1934 original landscape circulation pattern and L'Enfant's 1791 views between the White House and the Capitol.

1. Place the first floor (kitchen), underground. This reduces the need for the 25 feet of stairs and automatically reduces the above ground height. This is easy compromise and greatly reduces the scale of the building.
2. Remove the South Portico as it intrudes upon Olmsted's existing circular drive and the portico serves no functional purpose as it does not have an entrance to the ballroom.
3. Reduce the height of the ballroom and third floor.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Michael Lambert

Date: March 2, 2026 1:11:40 pm

The White House is one of the most important and recognizable historic buildings in the United States, and while it is a building with evolving needs, the proposed ballroom will be the first major change to its exterior appearance in the last 83 years and such a significant change to a historic building of this import should follow a rigorous and deliberate design and review process, not the whims of one man, whether he is a sitting President or not. Many notable groups including The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the American Institute of Architects (AIA) have raised alarm and offered recommendations in five areas: establishing a qualifications-based architect selection process, enacting a rigorous historic preservation review, prioritizing transparency and public accountability, considering "proportionality" and "design harmony", and leveraging collaboration and expertise across the architecture profession.⁵ I share these concerns and support their recommendations, as well as the following additional items for consideration:

1. Enact a Comprehensive Preservation Review: Since the last significant exterior change to the White House in 1942, major advances have been made in the field of historic preservation. Federal regulations and best practices now mandate careful study and mitigation of the impacts of new additions and changes to historic buildings. While the White House is exempt from the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 that requires federal agencies to consider the effects of federal projects on historic properties, given the exemplary significance of this site, we urge the White House to follow a meticulous review of any proposed demolition and new construction. From the limited information released to the public, it is unclear whether the proposal involves any demolition of the existing East Wing. Statements by the Chair of the National Capital Planning Commission indicate that "demolition and site preparation work" can proceed outside of any approvals process for the new building.^{6*} More recently, President Trump stated that the ballroom will be "slightly larger" with a new capacity of 900 people as opposed to 650 people that was originally announced, reflecting an almost 40% increase in occupancy.⁷ We urge the White House to be transparent and carefully consider the scope, scale and extent of all demolition and new construction. Various design options for the ballroom

should be prepared, and a comprehensive process of review and approval should be initiated that prioritizes maintaining the historic character of the building, including but not limited to, architectural scale, proportion and style. In addition, the advisory bodies that exist to better guide preservation of the White House, namely The Committee for the Preservation of the White House, The White House Historical Association and the National Capital Planning Commission, should be consulted and offer their unbiased, thorough and objective assessment and oversight. Moreover, these reviews should be carried out at a pace that allows in-depth deliberations and should not be rushed to meet an aggressive timeline.

2. Evaluate Impacts to the White House Grounds: The proposed addition appears to significantly extend into the landscape south of the existing East Wing. This impacts not only the layout and configuration of the buildings, but also the surrounding landscape that is equally important to the historic character of the White House and the President's Park (including Lafayette Park and the Ellipse). As such, any changes to the White House grounds should be carefully deliberated and involve appropriate landscape experts.

3. Consider Broader National Impact on Historic Preservation: Known as the "People's House," the White House is one of the most significant and visible historic properties in the country. Any project at the White House, whether it involves interior renovation, changes to the landscape, or a new exterior addition, acts as a national precedent in the treatment of historic properties. Recognizing this, we urge the White House to carefully consider our recommendations so that the project can have a positive influence on preservation practice, policies and procedures across the nation.

Regards,
Michael Lambert

Name: Kevin Flaherty

Date: March 2, 2026 1:12:15 pm

This is a frivolous project. Please focus on effective delivery of services to citizens and fiscal responsibility.

Name: Stephen Hofstatter

Date: March 2, 2026 1:12:50 pm

As a 40-year licensed general contractor with focus on historic residential and small commercial properties, I'm passionate about architectural protection and preservation. Done correctly, it's a gift that each rising generation receives in having context of a locality's history, as well as the precedent that melds tasteful design with modern needs.

If the claim is true that the razed East Wing structure was obsolete, the existing process for determining the fit of any replacement is well-established and effective. The District of Columbia is special to the nation and has rich stories to tell through architecture. The District, and the White House in particular, deserve every consideration when changes are sought. Previous administrations had no problem in respecting and accommodating the review processes. Until now, all have understood the importance of preserving the aesthetic fabric of our national capitol.

I'm pleased that NTHP and others have stood tall against the Trump administration on adherence to protocols and legal mandates. I dearly hope they prevail, particularly because exceptions create precedence going forward. My local historic district commission has little control over enforcement matters when they have weakly caved to exceptions or incidental waivers in the past. All an applicant in my city has to do is point to those cases and say "we demand the same."

Let's protect the standards and protocols that have maintained the rich history of the District. Scale and proportion are critical. Do not build a structure larger than is needed. Assure that door and window fenestration is functional rather than artificial, especially at street level. Above all, make sure we uphold the tasteful balance and harmony that the L'Enfant and Olmsted plans accomplished.

Name: Angie Barker

Date: March 2, 2026 1:13:24 pm

To: National Capital Planning Commission
Re: Proposed Construction of White House Ballroom
From: Angie L. Barker

I write in strong opposition to the proposed 90,000-square-foot East Wing Modernization Project and ballroom addition to the White House complex.

The White House is not merely the residence of the President; it is a National Historic Landmark and National Park belonging to the American people. It has stood as the most symbolically significant historic site in the United States for over two centuries. Any permanent alteration to it demands the highest level of scrutiny, transparency, and adherence to established review processes. This project has failed on all counts.

Most egregiously, the East Wing, a historic structure, was demolished in October 2025 before plans were ever submitted to this Commission for required review. Construction and demolition were carried out in deliberate circumvention of the federal review process that exists precisely to protect our shared national heritage. Presenting plans to the NCPC after the wrecking ball has already swung is not compliance, it is a poor attempt to ratify irreversible damage after the fact. The Commission must not allow itself to be used as a rubber stamp for a process that was never properly followed.

The Kennedy Rose Garden, a beloved historic landscape with deep cultural significance, was also paved over without appropriate consultation with historic preservationists. This is an irreplaceable loss.

The proposed addition, at 90,000 square feet, would dwarf the Executive Residence itself, which stands at approximately 55,000 square feet. Rather than being subordinate and complementary to the historic structure, as the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation clearly require, this addition would overwhelm and permanently disfigure the carefully balanced classical design of the White House complex. Critics within the architectural community have rightly described the scale as reducing the Mansion to "the tail wagging the dog." The proposed design more closely resembles a private gilded club than a respectful addition to one of the world's most recognizable and historically important buildings.

The permitting process has been equally troubling. Demolition proceeded without NCPC approval. The Commission of Fine Arts that voted unanimously to approve these plans was composed entirely of members newly appointed by the administration that initiated this project, raising serious questions about the independence and legitimacy of that review. The public deserves a genuine, arms-length review, not a choreographed approval by loyalist appointees.

I urge the NCPC to exercise its full statutory authority and REJECT THIS PROPOSAL in its current form. At minimum, the Commission must require a substantial reduction in the size, height, and massing of any proposed addition; mandate consultation with independent historic preservation experts; and ensure that any future work proceeds in proper sequence, plans approved BEFORE demolition, not after.

The White House belongs to ALL Americans, not to any single administration or president. We are its stewards, not its owners. I implore this Commission to act accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie L. Barker
Oklahoma City, OK
March 3, 2026

Name: Tamara Dahling
Date: March 2, 2026 1:14:42 pm

Please do not allow construction of this monstrosity of a ballroom go forward. I am still in shock that the entire East Wing of the White House was destroyed but what's done is done. I ask that you not allow it to be replaced by a garish, unnecessary oversized ballroom that will potentially overshadow the current building.

Name: Charles Train
Date: March 2, 2026 1:15:03 pm

It is stunning that the President tore down the East Wing without consulting anyone. It's not his house. It's the symbolic home of the American people and a symbol of their history and aspirations. Just put it back and I will be happy. The ballroom is ridiculous. There are plenty of suitable venues nearby. Tearing down the East Wing is an abomination, if not a criminal act.

Name: Cathy Hallenbeck
Date: March 2, 2026 1:15:12 pm

Please consider restoring the East Wing of the White House, as well as constructing the new ballroom. I understand the

need for a large entertainment space and a commercial grade kitchen. But there must be a way to incorporate both pre-existing structures and new facilities.

Thank you.

Name: Karin Shrubsole

Date: March 2, 2026 1:15:19 pm

Too big and out of scale

Name: Judith Unsicker

Date: March 2, 2026 1:15:55 pm

As a taxpayer with interests in history, art, and the environment, I strongly oppose approval of the White House ballroom proposal. A ballroom that dwarfs the existing White House is unnecessary and inappropriate. The exterior of the East Wing should be restored to its condition before the appalling, illegal and irresponsible demolition. If interior improvements (in electrical wiring, plumbing, insulation, etc.) are needed for safety, they should be made. (I understand that asbestos was released during demolition. Cleanup should be a priority before any new construction.) The finished interior of the restored East Wing should match pre-demolition conditions.

Name: Jan Rivers

Date: March 2, 2026 1:16:01 pm

Dear National Trust for Historic Preservation folk,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my thoughts. I would like to express my strong opposition to the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House.

The White House is far more than a residence or event space. It is a historic landmark and a symbol of national continuity that belongs to all Americans, regardless of political affiliation. Its architectural integrity and carefully balanced proportions have been preserved over generations with great care and restraint.

A permanent addition of this magnitude would significantly alter the scale and character of one of our nation's most important historic structures. I find this proposal deeply concerning, both for its size and for the precedent it could set for future alterations to nationally significant landmarks.

A project of this scope warrants the highest level of scrutiny, transparency, and broad public consensus. Decisions affecting the historic fabric of the White House should be approached with caution and a clear commitment to preservation principles that transcend any single administration.

I respectfully urge the Commission to reject this proposal and to prioritize the long-term stewardship and historic integrity of this irreplaceable national symbol.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jan Rivers

Mountain View, California

Name: Joan Uhler

Date: March 2, 2026 1:16:19 pm

The presentation is silent on proposed excavation depth for construction of the building and what may be contained underground (other than typical below-ground utility corridors/conduits). More transparency is necessary regarding any additional facilities/structures below the ballroom, lobbies, corridors, etc.

Name: Mark Salamon

Date: March 2, 2026 1:16:38 pm

Stop Trump's unpermitted billionaire ballroom abomination and restore the East Wing of the White House that Trump had no legal authority to demolish.

Name: Ann Crevelt

Date: March 2, 2026 1:16:42 pm

I am disturbed that we are asked for comments after the demolition has occurred. All projects particularly those in the public sector, should adhere to standard process. We as citizens are not able to start a project without permits and approvals in place. What does the US government get an exception.

The new section is far too large and does not balance the existing structures.

Name: Kelly Dannenfelser

Date: March 2, 2026 1:16:45 pm

I oversee historic preservation in a fast growing city in my day role. Today I'm writing as a citizen of our great country.

Please restore the east wing to its original scale and architectural form. Demolishing the historic wing is disgraceful to our nation's history.

There needs to be more oversight on exterior changes to the White House. We thought all presidents would respect the symbol of our great democracy, but we were wrong.

Please restore the building and do not add on a giant ballroom that overwhelms and detracts from the White House.

Name: Thomas Wagner

Date: March 2, 2026 1:17:07 pm

I write in strong opposition to any further expenditure on this project, or indeed any furtherance of any kind. This unreviewed and illegitimate demolition of an architectural and cultural icon of the American people should be stopped here and now, and steps taken to restore the structures to their former condition with the private monies supposedly dedicated to it's completion. If the costs to effect this are not covered by the existing funds, the legal action should be taken against the sitting President and any others who initiated or "authorized" this unlawful destruction of the East Wing to bear the entire expense of restoration. Thank you for your diligence in rectifying this gross abuse of Executive authority.

Name: Debra Baker-Schneider

Date: March 2, 2026 1:18:11 pm

I am very much against the ballroom addition. It is out of scale with the rest of the White House and I am not convinced it is needed. While I understand that it is donor funded, what will be the additional expenditures associated with its upkeep? If Mr. Trump is looking for a donor-funded monument, the Donald J. Trump Children's Cancer Hospital would be a needed and more significant honor. Let's do that instead.

Name: Clifford Clark

Date: March 2, 2026 1:18:53 pm

As an architectural historian with a PhD in American Studies I know that traditional 19th American buildings in the classical revival style like the White House emphasized Classical traditional principles. Chief among those is the Greek idea of the Golden Mean, a ratio of 1 to 1.6. The proposed White House Addition, even including the larger Pediment,

violates that principle. If built as proposed, the resulting structure will be a bastardization of that ideal and will destroy the underlying structural integrity of the current building.

Name: Carol Pearce

Date: March 2, 2026 1:19:17 pm

To destroy our heritage and history to the vanity on one man is bc without prevent. Stop it.

Name: Mark Spence

Date: March 2, 2026 1:20:52 pm

The White House is OUR house. It does not belong to a temporary tenant. WE should decide the fate of our own property. Modernization and modernization without taste compromises our history and our heritage. A life safety issue; of course, provided the original look and feel are maintained. Cosmetic lust needs to be tabled and lime thrown over it so it will never grow. If for some reason the White House needs "updating," leave the decisions and the design to our National Preservation experts. Only they know how to modernize an historical structure.

Name: Joy Goudie

Date: March 2, 2026 1:20:55 pm

Step aside and let a professional time tested builder of major buildings get the job done. Our President, Donald J Trump, knows what he is doing.

I prefer foreign visitors are impressed with a grand Trump endorsed structure than your suggested sad structures.

Stop wasting money that can be used on historic structures in need of restoration.

The proposed new, secure event space on the White House is an improvement

Name: Elaine Wilson

Date: March 2, 2026 1:21:37 pm

As a Extremely Concerned Citizen, The Current Destruction of the East Wing of "The People's House" in order to satisfy the monstrous ego of the current President; is Unacceptable . If this "Monstrous Ballroom Project" is Approved, (as planned) WeThePeople will have lost one more Guardrail of Democracy. The illegal and destructive actions by The Current President must be stopped, This "project" is the evidence of an authoritarian bully's continuing lack of respect for Law, History, Architectural and Historical Norms.

The Current "Hole in the Ground" (secretly dug) without approval) must not be encouraged, The recent webinar exploring design alternatives for a more sensitive White House ballroom.Is a great way to understand what's at stake and what's Possible AND Necessary, Please do not cave into Ignorant, Unlawful Actions by the "wanna be" Dictator,

This STALIN-like "Hanging Pennants" Shrouding Government Buildings is evidence enough of an unbalanced psyche. We the American people deserve better..

It will take TIME to create "Viable Alternatives for a More Sensitive White House Ballroom.", #WeThePeople" deserve respect. Please Do Not Pander to an Ignorant, Insensitive Bully. Fill IN The Hole in the Ground as necessary and BEGIN AGAIN..

Name: Kelly Hairgrove

Date: March 2, 2026 1:22:37 pm

It's too late because the damage has been done. But I hope that this does not happen again.

There should be no construction at any historic government without approval. Any alteration of the White House should

have an oversight committee. Those on the oversight committee should not be a part of or appointed by administration.

At this point, even a doorknob change should require approval. When you have a child who respects nothing you need to have a firmer hand in allowing him to make decisions.

Name: Randi Vogt

Date: March 2, 2026 1:22:42 pm

The proposed ballroom addition is way too big and out of scale both visually and functionally.

*Visually, it is a statement of domination- nothing more. It speaks only to the ego of one man and has nothing to do with our history as a nation.

*Functionally, the ballroom will feel empty and cold because of its cavernous size. 10,000 to no more than 15,000 sf will ensure that guests feel welcomed and comfortable.

*Eliminate the portico - especially since it can't even be accessed from the ballroom. It's just for show.

*Reduce the height of the building to bring it more in scale with the west wing. If it's truly necessary to have three stories, then reduce the ceiling height of each story.

*Ensure that the building does not obstruct the view of the Capitol or alter the Olmstead landscaping plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Name: Becket Franklin

Date: March 2, 2026 1:22:57 pm

The presidential residence deserves a more appropriate alternative, i.e. a more contextual plan or a even a detached structure, that would preserve the tradition of American architectural excellence.

Name: Kathleen Smith

Date: March 2, 2026 1:24:22 pm

The destruction of the East Wing of the White House without consent is very upsetting as an American citizen. The historic structure of the White House is swallowed by the building of the Ballroom monstrosity. The White House is never a permanent residence for the occupants. It's the House of the People. We can expect that some things are changed by residents over the years so they and their families are comfortable but this is not a simple change nor a relevant or necessary addition. It is garish and ridiculous. It should be removed and replaced with an East wing structure suitable for the White House. We the People would like our White House back.

Name: Raphael Kosek

Date: March 2, 2026 1:25:25 pm

Dear NCPC:

The East Wing of the People's House has been torn down without any due process or proper input. You must stop this gilded ballroom and find something more in keeping with the actual White House itself.

Our president did this without consulting any historic preservations organizations or the American people. He had no right to just demolish this historic section of our house. It's not his house.

Of course, now that it's gone, please come up with something tasteful and in keeping with the White House. This was rash and uncalled for and seriously wounds the People's House.

Sincerely,

Raphael Helena Kosek

Name: Lee Huber

Date: March 2, 2026 1:25:58 pm

I am a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. I support and adopt their comments. I also went to school in DC and lived there for several years. It's a beautiful city full of historic monuments and structures. Among the most important is the White House the most important house in America. I offer a few comments for emphasis. Bigger is not always better!!

The proposed structure shows a disregard for the historic planning of the city by L'Enfant. He purposely planned an unencumbered view between the White House and the Capitol which will be blocked if the ballroom is constructed.

Further the size of the structure is not in accord with architectural design standards. It is much larger and the ballroom is 3x the size of WH volume. See Trust's comments in this regard.

Please consider the Trusts comments for alternatives and directions which are more sympathetic to the WH design and more in balance with its historical design.

Thanks for your consideration
Lee Huber

Name: Mark Gause

Date: March 2, 2026 1:26:28 pm

I speak in opposition of "East Wing Modernization Project", to both the actions already taken and all proposals to date to construct unknown underground structures as well as above ground "ball room" and related facilities.

I write as a lifelong citizen of the USA who was taught a deep regard for the structure of our nation as Pres. Lincoln declared "of, by and for the people." The White House is the People's House and it is be our express permission by a national election we permit a leader and his/her family the privilege's of living in the People's House during their term of office. Changes to the very house itself are done by those to whom the House belongs - We, the People.

That the first operations of this program were undertaken in the dark of night speaks to the depravity of the Project. The ever escalating budget (\$250 million, 300 million, 400 million) in the matter of months speaks to the lack of accountability of the Project. The scope of the project - footprint, occupancy, design standards - speaks to the pathological collapse of those seeking this project. In short, its origin, scope, and accountability are not ready to move forward in any way.

You must stop this "Project" in its tracks - today.

What now? Others will need to be called upon to explore both what has been lost in the reckless actions which have brought us to this point and how we might move forward in a way that honors the history, role and service this building plays in the lives of we, the People. For now - the let ground rest ... perhaps install markers for the Million Plus Americans lost in to COVID because of this one man ... perhaps install markers for every life lost due to the end of USAID or the DOGE project or the OBB passed last year. Let a hole in the ground remain for a while so that we might reflect on the holes that have been blasted through our nation.

I speak in opposition to all aspects of the current "East Wing Modernization Project"

Name: Marylyn Stroup

Date: March 2, 2026 1:27:39 pm

The American people do not want or need a White House ballroom! So shameful, wasteful and disgusting to see this happening. Please stop it!

Name: Carole McCarthy

Date: March 2, 2026 1:27:49 pm

The proposed ballroom is a gaudy ugly building that does not fit the classic white house. Don't disgrace our White House. He can build it at Mar-A-Lago.

Name: Sarah Thomas

Date: March 2, 2026 1:28:43 pm

As a Georgetown homeowner I go to considerable expense to maintain the historic integrity of our property and our city. I am appalled at the lack of respect for the principles of historic preservation and the travesty that would result from the construction of a giant "ballroom" that would dwarf the elegant historic White House and be a gaudy monstrosity. It is not for any one man, including President Trump, to inflict his personal tastes on our Capitol city and the Pwople's House. That's not democracy. We don't need a costly boondoggle constructed at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave which would cost a fortune to maintain and change the character of the White House by destroying the proportionality of the architecture.

Name: JAMES p DOOLEY SR

Date: March 2, 2026 1:28:54 pm

Mr President keep up the good work you're doing a fantastic job can't wait to see the outcome of this project we are behind you 100%

Name: Charles W Baumann

Date: March 2, 2026 1:29:19 pm

I strongly object to the destruction of the East wing of the White House for a monument to our current President. It is a gross waste of tax money. I can think of far worthier uses for the money being spent on this so-called improvement to the White House. Food assistance is the first thing that comes to mind. I urge you to vote against this project in the strongest manner possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Sarah Dauby

Date: March 2, 2026 1:29:39 pm

Put back the east wing

Name: Sally Boyett

Date: March 2, 2026 1:29:58 pm

Public Comment in Support of the Proposed White House Ballroom Project

I am writing in strong support of the proposed ballroom project at the White House.

This project represents a practical and necessary modernization of a historic building that continues to serve as both a working executive office and the ceremonial home of the American presidency. The White House regularly hosts large-scale diplomatic, cultural, and national events. The addition of a purpose-built ballroom is a logical upgrade that will enhance functionality, improve event logistics, and better accommodate official gatherings that currently require temporary structures or external venues.

Importantly, this project is privately funded. It does not place a financial burden on taxpayers and reflects a longstanding tradition of philanthropic support for improvements to the Executive Mansion. Private funding ensures that necessary upgrades can proceed without diverting public resources from other priorities.

It is also evident that much of the opposition to this project is political in nature rather than substantive. Facilities improvements to the White House have occurred under administrations of both parties, and such enhancements should be evaluated on merit, practicality, and stewardship — not partisan preference. A permanent ballroom is a reasonable infrastructure improvement consistent with the building's ceremonial role.

The White House must evolve to meet the operational needs of modern governance while preserving its historic character.

With proper design oversight and adherence to preservation standards, this project can achieve both goals.
I respectfully urge the Commission to approve the ballroom proposal.

Name: STEVE HOPPER

Date: March 2, 2026 1:30:13 pm

It's difficult to comment with any positivity regarding this project, which was begun unlawfully, and without any of the required input. Also, a portion of the White House (The People's House) was destroyed, again unlawfully and without any public input. But considering who's pushing this albatros, none of that is surprising. The ethos behind it is completely driven by one man's ego, and it's been well-proven that taste, discretion or understatement are non-existent. What WOULD gold plating look like covering an ENTIRE building? And what about signing? Perhaps some four foot tall backlit letters would look nice? In RED.

Finally, does anyone really think that the standards and limitations derived from critical and public sources would be adhered to? Or even considered? He's a NY real estate developer, (among other things) and not a credible one. Sad to say, but I think those decisions have already been made.

Name: Bonnie Morscher

Date: March 2, 2026 1:30:31 pm

I write to object to approval of the President's current plan for the proposed ballroom construction on the following grounds:

1. The proposed ballroom structure is so large that it dwarfs the actual White House and is not designed in accordance with architectural aspects of the White House. Any addition to the White House should be in service to and be subordinate to the main structure.
2. The proposed structure obliterates the historic view of the Capitol to the White House which symbolically connects the "People's House" to our government's lawmaking.
3. The proposed ballroom construction design also does not echo the classical design of the White House and utilizes a different column design, nor does it provide balance due to its oversize.
4. The proposed design does not appear to have been drafted by a classical architect mindful of the historical significance of the main building and the White House grounds and, in fact, the design of the City itself.

Please do not approve it.

Name: Gail Stucky

Date: March 2, 2026 1:30:33 pm

I think I chose the right name for the project. I am 100% against.-I'm an American. I'm an American citizen. I was even born here which apparently is now a thing.-I voted my entire life-I'm disgusted by the idea that this building would be built-this is not a building for the American people. This is a building for some guys's ego.-which we know who would put in a 90,000 ft.² building next to a 55,000 squid warehouse unless you were trying to build something not for the people not even in good taste.

Don't get me started on a waste of money because I don't believe for one second this is being paid for by someone else other than the US taxpayers-and by some chance, the grifter does get other people to pay for the building who's paying for the maintenance who's paying for the utilities? Who's paying for the long-term care?-who's paying to destroy our nation's capital?

I am totally against this building

Name: JoAnne Pihlkar

Date: March 2, 2026 1:31:17 pm

The East Wing should be left alone. It's part of an historical structure. It belongs to the people of the United States, not the president. There should be as many impact studies done on this as you would require for anyone else (public entity or private citizen) making a similar change. To my knowledge, this has not been done. For a president (or any other single person) to materially and structurally change it is akin to someone renting your house and either putting on an addition or knocking it down. In other words, if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Name: Cinda Combs

Date: March 2, 2026 1:31:52 pm

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important project. Upon studying the drawings and photographs, as well as listening to the Architects' webinar, it is crystal clear that this proposed ballroom is outrageously inappropriate and should be stopped immediately and permanently. The scale is the main problem: it is way too large (unnecessarily so) and diminishes the importance of our beloved White House. Also it is poorly designed and filled with fake features such as blind windows and doors that are not doors.

President Washington would rollover in his grave. Please, please, please do not allow this architectural travesty to go forward.

Sincerely,

Cinda Combs

Name: HELEN PASAKARNIS

Date: March 2, 2026 1:32:05 pm

ABOMINATION!

just like the current Administration.

Project should be stopped immediately! And trump should pay for all the cost of destruction & reconstruction!

Simply deplorable!

Name: Ann Alcaide

Date: March 2, 2026 1:32:48 pm

While I am all for the modernization of the public spaces used for government in accordance with accessibility or even to make usage easier for our public servants, I am extremely against the grandiosity and expense of the East Wing project. This president has acted outside the precedents set by those before him. He has destroyed the rose garden, put up gilded decor all over the white house and has now commercialized the East Wing without prior approval. I disagree with the funding for this project and with the lack of oversight and lack of authority given the actions taken before its public approval. It is a disgrace to the integrity of our nation. It demonstrates only the indulgence and venal existence of this president's term.

Name: mary Tindukasiri

Date: March 2, 2026 1:32:56 pm

I am shocked and disheartened that the East Wing has been destroyed and that a monstrosity of a building is being erected without any governmental approvals. The East Wing was of great historical significance and tradition. The erection of a "ball room" should be immediately suspended. This building is being built simply to purchase influence with Trump.

Name: Linda Brovsky

Date: March 2, 2026 1:33:36 pm

As a concerned voter and lover of our Nation's history, I'm writing to implore you to create a NON-partisan commission to supervise the designs for the rebuilding of the East Wing. The White House belongs to all the American people, not just the current inhabitants. I was horrified when the East Wing was demolished and greatly fear that its historical accuracy and visual consistency will not be preserved with the current drawings. WE own the White House. Not one man. Not one party. Please listen to the American people. We are tired of being ignored and it will show in future elections.

Name: Tim Borchardt

Date: March 2, 2026 1:34:08 pm

The expansion or rather the destruction of the East Wing of the Whitehouse is a disgrace to our nation. This was done

with absolutely no authorization through the approved channels and instead was a blatant example of President Donald Trump's narcissistic agenda to make our nation's capital a Trumpian palace. It is appalling that it has come to this, and I urge the powers that be to put a stop to it.

Name: John and Dorothy O'Neal
Date: March 2, 2026 1:34:19 pm

We have so many needs that wasting millions on a ball room is almost criminal!
Let's fund Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and Snap benefits.

Name: Cathy Trione
Date: March 2, 2026 1:34:44 pm

I'm not sure if East Wing Modernization Project refers to Trump's Ballroom.
Perhaps you make that clear elsewhere.
I would like to comment on the Ballroom.
I do not believe the various institutions set up to protect the historic DC compound have done their job.
Trump was able to destroy the East Wing and any efforts to control the situation were post facto.

The United States does not have a good history on historic preservation.
We have a long history of failure on recognizing the cultural value of structures.

Trump is one person. How is he able to repeatedly so radically alter the US Capital?
I understand the judiciary has not been helpful.

We need legislation and we need people to fight for our Capital. Do your job.
The idea that Trump's ballroom will dwarf the White House is disgusting. The entire world is disgusted with his presidency. If you and other institutions will not step up in this time, you should be investigated in the future for collusion and damaging partisanship.

Name: Elizabeth Planet
Date: March 2, 2026 1:35:42 pm

I write as an active member of the historic preservation community and as a concerned and engaged citizen. I would like to echo the concerns expressed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in their Feb 23, 2026 letter. I share the Trust's deep concern that the sheer massing and height of the proposed 90,000 square-foot new ballroom construction will overwhelm the Executive Residence, and that the new construction will permanently disrupt the carefully balanced classical design of the White House complex, which emphasizes the prominence of the Executive Residence in contrast to its two smaller, and lower, East and West Wings. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Lori Zonca
Date: March 2, 2026 1:36:28 pm

The Trump ballroom is a disgrace to the White House and a slap in the face to the American people. It displays greed and narcissism in and with this administration. Very shameful!

Name: M Carter
Date: March 2, 2026 1:36:45 pm

The White House is an historic building that belongs to the people of the United States, NOT Donald Trump.

He has no right to demolish this historic building and remodel it to his personal liking!

Restore what has been illegally destroyed.

Name: Bubba Younse

Date: March 2, 2026 1:37:08 pm

This is all BS Trump wants to build this multi-million dollar ballroom while people are hungry and starving and don't have a place to live or buy groceries this is totally ridiculous somebody better put some reins on this man and I mean quick he's got to go

Name: Laurel Mark

Date: March 2, 2026 1:37:21 pm

I think it's such a travesty that the historic East Wing of the White House was demolished for a proposed expansive ballroom that probably won't even be used by the current administration. If only the ballroom could be demolished and the historic East Wing of the White House be rebuilt to its former glory, as it should have been left alone in the first place.

Name: Pamela Barrett

Date: March 2, 2026 1:37:36 pm

While we can only lament the tragedy of having lost the historic east wing of the White House, it is time to anticipate the impact of its replacement. The proposed ballroom addition as currently proposed is too large for the stated function and will have irreversible permanent and devastating effects on the historic fabric of the People's House, its grounds, and the plan of Washington D.C. at large.

The ballroom as proposed is oversized for its stated intention of accommodating 1,000 persons. The current International Building Code outlines an allocation of 15 square feet per person when planning for people to be seated at tables. This allocation allows for circulation space. Even when allowing for room for a band and other formalities, the proposed ballroom remains too large by almost half.

If the design is not downsized to a reasonable measure to match its stated use, the current massing will cause the devastation of historic Olmstead landscape, the ruination of the viewscape of L'Enfant's city plan, and the Classical symmetry of the architecture of the White House.

With regard to the architecture of the White House itself, the severe offset to the symmetry of the front facade of the White House that will be the result of this proposed ballroom addition will essentially erase the architectural principle of the Classical Style of the White House. The use of Corinthian capitals on the columns of the ballroom addition when the rest on the White House and other Capitol Buildings are a less ornate style is inconsistent and only points out the lack of observation and finesse of the designer and their benefactor.

Since this ballroom additional is a fait accompli, it must at the very least be redesigned to be historically sensitive and in keeping with the style and scale of the existing White House. Doing so would also increase the likelihood that it might endure through future Presidencies. It would also be the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Pamela J. Barrett AIA

Name: Brenda Leonard

Date: March 2, 2026 1:39:08 pm

Put the East Wing back as it was. There was no authorization to tear it down to begin with. We need OUR house to reflect our HISTORY and a big beautiful ballroom does not meet that qualification. The ballroom size will dwarf the White House and is not necessary

Name: Malinda Zimmerman

Date: March 2, 2026 1:40:18 pm

Hello,

I am a design professional and have reviewed the available plans, elevations, sections and historical information provided by the National Trust for Historical Preservation for the new Ballroom building adjacent and attached to the White House, the "Peoples House". This proposed ballroom building does not preserve or respect the scale and massing of the White House and will overshadow it tremendously. Instead of developing a design that is supportive and respectful of the current design of the White House and grounds, it will make the White House appear insignificant. Does the administration plan of building a new White House next? I am appalled and dismayed over these plans. This is not what the American people want, use the millions of dollars that is being put needlessly toward this project to help Americans, not to build an overly ostentatious building. Design and build a ballroom that is gracious, respectful and with the integrity of design that WE, the people, deserve. The White House should remain the focus of the entire White House grounds and of all the buildings supporting and attached to it. It is known all over the world and is a symbol of the United States of America and our democracy. This new ballroom is much larger than the needs if the program is meant to accommodate 1000 guests as reported, a 15,000 sq. ft ballroom (15 sq. ft per guest based on industry hospitality standards for sit down dining) would be more than sufficient. The third floor in the section appears to illustrate a 40' plus ceiling in the center section of main ballroom creating a "silo" effect and an unbalanced aesthetic. In addition, the large portico overlooking the grounds is not able to be used effectively as not accessible from the ballroom, the overabundance and scale of columns block attendees views to the grounds and instead of embracing the classic Doric order that has been used at the White House, the Corinthian order has been used, again in an apparent attempt to overshadow the White House. Whoever is designing and allowing this should be ashamed of themselves. Sincerely, Malinda Zimmerman

Name: janis coffey

Date: March 2, 2026 1:40:46 pm

I've viewed the drawings for the current version of the ballroom. It is too large and totally out of scale with the white house and surrounding buildings. I would love to see a smaller and more scaled plan be considered.

Name: Anne Chognard

Date: March 2, 2026 1:40:51 pm

This is a complete waste of taxpayers dollars and a total lack of respect for our history. At a time when so many Americans are suffering, this money could and should have been used to help the American people- not be some sort of shameful statement about the times we are living in.

Name: Jane Duffy

Date: March 2, 2026 1:41:10 pm

Stop this madman's corrupt regime and take over of the People's House. The White House Ballroom planned by Trump is a disgrace and will permanently destroy the history and beauty of the White House. It will ruin the history and integrity of the White House by fashioning it as a pay per access, gift space for Trump. He did not get authorization to destroy the East Wing, the Rose Garden, Corridors, Lincoln Bathroom, or to foul the Oval Office. His grotesque obsession with naming spaces, places, ships, and coins after himself is a distraction from his desire to destroy this country and democracy. Trump should not be allowed to take this historic building and make it in his own image. It belongs to the American people...not Trump! He is a wanna be king and dictator and that is unacceptable to us. Please do not allow the ballroom to proceed!

Name: George L Bickel III

Date: March 2, 2026 1:41:14 pm

There was no opportunity to comment before the President tore down the East Wing of the White House in a weekend. Had there been such a chance, I would have argued against this rash historical destruction. I suggest that the East Wing be restored and that this multi- million dollar ballroom plan be scratched. It provides something the nation neither needs nor wanted.

We live in a democratic republic, not a monarchy. Therefore a degree of humility should be reflected in our public architecture. A gaudy, gilded ballroom that will dwarf the White House itself is incredibly inappropriate, not to mention

the likely corruption and graft that will surely accompany the funding and vendor selections.
Do not proceed with this monument to the President's ego.

Name: Lori Bradley

Date: March 2, 2026 1:43:14 pm

I think it is outrageous to add to the crime of the destruction of the East Wing by creating a massive modern ballroom that is not in keeping with the original historic construction. I remember the many times visiting the White House as a child with relatives that worked in DC and appreciated and loved the historic nature of this building and all the other statues and structures that symbolize the early days of our nation. Now that the East Wing has been demolished, I think it would be fitting to replace it with something in keeping with the original historic structure, or to create a beautifully landscaped outdoor space in keeping with the also destroyed Kennedy Rose Garden on the site.

Name: Peter Van Allen

Date: March 2, 2026 1:44:14 pm

The proposed ballroom is an embarrassment to the US and will cost the US taxpayer over \$200 million in lost revenue since donations are tax deductible.

The ballroom is out of scale to the remaining White House building and does not need to be that large to house the vast majority of potential events.

Name: Alice Jarrard

Date: March 2, 2026 1:44:23 pm

I am writing as a trained architectural historian who specializes in the buildings constructed by European monarchs during the so-called "Age of Absolutism" three centuries ago, before our country was founded on a different model of government. Leaving aside the irregularity of the process by which the "East Wing Modernization" project was conceived for a democracy like the USA, the fact that even a king like Louis XIV, an avid builder, would not have deigned to construct such an outsized building simply for state ceremonies should give the oversight commission pause. In dynastic monarchies, a careful balance in decorum was struck with the construction of ephemeral buildings for such events, meant to show the ruler's magnificence and impress by their very temporary nature. This was our practice until now.

The original builders of the White House used a classical vocabulary that was associated with the grandeur of ancient temples and religious buildings, but in subtle ways that diverged from these pagan precedents. The most recent proposals of Shalom Baranes, besides literally overshadowing the main residence in scale, feature huge rectangular porches with an extravagant number of free-standing Corinthian columns – the most elaborate and costly form -- atop grand staircases more suitable for buildings designed to instill reverence than as an entrance to a place of diplomacy and celebration. The main White House itself has four and eight graceful, yet less elaborate Ionic columns on its two porches, while the fourteen Corinthian columns proposed here for the ballroom building south entrance far exceed even the grand entrances of the Supreme Court (eight) or Capital (eight).

Much could also be said about the interior's appearance, closely modeled on the banqueting houses of European monarchs. The desire to return to these models of political rule is itself heavily meaningful, yet even judged within this context, this building does not measure up. Its design attests only to outward opulence rather than elegance or sophistication.

Name: Susan vogt

Date: March 2, 2026 1:44:48 pm

from the tearing down of the historic East Wing without warning, to the omission of permits and public input, this entire project is an affront to the sensibility of the public. The proposed size of the building, blatantly intended as yet one more monument to Donald Trump, is out of proportion to the surrounding buildings. If Trump wants (another) monument to his ego, let him build himself a pyramid. This is an insult to Americans of all heritages and should be steadfastly opposed.

Name: Michael Seager

Date: March 2, 2026 1:45:24 pm

It's a little late for comments, I liked what we had. Take care.

Name: Rebecca Ortiz

Date: March 2, 2026 1:47:39 pm

Ballroom is a waste of tax payer money. East wing should be rebuilt as it was.

Name: Heather Malarcik

Date: March 2, 2026 1:47:57 pm

I oppose the proposed White House ballroom project because it does not reflect the best use of public resources. At a time when many Americans are concerned about economic pressures, infrastructure needs, and the cost of government operations, allocating funds to build a ceremonial entertainment space feels out of step with national priorities. The White House already contains facilities capable of hosting official events, and expanding the building for nonessential purposes risks compromising its historical integrity. Any major renovation to such an important landmark should be justified by clear public benefit, transparent budgeting, and strong oversight. This project does not meet those standards, and I urge decision-makers to redirect attention and funding toward needs that more directly serve the public.

Name: Ruth Lowy

Date: March 2, 2026 1:48:59 pm

It is obscene for any enormous structure [as the planned ballroom'] to sit next to or even be in close proximity to the White House and its surrounding grounds. It is the height of hubris that a president, sitting or otherwise, would take down any external part of the White House [the East Wing] without appropriate reason and review by an independent committee[s] before even one shovel goes into the ground.

Our White House is one of our country's unwavering images of Democracy. It has stood alone for over two centuries, as a beacon of our country's ideal. To disrespect it by putting a vulgar structure in its proximity is the height of boorishness.

This is the People's House forever and not the house of any 'temporary' occupant.

I strongly urge in no uncertain terms that the East Wing be restored to the way it was prior to the improper and illegal destruction that has been done to it.

Ruth Lowy
Palo Alto, CA

Name: Jay Liggett

Date: March 2, 2026 1:49:01 pm

The White House is an important American icon. Please rebuild the East Wing as it was.

Thank you.

Name: Katherine W Williams

Date: March 2, 2026 1:49:14 pm

As an artist of public works, and a student of architectural history for more than 60 years, I can say with confidence that the building as proposed is too big for the space and not compatible with the architecture or history of the white house. It will be possible to build something that will do better, but the thing you are considering here is not just inappropriate, but in poor taste. It will be an embarrassment.

Name: Dr. Leslie Herman
Date: March 2, 2026 1:50:04 pm

As a trained architect with a PhD in architectural history I cannot overstate how horribly oversized the proposed ballroom addition is, and how it would forever disfigure the White House and the original historic plan for the capital city as designed by George Washington and Pierre L'Enfant. It would be the worst of ironies to approve such a damaging alteration to this national symbol in the same year that the nation celebrates its 250th anniversary. While others have undoubtedly addressed the failures of the design and the inappropriate scale of the project as currently envisioned, I would like to address a perhaps overlooked historical aspect of the White House design, that of the architect himself. James Hoban, a self-made Irish Catholic immigrant from Co. Kilkenny, arrived at the birth of the new nation in 1785 and settled in Charleston, SC. His winning design for the White House was modeled on Dublin's famous Leinster House, now the home of the Irish Parliament, then considered one of the most elegant models of architecture. As Hoban's greatest work, the White House represents perhaps the first and most significant American monument by an Irish Catholic, one who was deeply engaged in improving the lives of both the Irish laborers and Catholics in Washington, DC, as well as working for Catholic emancipation and freedom from British imperial oppression in Ireland. In fact, Hoban was employed to rebuild the White House after it was burnt by the British in the War of 1812. This Irish-American connection has been celebrated at the White House for years on St. Patrick's Day. To build what resembles an imperial project as proposed, thereby reducing the President's House to an appendage, would not only dishonor it's historic origins but also the republican ideals for which it was intended to stand. I sincerely hope that this current proposal will not be approved as submitted, and that it will be carefully reworked so as to preserve the White House's architectural and historical integrity.

Name: Gerritt and Elizabeth Baker-Smith
Date: March 2, 2026 1:51:43 pm

We are writing to urge the CFA to consider the recommendation of The National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States. Doing so will help ensure that the project both honors the exceptional historic significance of the White House complex and acknowledges the investment that the American people have in the preservation of this beloved place. The National Trust stands ready to assist the White House, the National Park Service, relevant review agencies, and Congress in exploring design alternatives and modifications that would accomplish the objectives of the Administration while preserving the historic integrity and symbolism of the People's House. As we approach the 250th Anniversary of our country's founding, the preservation of historic places that represent our nation's history has never been more relevant or important. We urge you to consider the deep reverence that all Americans hold for this iconic place and undertake a review process that ensures the protection of the historic White House complex for future generations

Name: Daniel Reid
Date: March 2, 2026 1:51:52 pm

The current proposed renovations and expansion to the East Wing of the White House grounds should conform to architectural industry standards so as not to ruin the historic scope, scale, and weight of not only the grounds but the city of DC. As a District of Columbia resident, I take extreme pride in the presence of our city and the contribution of the federal architecture. An oversized renovation to the East Wing would be a scar on DC and a misrepresentation of the federal interests in governance.

Name: Delbert DeWitty
Date: March 2, 2026 1:51:54 pm

This is a complete waste of money. Tax payer or donor should be allocated to homeless

Name: Jeffrey Mudd
Date: March 2, 2026 1:51:58 pm

I oppose the White House ballroom project in its current form because it represents an outsized and unnecessary addition that would fundamentally alter the scale and character of the historic Executive Mansion. The proposed structure

overwhelms the proportions of the original building, diminishing the architectural integrity of a site that belongs to the nation, not any single administration.

The process surrounding this proposal has also lacked the transparency and deliberation appropriate for a project of such consequence. Rushing approval without full public review or meaningful consultation undermines trust and prevents a thoughtful assessment of alternatives that could meet functional needs without compromising history.

Most importantly, no president should have the unilateral authority to impose such sweeping, permanent changes on the people's house. Long-term alterations to a national symbol must reflect broad consensus, rigorous oversight, and respect for the continuity of our democratic institutions. The current proposal does not meet that standard and should not move forward until it does.

Name: Caroline Sjostedt

Date: March 2, 2026 1:52:58 pm

1. The East Wing of the White House should never have been allowed to be torn down without required oversight/approval.
2. Plans for a new wing should have been submitted for public comment well before the existing wing had been torn down.
3. The size and scale is out of balance with the existing complex and should be reduced significantly.
4. I would trust organizations like the National Trust for Historical Preservation to have a better command of the best size/scale but in no event should it exceed 45-60,000.

Thank you.

Caroline Sjostedt
Lafayette, California

Name: Maureen Mckovich

Date: March 2, 2026 1:53:52 pm

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am writing to oppose the construction of an unnecessary and unvetted ballroom at the White House. So there no confusion, this is what is now euphemistically referred to as "East Wing Modernization Project."

As a tax paying, patriotic, native born American citizen, I proudly consider myself a part owner of the White House. None of the owners, nor any of our representatives, were consulted about this project in advance of the destruction of the entire historic East Wing. The East Wing should now be rebuilt to its original design and decor, without the use of any Federal Funds. This may also have the benefit of freeing the Executive Branch from ballroom planing to focus on more urgent matters.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Mckovich

Name: Pat Schreiber

Date: March 2, 2026 1:56:23 pm

This is a tax payer waste. Not enough private donations to cover the whole thing and that is the truth. This is the People's house and any work on it should get the People's total approval.

I also do not approve of the design and site use for party's for diplomats and ultra wealthy. The business of the country should be taken care of in the business offices and camps that already exist.

Name: Rob Lee

Date: March 2, 2026 1:56:34 pm

Trump's ballroom is a huge waste of tax payer money. Construction needs to be stopped. He should be impeached for decicrating the East Wing. He had no constitutional or congregationally approved authority to do so.

Name: Judith Raddur

Date: March 2, 2026 1:56:46 pm

The ballroom is a desecration and must be stopped. The East Wing must be rebuilt in the same form as it was destroyed. Most importantly, it must not be bigger than the main West Wing. President Trump must be stopped. He's destroying history solely to glorify him self.

Further, the Rose Garden must be returned to to former First Lady Kennedy's design. Its present "Mar a Lago DC" state is horrific. That beautiful grass has been covered with concrete is an abomination.

Name: Robinette Davies

Date: March 2, 2026 1:57:31 pm

The old East Wing of the White House was beautiful before it was ILLEGALLY torn down. I demand that the East Wing be rebuilt to look EXACTLY like it did. I'm not asking for it to be rebuilt with the original bricks but with as much as possible of the artifacts that were supposedly saved. There was no reason to tear it down except for vanity of the current president. Thank you for your time.

Name: Heidi Lynn

Date: March 2, 2026 1:58:01 pm

I learned so much from the webinar on this subject and so appreciate the time and expertise of the speakers. While it is too late to save what was there, it seems we have small wiggle-room for any possible changes to the new design. I realize how defeatist that sounds but there is certainly enough history to back up my cynicism. I am thoroughly convinced that absolutely no historical research went into creating this blueprint because the White House couldn't care less about anything that doesn't completely reflect him, despite the overwhelming ignorance displayed. And I am most concerned that we will have this monstrosity with us long after he isn't. Why can't the plans be altered to retain the sightline of the Capital from the White House? Does it really have to eclipse the entire seat of government? A slight reduction in the already behemoth ballroom would hardly be noticed. I was also struck by the image of a smaller gathering in such a cavernous space and how pathetically symbolic that would be. Please reconsider this and thank you again for allowing us to share our thoughts.

Name: Elizabeth Patterson

Date: March 2, 2026 1:58:33 pm

The proposed "ballroom" of the White House - our public house - is fatally flawed for these reasons:

1. The current version of the ballroom obliterates the axial connection of two branches of our government and distorts the Olmsted designed access. There are solutions to solve these failings including reducing the size of the overall project especially the proposed portico.
2. President Washington commissioned the design of the future US Capitol and this proposed ballroom eviscerates that historic design of the late 1790s.
3. The overall massive design of the proposed ballroom is inconsistent with the Secretary of Interior design standards aborting all the balance, connections and proportionality of architectural standards.

Therefore, the current design of the ballroom should be modified to meet the Secretary of Interior Standards, President Washington's commissioned DC plan and Olmsted's symmetry of the grounds of the White House campus.

Name: Jeff Heise

Date: March 2, 2026 1:58:44 pm

East Wing taken down illegally-ballroom replacing it illegally-sue the administration and now!

Name: Paul Mattes

Date: March 2, 2026 1:59:02 pm

The proposal is laughably out of scale. By dwarfing the original building, it diminishes the dignity of one of the most important buildings in the country. If a ballroom must be built, let it be done almost anywhere else than on the White House grounds.

Name: Michael George

Date: March 2, 2026 1:59:52 pm

I strongly endorse the president's plan to add a ballroom to the East Wing of the White House. I was shocked to learn recently that there was no facility big enough to accommodate large state dinners and that tents and porta john's were used. All Americans who are complaining about this should be aghast at how we treat dignitaries from other countries. Let's put aside the hatred for this president and do the right thing for our country.

Name: Denise Pratschner

Date: March 2, 2026 2:00:58 pm

The proposed golden ballroom is a slap in the face of US taxpayers. It is an unnecessary waste of our money and an affront to the beauty and grandeur of the People's White House. What benefit does such a gigantic monstrous and extremely expensive addition have for us?

I visited the White House as a tourist, and it was one of the best experiences in memory. It is at the heart of the American people. It OUR HOUSE. Please don't allow the existing plans for this boondoggle to be accepted and built. PLEASE!!!!!!

Thank you,
An average American

Name: Stephanie Laylon

Date: March 2, 2026 2:02:35 pm

The current design of the 90,000 square foot East Wing Modernization Project which includes a 22,000 square foot, 1000 person ballroom is out of scale with the White house and the surrounding grounds. It will overshadow the White House which is only 55,000 sf on multiple levels.

Even though the White House is exempt from an EIR process (under section 107 of the National Historic Preservation Act), all the issues that this oversized project will create should still be assessed and solutions determined.

traffic
security
parking
noise

It is stated that the project cost (currently +\$300 million) will be built with private donations. Even if that is true, the long term cost to run, maintain, staffing etc. of this large facility will fall to the public.

The current state dept dinners and events has a typical attendance of 140 - 150 people. The purpose is not to have a large pay as you go event center. it is to provide a somewhat intimate environment to host dignitaries. it is not to be a place for all corporate sponsors and influencers. Given the large capacity, where will funds raised from events go?

The current design does not take into consideration the architectural style and significance of the White House. Projects

based on or around historic properties should reflect the scale, design and importance of the historic property. The East Wing Mod. project does not.

What are the other program elements in the 90,000 square foot facility? Only 22,000 sf has been earmarked for the ballroom.

Design guidelines For the White House and President's Park were issued by the National Park Service in 1997. This states" The white House and President's Park are the first and foremost a Public Trust and important part of our national heritage."

As an Architect, i object to the design, to the project itself and to the lack of consideration that it has given to the President's Park, the Ellipse, Lafayette Park and the White House. This project is not being a good steward of a national, of an international icon of historical nature. The People's House represents the Republic and all that it stands for. It is historically intrinsic to the fabric of the American story. The project in its current design and scale should be reworked to be more compatible to the White House and grounds.

Name: Lynne Turner

Date: March 2, 2026 2:02:57 pm

I write to respectfully oppose the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House.

The White House is far more than a residence or event venue. It is one of the most recognized symbols of American democracy and a defining architectural landmark in our nation's capital. Its historic character, scale, and setting reflect over two centuries of careful stewardship. Introducing a structure of this magnitude risks fundamentally altering the architectural integrity, landscape balance, and historic fabric of this irreplaceable site.

The White House has evolved over time, but its changes have traditionally been guided by restraint, preservation principles, and respect for its original design intent. A ballroom of this size would represent a dramatic departure in scale and purpose. It raises important concerns about visual impact, precedent for future expansion, security and infrastructure strain, and the long-term preservation of the Executive Mansion and its grounds.

National landmarks require thoughtful preservation, not expansion driven by contemporary preferences. There are numerous venues throughout Washington capable of accommodating large formal events without permanently altering one of the nation's most significant historic structures.

I respectfully urge the Commission to reject this proposal and to prioritize preservation, proportionality, and the enduring symbolic value of the White House.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to safeguarding the character of the nation's capital.

Sincerely,
Lynne Turner

Name: Alison Gregor

Date: March 2, 2026 2:03:07 pm

I do not support this project as proposed, particularly the construction of a new ballroom that's 47% larger than the high industry standard for ballrooms. The proposed ballroom massing is nearly three times the original White House volume, and there are also issues with ADA access. The proposed building violates the historic symmetrical approach, and the view from the Capitol steps to the White House would be completely blocked by the proposed ballroom. The ballroom needs to be made smaller, perhaps by moving the nonpublic spaces to a lower level. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Name: Judy Silver

Date: March 2, 2026 2:03:51 pm

I much prefer the scaled-down, more elegant design for the White House Ballroom, submitted by the National Trust

project. It looks more like a ballroom than the original design, with its large, arched windows to let in greater light and a view of gardens outside. Its proportions are more in keeping with the White House it adorns. It looks more like a room for entertainment than the original, and less like a bank. The smaller size with outsize windows feels more intimate, despite being a large room. It allows a view of the White House from the Capital Building, as the two more significant buildings of the three.

Thank you for allowing me to comment. I appreciate your caring what the American people think.

Name: Judy Lattanzi

Date: March 2, 2026 2:04:33 pm

The new ballroom does not need to be highly ornate or massive.

Name: Judith Eckstein

Date: March 2, 2026 2:04:36 pm

The White House is the People's House and is meant to be a very beautiful and simple structure. In President Lincoln's day, people just walked in to talk with the President. This building was not meant to be an ornate mansion structure. It was meant to be simple, balanced, unadorned and welcoming as most homes should be. This east wing ballroom is an eyesore with a footprint of just about the size of the present White House. It totally distorts and dwarfs the People's House. We are a democracy not a kingdom and the most important structure in the country should reflect just that.

Name: Carol Cook

Date: March 2, 2026 2:07:25 pm

The current design is way out of proportion to the White House Complex (buildings and setting) and will dwarf the structure that remain. I have learned that the size will accommodate 1500 people, using industry standard, way more than the 1000 people that has been put forward. This must be clarified.

Name: James Smith

Date: March 2, 2026 2:09:17 pm

The destruction of the White House's East Wing was, my lawyer friends tell me, illegal. It is certainly horrendous. The lack of consideration for norms is appalling--and reveals an authoritarian sensibility that I believe all Americans have a duty to oppose.

Name: Donnamarie Mazzola

Date: March 2, 2026 2:12:36 pm

As an ordinary citizen generally interested in historic preservation and planning, I have serious concerns about the East Wing project.

The proposed addition eclipses the intentional historical and visual connection between the White House and the Capitol. It is grossly out of proportion to the rest of the building and disrespects the historical legacy of the President's "house" as a "people's house," versus a monarchical palace. Since this addition is even larger than what would be required for its stated purpose of accommodating 1000 guests for a sit-down dinner, and the basement and 3rd floor heights are well above any customary standard, one can infer that other, non-publicized purposes are contemplated, without full disclosure and the opportunity for public comment. Whether that purpose may encompass an underground data center, bunker, or some "benign" undisclosed purpose, such uses should not be executed in secrecy.

At a time when affordability is the number one concern for American citizens, the optics of building a palatial ballroom, regardless of funding sources, are grossly out of step with our democratic traditions, the historical legacy of our nation's capital, American values, and this moment in history.

Name: Karen Zornes

Date: March 2, 2026 2:13:19 pm

I support this project.

Name: Andrew Seager

Date: March 2, 2026 2:13:49 pm

The proposed ballroom is out of scale in relation to the White House and Treasury Building. It looms over the White House, which is more important historically and ought to be more prominent visually. It also blocks the view of the White House down Pennsylvania Avenue and disrupts the symmetry of the Olmsted-designed Ellipse. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has prepared a revised design that would allow much of the White House to be visible, would retain the design of the Ellipse, would be more in scale with its surroundings, and would accommodate the same number of people using recognized contemporary design standards. I therefore recommend adopting the National Trust's proposal. The current proposal should be rejected, as it would forever disrupt the historic relationship between the White House and the Capitol, diminish the prominence of the White House, and ruin the integrity of the Ellipse.

Also, I believe the current proposal has not been through the review and mitigation procedures required by the Historic Preservation Act.

Name: Sue Leonard

Date: March 2, 2026 2:13:51 pm

I oppose the plans as submitted. The destruction of the East Wing prior to submitting "modernization" plans for approval, and receiving that approval, proves to me that the consideration was not to modernize the wing but to build a vanity project.

There is no need for such a large addition to The White House. The proposed ballroom is significantly larger and more ornate than it needs to be. Saying that it will be used for the Inaugural is an insult to Americans. There is a reason it's held on the West Front of the Capitol for viewing by whomever wishes to be present, either in the ticketed area or on The National Mall. The limitations of any indoor facility will restrict the number of people who could bear witness to one of the most important events in our country. I know what it means to people because I have been among them.

Additionally, it ruins the symmetry and beauty of The White House. It also minimizes the office areas used by most First Ladies, diminishing the importance of her (and someday his) work. More respect must be shown to the First Spouse.

Respectfully, recreate the exterior of the former East Wing and modernize the interior. I'm sure it needed it.

Name: Judith Levin

Date: March 2, 2026 2:14:11 pm

Please restore the East Wing as it was. The White House does not need a ballroom--and its historic structure should not be changed on a whim. I work at a National Trust Building. Protecting buildings is a way to protect our history. President Trump's disregard for the White House and its history and meaning-is part of his disregard for history: He wants to rewrite US history to reflect himself and his values and cares nothing for the American people or for the importance of real history. We can and should debate matters historical, but he wants to change them by fiat--which is pretty much what he's done to the White House. Like God: "Let there be a ballroom because I feel like it." He just does things and either gets away with it or is told he can't and does it anyway. Some of that is irreversible, and the destruction of the White House is on that list.

Thank you.

Name: Anne Malone

Date: March 2, 2026 2:14:15 pm

Although I respect the need for additional entertainment space at the White House, I really think that the proposed addition is far too large and will dwarf the People's House. It intrudes on the beautiful and gracious green area around the house. Its size is not in good proportion to the original building. It looks like another office building or a commercial entertainment facility rather than a thoughtful addition to a home that we lend to our president for a term. What's more, the process by which it is being designed and built is rushed and thoughtless, with little regard for the historic nature of the original building and the effect that the new structure will have on the area. Please vote to reject the plans and have them redrawn with an eye to the aesthetic and historic nature of the original home.

Name: Vallerie and Gary Steenson

Date: March 2, 2026 2:14:36 pm

The destruction of the East Wing of the White House was a travesty. The plan to build a gigantic ballroom in its place is a disgrace. The White House is a national treasure that belongs to the American people, not the president. We urge the National Capitol Planning Commission to follow the required procedures for making changes to the White House and consult with the National Trust for Historic Preservation when considering what should be built in that space. The National Trust has the experience, expertise, and historical knowledge to respectfully preserve the East Wing as part of our common heritage. Moreover, they are committed to building a structure for the American people and for the ages. Thank you.

Name: Carolyn J Graye

Date: March 2, 2026 2:14:37 pm

I oppose the continuation of this project until it is properly assessed and approved by qualified experts. The current occupants of the White House revel in destruction of every kind. Disgusting and disgraceful!

Name: Barbara Swenson

Date: March 2, 2026 2:15:53 pm

How about we concentrate on making life affordable for Americans not adding on more reckless spending to satisfy the ego of one man. Waste of my taxpayer dollar.

Name: Diane Garrett

Date: March 2, 2026 2:18:04 pm

Having been at the East Wing for several holiday parties, I was outraged when a wrecking ball arrived to demolish it. There was no approval or oversight. Now, a rubber stamp is approving a monstrous ballroom so out of scale. I vehemently oppose the proposed gigantic structure and want it to be redesigned immediately.

Name: D Bayly

Date: March 2, 2026 2:18:13 pm

The Historic East Wing NEVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEMOLISHED. WHO gave the permission for this to happen in the first place? When are safeguards going to be put in place to control the destruction of a president gone rogue? The WHITE HOUSE represents the house for the government OF THE PEOPLE, not one man whose whole goal is to be King.

Name: Cindy Carter

Date: March 2, 2026 2:18:15 pm

KILL THE BALLROOM IDEA> WE THE PEOPLE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS STUPIDITY!! Build it back the way it was and stop WASTING OUR TAX DOLLARS FOR YOUR MILLIONAIRE "BUDDIES"

Name: C Davidson

Date: March 2, 2026 2:19:44 pm

The first Trump administration hosted 2 state dinners during their 4 years. Historically, ballrooms are rarely used. Therefore, this project is a waste of time and money. I would love to see the East Wing restored. State dinners are where the government counterparts meet. Everyone else is there for show. Build a space for 500 seated people, that is 2x larger than the current space. That seems fine.

Of the current proposal, there are three architectural items to note: 1)The White House was designed with classical architecture guidelines. Hence, the East and West wings were smaller than the White House. This mega ballroom dwarfs them all and its architectural design features do not follow the hierarchy of classical guidelines where the White House is the most important structure; 2)The historical DC city plan has certain site lines established between major buildings. One of those site lines is from the White House to the Capitol. The proposed ballroom obliterates that.; 3) The beautiful White House grounds were designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. Part of the grounds has a circular driveway leading to the People's House. One side of the circle will have to be curved around the proposed ballroom, destroying plants and symmetry for a building structure (ballroom) that is too large even for the proposed 1000 guests for a seated dinner. There are fake doors/windows and a useless south portico. There is little explanation for the use of the third floor.

I do not support this proposed project. Restore the East Wing. The White House is the People's House. The president is merely a tenant. He tore down a wing without permission or consideration of its history. Please make this madness stop.

Name: Pamela Eiten

Date: March 2, 2026 2:20:08 pm

The White House belongs to the people of this country, not the current occupant! Any project that replaces what was torn down (East Wing) needs to be designed and approved by all the appropriate agencies. Because of the classical style, there needs to be balance and symmetry. A ballroom that dwarfs the White House itself is not needed and sends the wrong message. The president is a servant of the people, and the White House should symbolize that he represents all of us, not just the wealthy. An oversized opulent ballroom looks out of place and sends the wrong message. I wish we could simply rebuild what he tore down without any input or permission.

Name: Stephanie C. Fox

Date: March 2, 2026 2:20:49 pm

Trump should not be allowed to just proceed with the revision of the East Wing of the White House without going through the formal approval process. He has trashed the herstorical First Ladies area of the White House. It is gone because he just went ahead without asking for approval. Make sure that the plan for a ballroom is tasteful and that its construction standards are up to par. Trump is notorious for ordering the cheapest of everything, which starts to deteriorate quickly.

Name: Jeannie Bosley

Date: March 2, 2026 2:21:06 pm

I writing to voice my strong disapproval of the plans the current president has for the renovation of the East Wing of the White House.

The plans are an insult to the beauty and integrity of the White House. Both the size and the design of the project does not enhance the rest of the building. Frankly put, the size of the renovation is grossly too big. It will dwarf the rest of the building. The gaudy design that is planned for the interior does not fit with the character of the rest of the building.

It was heartbreaking to watch the demolition of the East Wing. A beautiful and stately structure both inside and outside. Gone on a whim with no oversight or authority.

The White House is the people's house. Simple and clean in design. The proposed renovation will destroy that beauty.

Thank you.

Name: Nancy Wilson

Date: March 2, 2026 2:21:28 pm

The proposed ballroom project to replace the East Wing would be a ghastly addition to our White House, and it must not be approved as it is. The proposed design is ridiculously outsized relative to the rest of the structure, and the cost will be also ridiculously outsized. It is OUR White House, not any one President's house, and the process for making changes of any sort to our White House exist because we the people have a right to know and have input in any proposed changes, because taxpayer money will be used.

Name: Sandra Wanamaker

Date: March 2, 2026 2:22:26 pm

The ballroom is a perfectly terrible idea, dwarfing the White House, and completely unnecessary. So shameful to have destroyed the East Wing!

Name: Bruce Jamieson

Date: March 2, 2026 2:23:09 pm

My name is Bruce Jamieson. I'm an Estimator and Project Manager for The Teecor Group, Inc. We are an environmental company specializing in asbestos and lead-based paint abatement. I have managed many abatement projects at military bases. Even the military, which is on Federal property, is not exempt from identifying and remediating asbestos, lead, PCB, and mercury waste prior to the demolition and/or remodeling of structures. The demolition of the East Wing has exposed workers, residents, and visitors of the White House grounds and surrounding properties. These areas need to be thoroughly decontaminated by trained workers according to EPA Guidelines.

Name: Ashley Neville

Date: March 2, 2026 2:23:34 pm

As an architectural historian with 40 years of experience, the drawings for Donald Trump's ballroom show a building that does not meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards – for anything. It is way too large, out of scale with every other building and overshadows the historic White House. In addition, it destroys Pierre Charles L'Enfant's plan for the District of Columbia, destroys the sight line between the Capitol and the White House, and destroys Frederick Law Olmstead's landscape plan for the White House grounds. The current design is a travesty. We do not need a ballroom, especially one of this size and this superficiality. I'm not sure whose ego is the largest, the president or the architect! It should not be approved or built.

Name: Patricia Brooks

Date: March 2, 2026 2:26:09 pm

These are federal buildings they should stay intact because it is an Historical building. as many are in Washington, D.C. Just stop the damage this person has inflicted on our great country. We will never be the same because of disaster of a president!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Name: James Bell

Date: March 2, 2026 2:26:13 pm

I am writing to express opposition to the proposed design for the East Wing Modernization project. The project as designed is grossly over scaled for the stated use and program. The placement on the site is in conflict with the historical layout of Washington DC and removes the direct axial connection to the Capital. The massive scale of the proposed structure overwhelms the White House and disrupts the hierarchy that should be maintained.

Name: Ebony Grisom

Date: March 2, 2026 2:26:24 pm

Hello,

I hope that you are well. I write to submit my opposition to the proposed building of a new ballroom at the White House. Its construction is out of step with current national priorities. As a nation, we cannot afford to help its citizens, especially vulnerable ones like children and the elderly, afford basic necessities like housing, healthcare, food, and education, but we can afford this construction? We have homeless people living on the streets all over the nation, including near this proposed building. Why can't we build shelter for them? Obviously, I am not suggesting building a homeless shelter on the grounds of the White House. I am suggesting that if we are able to design and build a 22,000 square foot ballroom, we can design and build shelter for the city's homeless. Our moral compass is askew. I do not want one penny of my tax dollars funding this unnecessary, excessive project.

Another reason that I oppose the project is because it circumvented the approval process for renovations to national historical buildings. Bulldozing "The People's House" without the permission, let alone an opportunity for "the people" to communicate a lack of consideration for the building's history and the people investment therein. I learned recently that the portico of the proposed ballroom is not ADA accessible. How is this lawful? That is reason alone to stop construction. It is unlikely that another newly constructed building elsewhere in the country would be allowed to proceed without this basic, necessary, and equitable accommodation. Esthetically, the grandiose scale of the ballroom portico's would dwarf its neighboring edifices, including the White House South Portico and the US Treasury. Even renovation renderings are an eyesore; one can imagine the building would be too.

Please add my comments to the others who oppose this "modernization project". Thank you.

Name: Elizabeth Menkin

Date: March 2, 2026 2:26:45 pm

I am distressed at the destruction of the East Wing at what appears to be the self-centered whim of Mr Trump. That building is not his to do with as he wishes. The destruction is an eyesore and a monument to his disregard for due process and disrespect for shared resources.

Name: Brian Gingras

Date: March 2, 2026 2:26:57 pm

I am against this project as it dwarfs the actual White House and its construction has already resulted in the destruction of a historical structure. The White House belongs to the people, not the president. Each president is just a tenant. This demolition was done without any review or discussion, thus it was an illegal action.

Name: Sarah Wolek

Date: March 2, 2026 2:26:59 pm

I am outraged by the demolition of the East Wing without any public comment or communication and am submitting this comment to express my strong objection to the East Wing Modernization Project.

Specifically, I object to the decision to proceed with demolition without any meaningful public notice, comment period, or historic structural consultation. Demolishing a public asset without transparency undermines public trust and violates the spirit of open governance.

The American people deserve the opportunity to understand the scope of the project, evaluate alternatives, and voice concerns before new construction or further irreversible actions are taken.

This administration should provide a full explanation of why standard public-engagement processes were bypassed, what alternatives to demolition were considered, and how the community will be included in all future phases of this project. The public deserves accountability, transparency, and a genuine voice in decisions that reshape our national historic landscape.

Name: Catherine Jurca

Date: March 2, 2026 2:28:52 pm

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. I write to request that you significantly scale back the ballroom project to protect the historic resource. It is possible to add a significantly smaller ballroom that will accomplish the project goals without overwhelming the existing White House and the Treasury building. The current administration prioritizes classical architecture. Among its most important principles are balance and symmetry. The proposed project is far too massive and out of scale with the existing, beloved nation's landmarks.

I ask you to do the right thing by the American people.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Catherine Jurca
Orinda, California

Name: Stacy C

Date: March 2, 2026 2:30:23 pm

The dismantling of the East Wing at the White House in favor of constructing a ballroom reflects is troubling and disregards historical preservation and destroys public trust. Such a decision deserve greater transparency and thoughtful consideration of the building's symbolic and cultural significance to the nation and taxpayers

Name: Anne Armento

Date: March 2, 2026 2:30:48 pm

I respectfully ask that this east wing project honors the design legacy that we as Americans have inherited and that the design protects the integrity of the White House property. This is the People's House.

DC was carefully planned and contains inherent symbolism. Please respect the historic structural planning, symbolism and landscape design that was done thoughtfully and carefully by our original designers.

Please protect and maintain the carefully balanced classical design of the White House. The White House is a classical building which should be symmetrical overall, too large of a ballroom will overshadow the White House which should be the main building of the complex.

Scale is very important - the new structure should not be too large and overpower the rest of the architecture. The current proposed addition is simply too large and overpowering. Any new structure needs to be balanced within the historical context of the complex.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Name: Pam Ford

Date: March 2, 2026 2:31:01 pm

To have a ballroom as big as proposed by the President throws the White House out of proportion. And, in my opinion, is not needed. I believe that the rebuilding of the peoples' house should include room for the First Lady/First Gentleman's office and an an enlarged public space as well as a scaled down ballroom and should be engineered to blend in with the main building.

The President needs to be reminded that he only lives in the White House temporarily. I actually cried when I saw what he has done, over night and with no approval or permission, to MY house.

Name: Pamela Baker

Date: March 2, 2026 2:31:08 pm

I am hopeful that the plans for the Ballroom can be changed. It is so large it takes over the rest of the existing building and all the area around it.

The historic beauty of the area will be taken away.

It will cost way too much. Our tax money will never cover the cost so the cost will add to the huge amounts of over spending that the USA already has every day.

Name: Jane Dunphy

Date: March 2, 2026 2:34:09 pm

Terrible idea. Sad destruction of East Wing w/o any attempt to gain approval. Will dwarf White House. What's wrong with tents? (981 days).

Name: Laura Glover

Date: March 2, 2026 2:34:54 pm

Nothing gilded or gaudy! Follow only the most tasteful decorator recommendations. Keep to budget and spend as little if the taxpayer dollars as possible. This is our money, NOT Trump (maggot) money!

Name: Heidi Furman

Date: March 2, 2026 2:35:06 pm

This "modernization" aka the new ballroom, is an egregious assault on every American, and a complete abomination to boot.

Name: Lynne Bryant

Date: March 2, 2026 2:36:53 pm

It is time for the architects to go back to work. They have ignored principles of good design. The proportion of this building to the White House itself is unacceptable. The false portico does not add value to the design. Why the Corinthian columns on this building when all the columns on the White House are ionic style? We need to honor the historic designs done by L'enfant and Olmstead as we have very few truly historic buildings in this country.

Name: Adaria Armstrong

Date: March 2, 2026 2:38:07 pm

Please do not let this vanity project that would wreck our beloved White House, the People's house move forward. Surely it would wreck it forever. It's already destroyed by the wholesale destruction of the East Wing. Who in the eff does he think he is? It makes me sick that he moves forward with destruction, wars, murder, and everything else he is getting away with as "president" but as a history and architecture protector, this is heinous as well.

Congress won't stand up to him, but please do anything you can to help preserve the White House as it is, even though part of it is now destroyed forever. DO NOT allow this person to construct what would be a horrible overwhelming and inappropriate "addition" to the White House, it is simply not necessary nor is it needed. And please while you are at it, dig up that concrete he paved the Rose Garden over with and restore that part of the landscaping.

Name: Nora Levine

Date: March 2, 2026 2:38:12 pm

Nothing about this project is legal or beneficial or necessary. It complies with none of the regulatory requirements, it was begun without permission or funding. It is of no benefit to the public, it being a change to the people's house that 99.99% of the people did not want. The "final" plans are not esthetic or in keeping with the scale of the White House.

I never thought I'd see Joni Mitchell's words metaphorically apply at this moment and to this eyesore. "They paved Paradise and put up a parking lot."

Name: John Mercer

Date: March 2, 2026 2:38:33 pm

I am writing regarding the White House East Wing project. It was with disgust and horror that I watched the news last October and saw the East Wing of the White House being demolished at the president's order. The White House doesn't belong to the president. It belongs to the American people and as such no man or woman in that office has the right to just have a section of it torn down. The White House is an historical landmark and should be treated with care, not disdain.

The plans for the new ballroom are not appropriate in size or style. What I have seen in the media shows that the new wing is massive and will dwarf the main part of the building. This is wrong. Please do not approve the plans as they exist now.

Name: Frances Wentworth

Date: March 2, 2026 2:41:05 pm

[Attachment](#)

Name: Carol Rea

Date: March 2, 2026 2:41:07 pm

I think it is ridiculous to allow President Trump to spend 400 million dollars for a 90,000 square foot ballroom. No other president would get away with what he is doing to the White House. He destroyed Jackie Kennedy's rose garden he had the East Wing knocked down to make room for a ballroom that is not needed except to stroke Trump's ego. We have to find some way to stop him. THE WHITE HOUSE DOSE NOT BELONG TO HIM.

Name: Debbie Thinnies

Date: March 2, 2026 2:43:18 pm

We've destroyed a historic icon for what? A ballroom that only the very wealthy use while we have families going hungry in our own country. It's a waste of time and money for what? One person's selfish ego. We should be ashamed.
Unhappy constituent

Name: Peter Cipkowski

Date: March 2, 2026 2:44:13 pm

As an American citizen and long-time admirer of the history and republican architecture of the White House and its grounds, I am deeply concerned about the proposed East Wing Modernization Project as currently presented.

My concern is not only with the scale of the proposed addition, which appears disproportionate to the Executive Mansion, but especially with the proposed main-floor corridor connecting a new ballroom directly to the historic East Room. Such a connection would fundamentally compromise the architectural integrity, ceremonial function, and historic character of the East Room, while visually and symbolically diminishing the stature of the President's House itself. That corridor, in particular, should not proceed.

If a ballroom addition were to move forward, it should be significantly smaller and set lower—more fully integrated into

the landscape—so as not to dominate or compete with the historic structure. In that scenario, the proposed corridor to the East Room would be unnecessary and should be eliminated. Access to the ballroom from the White House should remain at ground level, consistent with longstanding practice. The Jeffersonian-style colonnade should also be reconstructed to mirror the western colonnade in scale and proportion.

The White House is not simply a residence; it is a historic and symbolic structure whose scale, architectural coherence, and process of alteration demand the highest level of stewardship. The East Room already accommodates the vast majority of official functions, including state dinners. Event size should reflect the scale and constitutional humility of the executive office.

Name: Christina Raptis

Date: March 2, 2026 2:45:51 pm

This entire project was an absolute disgrace and waste of money! There are disabled children and adults who are losing their benefits and these "renovations" are completely unnecessary. Not to mention the history behind the ballroom!!! How does someone just erase history like that, history that belonged to all of us!

Name: Wendell Waller

Date: March 2, 2026 2:46:17 pm

The White House is a great historical landmark. Not only is it the official residence of the President, but it also stands as an example of our time honored democratic institution. It should not be relegated to being nothing more than a 21st Century ballroom, as opposed to being the living quarters of the highest ranking elected official and the place where the Executive Branch conducts the people's business. The new structure will disrupt the classical, symmetrical design of the White House and overwhelm its scale. Such an opulent addition to the White House will project an image of this country that was never intended by the founding fathers. It will suggest that our country is a plutocracy and not a democracy. It will suggest that our country is under the control of an oligarchy. A ballroom of this magnitude is often seen in countries that have a non-democratic governmental structure. It is often seen in places that have an authoritarian system of government. And the image that we project to others, both near and far, is important. The benefit of having an elaborate space for state dinners will not outweigh the disruption to the White House classical structure and how U.S. citizens will view its government.

Name: Charlotte And Larry Burgess

Date: March 2, 2026 2:46:43 pm

Please respect the historic tradition of the White House and do not allow the modernization project of the East Wing to dominate the White House architecturally. The White House is a lovely symbol for our nation, and it is extremely unfortunate that the East Wing was destroyed without plans for replacement being approved ahead of time. That should not have happened in my opinion. Now that it has, please make sure the replacement is in fact paid for by donors as President Trump has promised and make sure the "new East Wing" is consistent in look and size, inside and out, with the original White House. Thank you. Charlotte Burgess

Name: David Lockart

Date: March 2, 2026 2:47:09 pm

Let's be honest... calling this "The People's Ballroom" is more than just a little disingenuous. The people don't need invitations to the public buildings that truly belong to them, and (again, being completely honest), we know precisely which of "the people" will get those invitations. This is just another vanity project for the current president, and he did not feel the need to consult the people before he destroyed a historic part of the White House in order to begin it. Even if this project is approved, the current tenants of the White House will not be there to see it completed, and no one else has ever wanted it. According to the designs, (aside from it being hideous) it will dwarf the White House itself. Enough damage has already been done (the East Wing, the Rose Garden, etc.). It's time to stop this.

Name: Melanie Galloway

Date: March 2, 2026 2:47:55 pm

I am deeply disturbed by the renovation plans for the East Wing of the White House.

The size of the structure is completely out of scale to the White House itself and accordingly is inconsistent with classical design which is based on symmetry and balance.

The complete disruption of the sightline between the White House and the Capital destroys the intent of a visual connection between these two parts of our government. Destroying that visual sightline is more than symbolic and signals a disconnect between these co-equal branches of government. The intentional architectural design matching our governmental design is critically symbolic and must not be destroyed.

The White House is probably the most significant historical structure in the country and changes to it must be well considered and consistent with the original design--its beauty, its classical nature, and its visual connection reinforcing our form of government. This proposed change does not meet any of these standards and must be disallowed.

Melanie Galloway

Name: Eileen Richey

Date: March 2, 2026 2:48:40 pm

Please do not approve the current plans for the ballroom addition to the White House. Architects from the National Historic Trust have an alternative version that fits better with the existing building and plan of the city of Washington D.C. The ballroom addition in the current plan is too big and reflects the desire of a single individual who seeks validation of his enormous ego. History, the majority of the American people and any architect will tell you the plan is wrong. Please listen to common sense and reject the proposed plan to ruin our beloved White House.

Name: Valerie Claff

Date: March 2, 2026 2:54:22 pm

I am opposed to the East Wing Modernization Project for so many reasons. First and foremost, the White House is the people's house, and considering the East Wing was destroyed without ANY permission, without proper oversight from Historical Preservation or Congress, this should never have happened at all. Secondly, in a time when we are cutting social programs, the ACA, Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, and many more programs that the American people rely on to stay alive, fed, and healthy, the claim that this will not cost the taxpayers anything, is incorrect, as it already has. The White House is NOT a place for an enormous ballroom for the billionaires to party in. I doubt the people would ever be invited to anything there. Has there been a cost assessment of upkeep going forward? Even with the donations to cover the construction of a ballroom, it will absolutely cost taxpayers as staff needs to be paid, upkeep needs to happen, utilities need to be paid, Secret Service protection for the president and others in attendance. In addition, the President demolished the East Wing in secret overnight, without the proper protection for the workers for asbestos safety, endangering the workers, and all who were anywhere near the project, nor did they properly dispose of the debris, considering the large amount of asbestos contained in it. They also cut down one hundred year old historic trees. This project must be stopped!

Name: Kari Fowler

Date: March 2, 2026 3:05:15 pm

I am writing to OPPOSE the proposed new White House Ballroom project. First and foremost, this project should be treated as a HISTORIC PRESERVATION project, whereby any new construction must defer to our shared history existing on this site. THIS IS NOT A VACANT LOT. This means that any design should begin from a position of deference to the existing historic buildings (including but not limited to the White House); the historic L'Enfant Plan for Washington D.C., commissioned by George Washington in 1791; and the historic landscape designed by America's preeminent landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted.

It is very plain from the most cursory review of the proposed design for the new ballroom that NONE of these historic conditions were seriously considered, much less were the driving inspirations for what should be a thoughtful, sensitive

and appropriate design.

This administration has already exceeded its authority by demolishing the East Wing without any Congressional oversight, legally required design review, or public comment. DO NOT allow this administration to double-down on its reckless destruction of this historic site. The NCPC has a solemn duty to protect this irreplaceable historic site for the posterity of the American people, and should not allow itself to be intimidated by the self-serving whims of one administration.

Name: Mary Cato

Date: March 2, 2026 3:05:53 pm

I have watched a discussion from the National Trust for Historic Preservation of the proposed White House ballroom, and am appalled. I am not an expert, but at the very least the NCPC should correct the planned structure under the recommendations of the National Trust.

!!!

Name: Gwen Durrant

Date: March 2, 2026 3:06:55 pm

I respectfully urge you to preserve the sacred and historic Classical vision of our capital city. The master plan conceived by Pierre L'Enfant carries profound symbolism and enduring beauty that deserve thoughtful stewardship.

The proposed oversized ballroom—one that disrupts established sightlines and overwhelms neighboring structures—would stand in stark contrast to its surroundings and risk becoming a global embarrassment rather than a point of pride.

This is an opportunity to create a functional gathering space that exists in harmony with the architectural heritage around it. A design rooted in Classical principles, scaled appropriately, and fully compliant with modern standards such as ADA requirements, can both honor our past and serve present needs.

Let us choose a solution that is timeless, respectful, and worthy of the nation it represents.

Name: Jane Shropshire

Date: March 2, 2026 3:07:04 pm

I write in consternation regarding the proposed East Wing modernization design as it so overwhelms the White House - the People's House - and flies in the face of L'Enfant's plan for DC and Olmstead's landscape design for WH grounds. Please, in your review and recommendations, require that this out-sized plan be reconsidered so it is in harmony with the White House and its grounds, and in keeping with original design. No individual, president or otherwise, should have the power to alter the People's House without permission of the people or representatives of the people.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: constance barone

Date: March 2, 2026 3:07:13 pm

Comment regarding White House proposed Ballroom:

March 2, 2026

- Recommend down-sizing architectural plan based on proposed volume which will dwarf the 200+ year old White House.
- Pay tribute to the classic Green/Roman architecture – they “got it right”

Constance Barone

[Attachment](#)

Name: Robert Paul Williams

Date: March 2, 2026 3:07:23 pm

I am quoting another person's answer because I agree and it makes the case well:

"I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans."

Name: Julia Park Tracey

Date: March 2, 2026 3:07:30 pm

The United States does not need a gilded ballroom. This is a vanity project and a waste of money, even if from "donations." The demolition has destroyed a valuable historical building and needs to be halted immediately. Not only is security at risk, but the honored memory of so many First Ladies and valued guests were remembered in the East Wing. Please halt this monstrosity until a historical commission can discuss the renovation and how to rebuild it in an appropriate size and manner.

Anyone who thinks we need a ballroom (especially one that size) can build it themselves on their own land, as their own legacy project instead of a library.

Name: Susan Appel

Date: March 2, 2026 3:08:54 pm

National Capital Planning Commission:

Please see the attached pdf of my letter to the NCPC concerning the East Wing Modernization Project.

Thank you.

Susan K. Appel, Ph.D.
Champaign, IL

[Attachment](#)

Name: Selden Richardson

Date: March 2, 2026 3:09:06 pm

This is a hugely inappropriate addition to the White House and is as ugly as it is unnecessary. The idea this monstrosity is being built to satisfy the egomaniacal desires of our current President is especially galling. I urge any authority over this dreadful project to put a halt to it and save us the expense of four years from now demolishing this exercise in excess immediately.

Somewhere in Hell, Albert Speer must be enjoying this debate as he knew how to pander to an egomaniac.

Name: Marlies Smith

Date: March 2, 2026 3:09:55 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or

design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Christy Morris

Date: March 2, 2026 3:10:14 pm

Tearing down part of the Whitehouse with no authorization or input is disgraceful and needs to be examined and consequences for the act itself.

Name: Gary Dowling

Date: March 2, 2026 3:11:04 pm

Stop the destruction of our national treasures. 200 years of presidents and none as much of a gaudy huckster as Trump. Demand accountability by experts in Historic Preservation taking over, not Trumps hand picked glitz brigade . Stop it before it goes any further and the large "Trump's Whitehouse " neon goes up.

Name: David Lowden

Date: March 2, 2026 3:11:21 pm

One thing seems to be ignored in all the discussion of the proposed ballroom: what is the appropriate size of the ballroom based on historic needs? I agree that holding events in a temporary tent structure is not optimal. A formal ballroom sized to accommodate such tent-housed events might be appropriate. But no where do I see information on the number of typical attendees at those events. That should be a major factor in determining what is an appropriate size for any permanent structure. Bigger is not necessarily better.

Name: Cathy Craft

Date: March 2, 2026 3:11:52 pm

We do not need a garish, opulent ballroom that dwarfs our White House. Please stop this project now, and restore the East wing to fit in with the historical White House.

Thank you,

Cathy Craft

Name: Scott Eller

Date: March 2, 2026 3:12:00 pm

I doubt it will be built.

As such, CONGRESS should insist he rebuild it exactly as it was,

Name: Ronald Hornbeck

Date: March 2, 2026 3:12:36 pm

Ballroom design more appropriate for a presidential palace, not the White House. In addition, the Ballroom design over the top in fussy decorative details. Lacks the elegantly simple grace of the White House.

Name: Dottie Williams

Date: March 2, 2026 3:13:41 pm

We do not need a 90,000 SF Ballroom. Presidents do not entertain anymore. It will get even worse as the years go by. Security is front and center for everyone. Put that many political people in one place and someone will try to blow them up.

Since the president has torn down the old building something will have to be put up, but that monstrosity will look totally disgusting. Put the same size back.

Name: Kenneth Goldfine

Date: March 2, 2026 3:13:49 pm

The fact that you call it the East Wing Modernization Project says just how wrong this project is.

I am very much against the ballroom and feel it was terrible the way the old East Wing was torn down. You are on the wrong side of history with this one.

The only appropriate response now, since it is such a mess, is to build a slightly larger and more modern East Wing replacement. We made it 250 years without a ballroom larger than the current one in the White House and we can go into the future with what we have.

The People's House indeed. Everyone associated with going along with this ballroom should be ashamed of themselves.

Name: Del Dickson

Date: March 2, 2026 3:15:00 pm

The East Wing should never have been demolished without any respect for process or public input, and those lawless actions should not be rewarded with a gaudy, out-of-scale memorialization of Trump-era corruption and excess.

If the proposed eyesore cannot be stopped, at least minimize its footprint, both to make it fit the current architecture of the White House, and to make it easier to demolish in three years and replace it with something that fits the historic legacy People's House, rather than the current occupant's insatiable ego.

Name: Terri Blair

Date: March 2, 2026 3:17:33 pm

I still toss and turn over the effort I made more than 30 years ago to stop McMansions in historic districts. Attacked for emphasizing the beauty of understated elegance and the value of buildings constructed to human scale, I still flinch as I drive through the neighborhoods that ignored the protection that historic district legislation would have offered them. Yet, there were those people who began to develop an understanding of the grace that comes when a district maintains its similar rhythm of structure setbacks and scale. Overtime, many people later have reached out to me saying they originally did not realize how destructive the new infill would be when historic designation protection failed to pass. They lamented their failure to speak up during the debates as they now have watch the demise of once beautiful places.

And now we see that the White House, the People's House, faces a neighboring McMansion. With no foresight, bulldozers have been used to destroy the East Wing. And plans for the McMansion next door are in full swing. This attempted atrocity represents both a lack of humility or an appreciation for property held in community, past and present.

Upon our nation's 250th we might be celebrating an appreciation not for the past, but for the lessons of the past. Truly reflecting upon what has served us well requires a thoughtful process and not this destructive, impetuous behavior of an executive who has contributed to the destruction of our communally held places. I fear not only for the White House and Arlington Cemetery, but also for our magnificent national parks and wilderness areas. I fear for clean water and clean air. May the judicial branch have the mindfulness to intervene on THE PEOPLE's BEHALF to protect what we hold communally as a nation.

Name: Mary Glassman

Date: March 2, 2026 3:18:06 pm

The White House is the People's House, and the drastic renovations to the East Wing are awful. First, the East Wing was demolished before any citizen groups were given time to assess and approve the plans. The current president has not revealed any plans to preserve the history of the East Wing in the new gold-plated ballroom. We are a democracy, not an autocracy where a king gets to tear down historic landmarks and replace them with monuments to himself and his billionaire toadies.

Name: Mary Froning

Date: March 2, 2026 3:18:08 pm

My most important point is that the current resident of the White House does not own it. It belongs to the people. With regard to the plans, we need an East Wing. Things like the offices of the First Lady need to be replaced. What is needed is a design that provides symmetry, so that the whole building looks pleasing architecturally. There is no need for a ballroom at all, but if it is built it should be in concert with the size of the residence. The current plans will dwarf the current building. I say rebuild the Easy

Name: Catherine Maynor

Date: March 2, 2026 3:19:11 pm

I am a long-standing DC resident since 1986) and a retired art conservator. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the currently proposed White House ballroom design. This new design, inappropriately grandiose, disregards and disrespects the essential physical and symbolic integrity of the White House, its grounds and its position relative to the US Capitol. The proposed ballroom's size and design defy the basic principles of balance and symmetry upon which the White House's classical architecture is based. The proposed ballroom design usurps the original Pierre L'Enfant street plan for Washington, DC with its critical sight line between the "people's house" and the U.S. Capitol and it mars the historic Frederick Law Olmsted-designed approaches to the south. I support a reconsideration of the proposal including re-sizing the ballroom to the so-called "high industry standard" for the intended 1,000 person occupancy; eliminating the non-accessible south portico and lowering the above-grade service kitchen. Thank you for considering these comments.

Name: J. Spencer Lake

Date: March 2, 2026 3:20:26 pm

Don't

Name: Maureen Tompkins

Date: March 2, 2026 3:21:03 pm

The White House needs a ballroom like a fish needs a bicycle. Rebuild the East Wing, restore the Rose Garden, and dismantle the ridiculous Walk of Presidents (or whatever it's called). We are the laughing stock of the world.

Name: Sharon Flottman

Date: March 2, 2026 3:25:22 pm

My comment is regarding the "East Wing Modernization". This is a despicable project that has not been authorized and another change to our former beautiful White House that diminishes it. First the Rose Garden ruined and then it goes on and on. It will either cause taxpayers billions or be funded by the Donald Trump elites who will be using it, not the taxpayers. I do not want this.

Sharon Flottman

Name: Cindy Gibson

Date: March 2, 2026 3:26:04 pm

I am opposed to the replacement of the destroyed East Wing of the White House with an out of scale ballroom.

Beauty and balance are part of any building project. Since the ballroom project appears to be a given, then before getting too far along the size should be considered as to balance and beauty. The ballroom should not overshadow the White House and should balance the West wing.

Name: Barbara Duerk

Date: March 2, 2026 3:27:42 pm

Remodel to meet needs of our Country. Our Country is growing. To serve the public, we need to provide a space to allow a the citizens to meet in a safe, supportive environment to address the concerns and celebrations of our country.

Barbara N. Duerk

Name: Virginia Delaney

Date: March 2, 2026 3:30:09 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. How can a president, any president, just decide that he or she wants to annihilate a part of the People's House?! How can ANY contractor agree to that without authorization?! It's ludicrous! I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans. Thank you.

Name: Sharon Flatley

Date: March 2, 2026 3:30:45 pm

I think it is despicable and an outrage that a portion of a historic building belonging to the people of this country was destroyed without authorization or consent from the authorities who oversee building at the White House. This is a blatant abuse of power by an individual who has no respect for history and whose only intent was self glorification.

There should be charges brought against the one responsible for destroying history and he should pay for rebuilding a once beautiful structure to its original design.

Name: THOMAS SACHS

Date: March 2, 2026 3:31:23 pm

See attached

[Attachment](#)

Name: John Warburton

Date: March 2, 2026 3:32:14 pm

Stop the construction of an unnecessary, garish & expensive ballroom that Trump can cover with usual bad taste and his name. Instead, restore the east wing to what it was before. At least make it architecturally match the exterior of the rest of the White House. The White House is the Peoples' House—not some gaudy palace to honor a tasteless and criminal would-be king!

Name: barbara schnitzler

Date: March 2, 2026 3:32:21 pm

It appears that the ballroom's programatic requirements can easily be met by constructing an addition that is considerably smaller in scale and more

respectful of the existing building's siting and landscape design.

Our White House is simple, restrained and elegant, and has represented our country in this understated way since it was built. A portion of it has already been demolished, and if the new wing is added as currently proposed, the beauty of the remaining historical portion will be destroyed too.

Name: Stephen Denburg

Date: March 2, 2026 3:32:30 pm

This project has already caused irreparable harm to a historic building and the remaining work must be stopped until the proper agencies and the National Historic Trust can get involved to ensure that what is built is appropriate and contextual.

Name: Louis Moore

Date: March 2, 2026 3:32:43 pm

I support the National Trust's plan for the modernization of the East Wing of the U.S. White House. I urge President Trump and his staff to listen to the National Trust on this matter. The National Trust has proposed a modified plan that seems both reasonable and workable.

Name: Bobbie Parker

Date: March 2, 2026 3:32:54 pm

This is a complete disregard for the country, the white house and the rule of law and congress.

Name: Christina Budai

Date: March 2, 2026 3:35:56 pm

This ballroom is tasteless atrocity.

Fake doors and windows? Grotesque.

The size is appalling and destroys L'Enfant's classical design and Olmsted's landscape plan.

This project could only be conceived by a shameless, primitive goon who hates America.

All responsible parties should be sent to CECOT.

Name: robin king

Date: March 2, 2026 3:36:32 pm

I'm truly saddened by the demolition of the East Wing. It wasn't just another section of the building — it carried history, memories, and character that can't be replaced. Watching it come down feels like losing an important piece of our shared past. The historic memories tied to women and women of color that is now gone is devastating.

Name: sally moses

Date: March 2, 2026 3:37:39 pm

I am deeply angry and upset that the people's house is marred by a vanity project.

No regulations followed, no historical legacy saved, no protection for the on sight workers.

Not one bit of truth in the president's promises that the building would not be harmed ... just completely obliterated.

This is not his house, his call. The president should be held to basic laws, regulations & standards, even as he flaunts our constitution and ethics.

The new monstrous eyesore will be a blight on our country's skyline, dwarfing the classical architecture.

Even as concerning is the "paid by private entities" scenario as they will expect favors as payback.

Our country has real problems - this is a gigantic ego trip to a terrible narcissist and has no place in the capital.

Name: Andrew Frederick

Date: March 2, 2026 3:37:59 pm

As an historian, author, and preservation advocate, I was shocked to see the President, without any sort of permissions that are required, destroy a valuable piece of American history. The White House is owned by the people of the United States and the President is a temporary tenant who must abide by the rules and regulations as anyone in such a property. This destruction must be halted and fully stopped. The White House, an international symbol of our nation, is not a resort to mirror the President's other properties. Already we have lost the Kennedy Rose Garden to a whim of the First Lady. All planned future destruction of a building beloved by the nation must be stopped.

Respectfully

Andrew A. Frederick

Name: Debbie Borek

Date: March 2, 2026 3:39:39 pm

I strongly oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history.

The White House is a National Historic Landmark and a National Park, owned by the American people and home to presidents since 1800. The current president at any given time is not the owner of the property or the structures thereon; the president is a temporary tenant whose interventions are limited by law and by respect for the people of the United States.

The demolition of the historic East Wing without review, without permits and without Congressional oversight is clearly a violation of the law. In addition, it is a violation of the trust of the American people who were given no opportunity to comment on what should have been presented as a proposal and not as a violent fait accompli.

I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to require reconstruction of the East Wing in keeping with its historic design and size. Anything constructed on the demolition site going forward must be compatible in form and subordinate in scale to the original structure of the Executive Mansion.

Name: Mary DeWalt

Date: March 2, 2026 3:39:57 pm

I write in opposition to this project. It was initiated without proper review or authorization and is incredibly disrespectful of the history of the people's house and of we the people.

The ballroom plan is not in keeping with White House design, it will overshadow the rest of the building. It is not modernization, it is a monstrosity.

Please ensure the wing is rebuilt within reason and appropriate scale and the White House is restored to its former design. Do not allow this vanity project to proceed unchecked.

Thank you.

Name: Margaret Welsh

Date: March 2, 2026 3:40:04 pm

I'm writing to express my dismay regarding the demolition of the East Wing. I'm also taken aback by the name of the replacement project "East Wing Modernization Project." This is so misleading, as the East Wing has already been torn down.

It is a shock to see the plans for the new East Wing. I'm not a trained architect, but I can tell the building is massive and unsuited for the site.

I hope that you will carefully consider the replacement building. It seems that this new project is being rushed through without much thought or planning.

Thank you,
Margaret Welsh

Name: Linda Peck

Date: March 2, 2026 3:40:58 pm

Americans have no use for a “ballroom”. No matter that trump wants it.
Waste of money...
Money should be helping those who need it....

Name: Rosalea Jennings-Daly

Date: March 2, 2026 3:41:08 pm

Trump’s proposed ballroom is clearly meant to reflect, aggrandize, and celebrate only Donald J. Trump. There is nothing about it that even remotely seems American to me. From the pictures I’ve seen, it looks more like a simpleminded version of something Louis XIV might have deemed appropriate - Baroque, but so gaudy it is vulgar. It is truly an insult to We the People.

Name: Bridgid McGuinness-Barclay

Date: March 2, 2026 3:42:36 pm

I am opposed to this. From a design perspective, it shows absolutely no deference to surrounding historic buildings (including but not limited to the White House itself); the L'Enfant Plan for Washington D.C., commissioned by George Washington in 1791; nor the landscape design by America's preeminent landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted.

From a process perspective, the current design is not informed by any Congressional oversight, legally required design review, or public input.

Name: Lynn Freeman

Date: March 2, 2026 3:44:14 pm

I strongly object to the proposed East Wing ballroom plans. The work is being done without proper oversight by mandated agencies.

Name: Armond Schiwng

Date: March 2, 2026 3:44:55 pm

I am in complete support of the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House.

Name: Randy Turner

Date: March 2, 2026 3:45:33 pm

03/02/2026

I worked for the National Park Service for more than 35 years. Beginning in 1987 I was a Cultural Resources Manager. When Section 106 submissions was delegated to managers of National Park Service Units in the mid 1990s, I became a park Section 106 coordinator. I attended required training taught by professionals from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. While the White House (and U.S. Capitol) are exempt for Section 106 review, that does NOT mean major action or undertaking can happen at the White House without reviews. In 1999 I was assigned the U.S. Senate Energy and National Resources Committee, National Parks Subcommittee. I staffed hearing about proposed amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act. I have a good working knowledge of how Historic Preservation projects are supposed to proceed. The demotion of the East Wing should NEVER have been done without input of various entitles and from the

general public. The project should cease. I was the manager of 4 National Historic sites/parks and we followed laws, regulations and guidelines. Please support of follow historic preservation guidelines and use common sense. Thank you.

Name: Donna Hadsall

Date: March 2, 2026 3:45:41 pm

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to register my disapproval of the proposed plan to construct a massive ballroom in the east wing of the White House. Not only have the protocols for making changes to "the people's house" been flouted by this administration, the current economic difficulties that most of the people in this country currently are experiencing are being ignored in favor of emphasizing ostentatious displays of wealth. I support the position taken by The National Trust for Historic Preservation: the White House should not be subject to impulsive changes to its construction by any President. It is on loan to the President from the American people only for as long as he or she is in office.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Donna Hadsall

Name: Paul O'Shaughnessy

Date: March 2, 2026 3:45:48 pm

The proposed structure is out of scale with its surroundings and should not be built as proposed. Strongly oppose.

Name: Carl Helrich

Date: March 2, 2026 3:45:49 pm

I am able to accept that a gathering area should be added to the White House, although it seems to me that there is already meeting area sufficient for the business of governance.

However, in spite of the rather obvious need that the President feels to be central to all that is, I am convinced that the primary question should be the needs of governance. Once that is decided the answer should be determined by need and certainly not by the personal preference of any President.

I believe that the care, and even humility of George Washington should be followed as an example.

Name: Raynna Bowlby

Date: March 2, 2026 3:46:39 pm

I respectfully submit the attached comments for your consideration of the East Wing Modernization Project. Thank you.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Kae Elgie

Date: March 2, 2026 3:46:51 pm

I am a Canadian who is extremely disappointed with the current proposal's failure to follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. These standards offer clear guidance for construction projects such as this one that affect historic properties. 36 C.F.R. § 68.1 et seq.

As a Canadian concerned about heritage preservation, I have often looked to, and promoted, American standards and guidelines, and especially the creative legal and financial mechanisms the United States and its states have developed to encourage historic preservation.

So it's a double disappointment to see the current proposal.
Not only does it fail to preserve the essential parts of the White House's history.
It also means the USA is no longer a model for the rest of the world.

I can suggest some specific remedies:

- Reduce Overall Size and Visibility of the proposed new building The size, volume, and massing of the proposed new construction (90,000 square feet) should be reduced or disguised (such as by placing portions underground, as recommended in the 2000 Comprehensive Design Plan) so the new building appears smaller than the Executive Residence itself (55,000 square feet). Its height should also be substantially lower than the Executive Residence.
- Reduce Footprint and Protect Key Views. The footprint of the proposed building should not extend past the existing south-facing façade of the historic Treasury Building, nor further interrupt the views of the Executive Residence from Pennsylvania Avenue.
- Respect the Established Classical Composition of the White House Complex. The new addition should retain the carefully balanced classical design of the White House complex with its two smaller, lower, and substantially symmetrical East and West Wings.
- Preserve the Historic East Façade of the Executive Residence. The connection of the colonnade to the Executive Residence should protect and preserve the original historic materials of the east façade of the Executive Residence and should not cover or demolish the existing fenestration and detailing of the east façade.
- Ensure that the Proposed South-facing Portico Is Subordinate in Scale to the White House South Portico. The proposed portico on the south façade should be smaller and less grand in scale than the existing portico on the south façade of the Executive Residence.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
I encourage you to continue to inspire me, and other heritage preservationists around the world.

Name: Gary Rainville

Date: March 2, 2026 3:47:42 pm

As a citizen invested in the preservation of our national landmarks, I am submitting this comment to express deep concern regarding the proposed White House ballroom project. The White House is not merely a residence; it is a sacred historic site belonging to the American people.

The proposed scale of this addition threatens to overwhelm the historic Executive Residence. I urge the commission to enforce strict oversight and ensure that any renovations adhere to the highest standards of historic preservation, prioritizing the integrity of the original architecture over modern expansion.

Also, given the significant cost and the reliance on private donations, it is imperative that the process remains transparent to the public. We need clear disclosures regarding donors, procurement processes, and contractor selection to ensure that this project is not influenced by private interests. The American people deserve to know that our national heritage is being managed ethically and without conflicts of interest.

Name: Charlotte Kroepil

Date: March 2, 2026 3:47:51 pm

This project needs to be stopped immediately. It is a scar on the beautiful building it was a part of. The decision to demolish this structure was not given any thought.
Plans were not submitted; no thought of what an ugly eyesore that might be erected was considered. Only the thoughts

of an egomaniac were put to use.

The building should be reconstructed as originally designed and paid for by the present occupants of the structure, not his Billiaire Buddies.

Name: Nancy Brown

Date: March 2, 2026 3:48:00 pm

As a retired preservation professional, I'm very disappointed with the proposed design of the ballroom. It doesn't respect the history and development of the White House, which is a National Historic Landmark, and any addition should be in keeping with that. This design would not preserve the original plan for a view from the 'people's house' to the Capitol, a central part of the L'Enfant Plan. Nor does it respect Hoban's design for the White House, which was selected by George Washington, because it would make the ballroom the dominant feature on the grounds. And it is not in keeping with Frederick Law Olmsted's landscape design, as the ballroom would require a change to the circular drive at the main entrance as well as blocking the intended views to and from the White House. The proposed plan is out of scale with the White House and will overwhelm it. The ballroom size is much bigger than the industry standard needed to seat 1000 people; adhering to the standard would help bring it back into proportion. Lower ceilings would reduce the building height and help make it more clearly subordinate to the White House. The balance and symmetry that classical architecture calls for is missing. The wings, designed to be lower than the White House, need to remain lower. In the current plan, the West wing appears miniscule in comparison to the East wing. I urge the commission to insist that the scale and size of the proposed undertaking be reduced to better balance the need for a ballroom with the historic complex into which it will be placed. Following the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties should be a requirement on such an important property to our nation.

Name: Terry Adkinson

Date: March 2, 2026 3:48:39 pm

To Whom it May Concern,

After watching a very informative webinar video with the National Trust trustees and fellows of The American Institute of Architects, David Scott Parker and Bill Bates, I am more than disturbed about the size and scope of this structure and if it is really needed or wanted by the American public. By not going through the proper channels, Trump has usurped the regular process of review and proceeded with this project without proper authorization. The imbalance between this massive and overdesigned ballroom will dwarf the White House and does not align with the historic architectural layout by our founding fathers.

In protest, I denounce this terrible design and plead with our elected Congressmen and Senators to grow a spine and halt this project now, before we see a desecration of our once great Capital grounds.

Name: William Yates

Date: March 2, 2026 3:48:45 pm

The White House is known as "The Peoples House" and is owned by the citizens of the United States, not Donald Trump. The citizens should have a say in what happens to it, not what happened with Donald Trump moving ahead with a project without proper approvals. So typical of Donald Trump through out his life. This is totally unacceptable. It does not matter that "...project is privately funded by donors, not taxpayers." Where will these donors be for the annual operating costs of the building? Nobody has given an annual cost to operate and maintain to taxpayers for that! Why has there been no "transparency" as to who the donors are? Talk about WASTE, FRAUD, and ABUSE!! Now we will have a building dwarfing the main part of the White House. So much for how stately the White House looked!! Very sad day for the USA.

Name: Sherry Bryant

Date: March 2, 2026 3:48:59 pm

The White House WAS a striking looking building of lovely symmetrical proportions with attractive landscaping. I was very upset when Mr. Trump leveled the East Wing overnight with no prior permission from the appropriate overseeing bodies for these special structures, and no opportunity for public comment ahead of the demolition. Our national monuments, and especially the White House, belong to the American people. The sitting President does not own these

buildings and should not run roughshod over them.

I think the proposed plan for the ballroom demeans the purpose and appearance of the White House. It is massive and grandiose, over-shadowing the rest of the house.

Major changes by previous Presidents did not drastically demolish sections without seeking prior approval to determine how the changes would affect the total "appearance" of the structure.--keeping such changes in a reasonable proportion to the remaining building.

Once the East Wing was destroyed, it cannot be put back the way it was. If construction is not well underway on this ballroom, I would hope that the appropriate groups take hold of overseeing this structure and reducing its size to be more compatible with the rest of the White House and its pleasing architectural design.

Name: Frits Abell

Date: March 2, 2026 3:49:06 pm

I am vehemently opposed to this new build, as I was to the President's illegal demolition.

Please stay your course in fighting this! Thank you

Name: Diana Painter

Date: March 2, 2026 3:49:49 pm

[Attachment](#)

Name: Judith Jennings

Date: March 2, 2026 3:50:18 pm

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I believe the proposed scale and positioning of the East Wing Modernization Project should not be approved. The scale overwhelms views and access to the White House and belittles its importance architectually and its place in our government.

Name: Lois Pasquale

Date: March 2, 2026 3:51:20 pm

While a larger, controllable area for meetings in the White House may be necessary, a garish, oversized ballroom stuck onto the existing building without thought for maintaining the integrity of the building design is NOT the way to go about it.

PLEASE REQUIRE THE ADMINISTRATION TO ABIDE BY THE GUIDELINES FROM THE NATIONAL TRUST, as it is obliged to do!

The White House belongs to us, the People of the United States, not any one administration or president.

Thank you.

Name: Sari R Levine MD

Date: March 2, 2026 3:53:34 pm

This ballroom is an abomination, and an affront to all that is special about the White House. Shame on anyone who approved these horrific plans

Name: Catherine Valentine

Date: March 2, 2026 3:54:05 pm

I am adding my voice to the many who feel deep outrage at the unauthorized destruction and rebuilding of the East Wing and other areas of the White House and grounds, at tremendous cost to the American taxpayers, including the wholesale decimation of valuable, significant and historical features of "the People's House". We cannot stand by while one sick individual destroys our precious symbols and monuments of democracy as well as democracy itself. Please Please PLEASE: find the means to push back against what its happening!

Name: Mary Ellen Martin

Date: March 2, 2026 3:54:23 pm

As a woman, I am hurt to the core that the WOMENS historic (120 years) East Wing has been DESTROYED. HOW ONE PERSON can make a decision that effects millions of women WITHOUT permission. IT IS THE PEOPLES HOUSE and the people didn't have a chance to give their opinion. The ball room will be TO BIG and it WILL DISTROY the look of the WHITE HOUSE. SHAME SHAME SHAME!

Name: William Theodore

Date: March 2, 2026 3:56:20 pm

All work on this project should be halted until:

1. there has been a review by an independent commission of the legality in deciding to demolish the east wing, and the procedures used , including a full environmental and historical impact review.
2. there has been an independent determination of the best plan for using the space left vacant by the demolition.

the members of the independent commission should be chosen by representatives of the NPCP, representatives of professional architectural and landscaping association,s the DC government , and equal congressional representation

Name: MARGARET OBRIEN

Date: March 2, 2026 3:56:58 pm

- 1) Rebuild the East Wing restoring the First Lady history. Go ahead and modernize it like Truman did (1948, the residence's load-bearing walls and wood beams were found to be close to failure. Interior rooms were completely dismantled and a new internal load-bearing steel frame was constructed inside the walls.)
- 2) What is the real purpose of a ballroom? The White House should not a fundraising location – Hatch Act. Productive work for The People is not done in large gatherings.
- 3) It does not matter if it the ballroom is built with donations. The proposal is too massive. There will be a future tax burden.
- 4) There are design elements that may go unnoticed but are essential to the aesthetic. First is the line of site to north and south porticos. The proposed ballroom completely blocks the line of sight. It also interferes with the symmetrical drive leading to the south entrance creating an ugly kink. This drive was designed by Fredrick Law Olmstead and is historic.

Have all living presidents signed off on the NEED for more ballroom space? If so, how much space do they think is needed?

This administration wants to sell off other historic buildings. Can none of them be preserved and serve as a ballroom?

How often will the ballroom be used? How often should it be used? Stop partying and start working for The People.

Just because this president has an absent spouse doesn't mean the East Wing offices should have been destroyed. Trump did not have approval to destroy the People's House. Restore the East Wing!

Name: Andrew Klein

Date: March 2, 2026 3:57:45 pm

I expect my comments to have no impact on your decision making, but I feel that this project is obscene and only being considered to satisfy the ego of one individual. It will dwarf the White House and provide an unnecessary wing that will probably get torn down by the next administration. So let's not put up the eyesore simply to appease the person who knocked down the East Wing.

Name: Winifred Fessenbecker

Date: March 2, 2026 3:58:23 pm

I find the proposal unacceptable. The new building is too large and will overpower the White House, which should be the most important building on the site.

Name: John Huber

Date: March 2, 2026 3:58:36 pm

I support the plan submitted by the president.

Name: Julie Katzen

Date: March 2, 2026 3:59:32 pm

I think this project is a wonderful idea. I strongly support it!

Name: Margaret Dukes

Date: March 2, 2026 3:59:55 pm

I wish you were capable of reasoning. As it is, just know I'm against you.

Name: Elizabeth Harburg

Date: March 2, 2026 4:00:35 pm

Restore the original structure, how many citizens without deep pockets will ever see the inside of the "ballroom"? It's in poor taste especially when so many citizens go without so many comforts and necessities.

Name: Mitchell Cantor

Date: March 2, 2026 4:01:04 pm

The White House needs a formal ballroom, and I agree that the design should be classical and in full harmony with the existing building. That means that the ballroom should be smaller than the revised plan and that the exterior order should be Ionic, not Corinthian, so that it matches the existing White House porticos. It should also not be higher than the existing building. The interior should also reflect the Federal style of the existing building, not Imperial Rome or Napoleon at the Chateau of Compiègne in France. The current design is both too grand, corporate and oddly un-American in style. I suggest using the reception room at Mt. Vernon as a model.

Name: Theda Bagdy

Date: March 2, 2026 4:02:12 pm

Scale back the plans. I have no objection to a ballroom, but its size should complement rather than overwhelm the current White House,

Name: Mary Dwire

Date: March 2, 2026 4:04:48 pm

Please, please do not allow this gigantic “ball room”. It’s a travesty and is sure to be used rarely for dancing. We all know it’s a place to gather lots of rich folks and get money from them.

Who are these people who think they can just put up a big building because they have friends who need favors and plenty of dirty money to spread around like manure.

Name: David McChesney

Date: March 2, 2026 4:05:03 pm

Please do not allow this project to proceed. The destruction of the East Wing and the plans for the “ballroom “ have not gone through the required reviews and approval process. This is an abomination and an affront to the American community. Thank you.

Name: Ellen Black

Date: March 2, 2026 4:05:07 pm

In the webinar about the East Wing Modernization Project, one of the architects mentioned that any historic renovation balances "need versus impact". The math seems to prove that for its "entertaining purposes" the ballroom does NOT need to be this oversized.

The existing bunker for the First Family was under the original East Wing. It was obviously destroyed, The re-design might have created a massive space. Therefore, the whole building needed to be bigger and taller.

Name: Lindsay Sagstuen

Date: March 2, 2026 4:07:04 pm

The demolition of the East Wing, was vandalism and should be prosecuted as such. This the people's house and no one has the right to destroy any part of it before it is approved by The People. Obviously a new structure needs to be built, this should not happen before a professional architect has been approved! The entire city of DC needs to be taken into consideration. Likewise a professional Interior designer needs to be appointed as well as a professional kitchen designer. We, The People, need to see how the artwork, chandeliers, wall panels etc was removed and documented, we need proof of this.

Construction cannot begin before all is handled correctly and building permits are approved by people who understand the history of the White House and have respect for it.

This a serious matter and needs to be dealt with as such. Stand up for your city.

Name: Carolyn Jackson

Date: March 2, 2026 4:10:06 pm

As someone who worked in Washington during the Johnson and Nixon administrations and lived nearby in Foggy Bottom, I became quite familiar with and admiring of the White House and its grounds both from Pennsylvania Avenue and the Ellipse. When the East Wing was demolished, my response was visceral.

A hearing conducted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation focused on the architectural features of the recent proposal to replace the East Wing with a huge ballroom—the area of the ballroom which is oversized for even 1000 guests, the lack of features that would make the space appealing for less than the maximum crowd, the above-ground culinary space with its oddly high ceilings, the way the building juts into the circular drive to the main entrance and blocks a clear path to the Capitol, and the use of Corinthian columns for the exterior rather than less ornate ones that would signal that it is auxiliary to the main structure and that block the view from other vantage points.

I’m respectful of architects, especially those who designed our nation’s capital, in large part because I feel that form should follow function: (1) It is disrespectful not to follow L’Enfant’s clear pathway between the White House and the

Capitol building, (2) Ballrooms are for entertainment, which is important but secondary to the need for a President to conduct work and live comfortably and securely, (3) The White House is not a commercial establishment, and the function of food preparation should be unobtrusive, (4) Whatever the extra height in the space over the ballroom, it does not appear conducive to the more social duties usually assumed by the President's spouse.

I hope the new ballroom will be added to the White House complex with a better sense of proportion than the current submittal.

Submitted with respect.

Name: Janice Schaub

Date: March 2, 2026 4:12:48 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Chloe Mercer

Date: March 2, 2026 4:13:12 pm

PDF attached.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Charles Schley

Date: March 2, 2026 4:14:59 pm

According to the plans, drawings & commentary which I have witnessed, the East Wing Modernization Project is poorly conceived relative and without any consideration towards symmetry, sightlines, practical application or budgetary standards. This project as presently designed will be an overweighted eyesore for anyone visiting our Nations Capital. It appears to serve the inflated ego of one versus the actual sensible needs of the public.

Very few deny the need for a proper event space for the Executive Branch. However, the end result must be in scale with the actual White House and the surrounding city. This project must proceed with more weight towards long term sensibility for the general leader of "we the people" and less towards satifying the gilded vanity of one specific leader.

- The size must be proportionate to the existing White House.
- The design style must be in the classical tradition.
- The new East Wing must be complementary to the surrounding buildings.
- The new East Wing must not detract from nor outweigh the symetry of the National Capital City.

Name: Jana Menard

Date: March 2, 2026 4:15:11 pm

As a concerned citizen, I think we should prioritize programs that benefit American citizens over creating a glitzy ballroom that serves no one except the political and financial elite. At a time when there are cuts being made across the board, including defunding of essential medical equipment for people on Medicaid, I don't see how our administration can justify luxury expenditures. Please abandon the ballroom project and use the funds for issues that are important to the American people- better and more affordable healthcare, lower food prices, better public transportation infrastructure, and cleaner air.

Thank you for taking my comment.

Name: Catherine Bishop

Date: March 2, 2026 4:20:06 pm

Dear members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

Thank you for your service and for your important consideration of the White House East Wing Renovation Project. I STRONGLY oppose the project as it is proposed. This project should transcend partisan politics and provide the American public with a practical solution to hosting presidential events, while respecting the historic view corridors and scale and scope in relation to the current White House configuration. In order to preserve the Historic dominance and effect of the White House, any new structure, and specifically this one adding a ball room, should absolutely be significantly smaller than the existing (and remaining) White House Building. Many historians, preservationists and architects have insisted that Mr Trump's plans should be reduced by at least 40% to maintain these architectural elements as recommended by the National Trust experts. I beseech you to consider their prudent recommendations that will make the interior space more usable and efficient. As a "regular American" I also am opposed to the garish and inappropriate ornate columns and window details and believe these should be revised in concert and commentary with the neoclassical elements of the White House. Also, I believe the driveway symmetry should be maintained.

Thank you,

Catherine Bishop
13th generation American Patriot

Name: Deborah Packard

Date: March 2, 2026 4:20:37 pm

I am writing out of concern about the proposed east wing addition to the White House. The White House is a national treasure and is the "people's house." For generations, citizens have felt great pride in the structure and we need to insure that future generations continue to have a classic and elegant building befitting of our country. I feel that the addition as proposed lacks proportion, balance and symmetry. It is my understanding that the proposed structure is intended to accommodate 1,000 people for a seated dinner. While 15,000 square feet meets industry standards, it is designed at 22,000 square feet. The kitchen is out of scale and should be located underground to reduce the height of the addition. Ceiling heights should be lowered. Those changes would lower the height of the building and make it balance with the west wing. The proposed portico is too large and also does not serve a purpose as the doors do not open. The Palladian window, an important element of the structure, will be engulfed by the proposed building. The Olmsted designed entrance will be compromised and the view to the Capital steps blocked. Careful planning and skilled architects and designers have given us a magnificent White House. Please take time to be sure that all additions and alterations are in keeping with what has been handed down to us and has been cherished by generations.

Name: Gregory Schroeder

Date: March 2, 2026 4:20:53 pm

I am a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. I am a civil engineer and not an architect, but as a student of classical architecture and preservation I can see that the motivations for the proposed Whitehouse ballroom are the source and power behind the flawed plan and design. Mr. Trump misunderstands grand to mean BIG. He would like for his legacy to be grander, and in his untrained mind, bigger than what George Washington built. I would remind you that big can be synonymous with gross. The proposed design is gross. If a ballroom is built it will not be President Trump's ballroom. It must be understood to be the ballroom of the people. Therefore, it must be precisely designed not for one man's ego, but for the people and the future of this nation. It must respect the history of this sacred space. Respecting that legacy means:

1. La Fontaine's plan for Washington D.C. was consciously designed to provide a demonstrable connection between the Capital and the Whitehouse via Pennsylvania Avenue. This connection cannot be blocked.
2. Hoban's classical plan for the Whitehouse must be respected and not overshadowed.
3. Frederick Law Olmsted's design for the grounds must not be overwritten for dubious reasons.

Just as Trump may be able to force a flawed design to be built during his tenure, he should realize that future administrations will correct the error and remove his abomination. The premature knee-jerk removal of the east wing without a real plan was a violation of rules and sacred trust, as well as revealing the secret bunker beneath the east wing. Let's not add to that epic blunder.

The current ballroom design will accommodate 1500 people. It will not be useful except maybe once per year and will be embarrassingly oversized for any smaller gatherings. The lack of adaptability will result in gross underutilization.

Here are additional specific comments.

1. 90,000 sq ft is too large.

2. The mass in relation to the WH, 2.36 million cu. ft. is too large.
3. The plan is in direct opposition to the Secretary of Interior's standards for historic properties.
4. The connecting colonnade is way too tall and out of balance with the opposite side of the building.
5. A ridiculous unusable portico. Form follows function. This has no function.
6. Fake doors on the portico.
7. Portico lacks ADA accessibility.
8. Portico colonnade blocks view out of the massive windows.
9. Critically symbolic link connection between the WH and Capital blocked by the ballroom.
10. The symmetry of the Olmsted designed circular drive must be maintained.
11. Lowest floor of the ballroom is excessively tall.
12. Third floor is excessively tall and has no purpose whatsoever.
13. How much light enters through blind windows?
14. Kitchen does not need to be above grade or with 14' ceilings!
15. The people of the U.S. do not need to build a family theater for the president.
16. There needs to be consistency of embellishments such as consistency with Ionic columns.

Name: Klara Tammany

Date: March 2, 2026 4:21:35 pm

I am just an ordinary citizen, not an architect, but I am horrified that the East Wing was torn down. What is being proposed for the ballroom replacement is awful! It is too big, too tall, blocking views from the Capital building and the street, It is SO out of balance, and SO contrary to the intent of original designs of the city or the White House grounds. Thank you for doing all you can to stop this project, or at least soften the impact by making it smaller, not so high, less obtrusive, more in keeping with the symmetry and beauty of the rest of the city. What is planned is CRAZY! It is the wild, self indulgent vision of the President and needs to be blocked.

Name: Clare Poth

Date: March 2, 2026 4:22:03 pm

As a frequent visitor to Washington DC and a proud American I am writing to express my dismay at the unwarranted demolition of OUR White House.

The act of demolition and the proposed plan disrespects the integrity and the symbolism of the White House and it's grounds.

The proposed ballroom design usurps the original Pierre L'enfant street plan and negatively impacts Olmsted's contributions.

Please, please - let common sense, a commitment to history, a respect for design and a recognition of what has made America great prevail. Every time I see footage of the rubble that was once the East Wing tears spring to my eyes.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Clare Poth

Name: George Adams

Date: March 2, 2026 4:22:14 pm

Stop your illegal demolition of the East Wing. Follow the law and the process for changes to the People's White House.

Name: Randy Jones

Date: March 2, 2026 4:23:06 pm

If I should say so myself, The east wing should have never been allowed to be torn down for Greed and to make a statement trying to become a Dick, Congress do your DAM JOB, reel this Asshole in and remove him from office,

MILLKIONS of people see that he is unfit to be in office. Stop being scared of him and remove him and indict him for all of America.

Name: Kathleen Lee

Date: March 2, 2026 4:23:18 pm

I strongly feel that the East Wing be restored to its original.floorplan and size and that no ballroom be built now or in the future. This is the People's House not a private home.

Name: Janice Darling

Date: March 2, 2026 4:24:22 pm

This is not a modernization project. This was a heartbreaking tear down of part of American history. I do not want any money spent on this project. Not one single dollar - definitely not the \$300m projected. This project was started without the proper authorization, permits or design review. I want the whole thing cancelled and the East Wing rebuilt to its former design. I also want those who did this horrible deed held accountable for breaking the law.

Name: Barbara Brown

Date: March 2, 2026 4:25:04 pm

I saw this chance to register my opposition to the proposed E Wing modenazation project. I have no experience with architecture but am a U.S. Citizen who feels there should be more study and voting by experts, (not just the President's whim) before committing so much money to a project that will overpower the original building. The addition of a larger space for formal gatherings is not a bad idea, but it should be done with the approval and oversight of those concerned with our National Heritage, and formed for this purpose. I am sure there are many like me who did not know of this chance to register our concern. Like with many things these days, resistance to the current majority seems fruitless, but it is worth a try.

Name: Pat Groff

Date: March 2, 2026 4:25:49 pm

The White House belongs to the US public. Our current administration feels that it is their right to do whatever they want to a beautiful historic home that by right belongs to everyone. The idea of changing the White House should be done under the guidance of your team. Having seen pictures of the completed project it is appalling to have the ballroom completely take over the land and diminish the beauty and symmetry of the White House. Please consider the historic nature of the White House and the current planned project and reduce the ballroom in size commensurate with the West Wing. Thank you.

Name: Gretchen Varelli

Date: March 2, 2026 4:27:09 pm

I find it reprehensible that the President destroyed the east wing without permission from anyone. It is not his personal property! It is the people's house!! There needs to be some kind of punishment for his reckless behavior.

Name: JoAnn Plucker

Date: March 2, 2026 4:29:57 pm

I come in opposition to the proposed new White House East Wing. The White House complex needs a more appropriate and considered replacement to the destroyed East Wing.

The proposed plan is entirely too large for the White House complex and seems to be more in response to one man's ego rather than the carefully considered needs of the White House complex and this country. The size should be reduced to stay in proportion to the classical composition of the White House complex. We do not need to substantially alter a building that stands in reverence to our history. And, frankly, this country does not need a large, gaudy ballroom.

The design should be elegant and classical – not overdone, tacky glitz. That does not represent the historical White House, and it does not represent this country. This is a country that honors and respects the common man, who has sacrificed throughout our history to ensure that our democracy continues – not for a gaudy ballroom. The rash and unnecessary destruction of the East Wing damaged the hearts of this country. The new design should be rational and functional and carefully considered to ensure the classical elegance of the White House complex continues for future generations. I strongly urge you to reflect carefully on this decision and to bring common sense and respect back to this process.

Name: Lindsay Maples

Date: March 2, 2026 4:31:08 pm

The East Wing must be returned to its former layout and structure. It was demolished without proper coordination with the appropriate agencies (Congress, NPS, NCPC, etc) nor within the requirements stipulated in the NHPA. Furthermore, the “funding” for the ballroom project is nothing more than a corrupt pay-to-play scheme. The East Wing must be rebuilt to its previous specs and funded only through garnishment of Trump and Trump family assets and monies.

Name: Nanette O'Neill

Date: March 2, 2026 4:32:30 pm

The destruction of the East Wing was terrible. Any project moving forward should be done with the guidance and within the parameters set by the Capital Planning commission and their architects.

Name: Diane Morris

Date: March 2, 2026 4:32:42 pm

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Ballroom/East Wing Modernization Project.

In seeing the diagrams that help one to visualize the immensity of the planned ballroom, I am appalled at the lack of consideration for the axial connections of the historic layout of streets, White House, and Capitol, that allowed for visual connection. The ballroom as planned would negate the amazing planning that went into the layout of the streets and buildings.

While a Ballroom might be a very good addition, the plan is grossly oversized.

The square footage at 15 square feet per person could be reduced to perhaps 12 square feet per person would still allow for comfortable and accessible seating. It would increase the usability of the ballroom by smaller groups without their feeling lost in excessive space.

The portico that serves no purpose other than visual is unnecessary. It would help greatly to remove it.

The kitchen is larger than necessary and is planned to be above ground even though it has no windows. There is no real reason not to lower it to below ground, thus lowering the overall height of this building to put it in better balance with the White House.

The excessively high ceilings could be lowered somewhat to reduce the imposing height of the building, without greatly reducing the grandeur.

Again, thank you for the chance to comment. Please work to preserve the historic layout and to keep the peoples house – the White House – the focal point of our Nation's Capital.

Name: Brian Wolfe

Date: March 2, 2026 4:32:50 pm

It is simply horrifying that this administration spontaneously destroyed the East Wing absent any semblance of planning, coordination, prior public comment, or due regard for the history of the White House, literally "The People House." Projects of this significance and magnitude which involve landmarks of incredible significance to the American people

require careful consideration and planning and should never be subject to the whims and peculiar fancies of any one man.

Furthermore, the suffering already imposed on the American people by the callous destruction of a precious historic property should not be compounded by its replacement with a vulgar, grossly disproportionate edifice to one man's ego.

We cannot unwind the destruction already wrought on the White House but before any funds, public OR private, are expended on a replacement, its design must be carefully crafted to enhance, not diminish, this historic monument to American democracy.

Name: Sandra Speice

Date: March 2, 2026 4:33:04 pm

The current administration apparently considers the White House his own personal residence. Demolishing the East Wing for a Ballroom that architecturally looks ridiculous with its morphing the stature of the historically, relevant White House is an abomination The White House has successfully hosted world dignitaries; an opulence that this president deems appropriate at the expense of the American taxpayers is ridiculously excessive. Altering the White House in such a diminishing architecturally obscene fashion is UN American!

I implore this board to refrain from authorizing the abhorrent design to the People's House.

Respectfully,
Sandra Speice

Name: Joan Howard

Date: March 2, 2026 4:33:11 pm

The whole idea about ripping off the east wing of the White House to make a huge ballroom is just ridiculous. However, it is not surprising the Mr. Trump came up with such a stupid idea. It is an affront to the American people to so radically alter the look of "The People's House." And for what? A huge space to hold "balls". These rarely happen. I think the east wing should be restored as it was, preserving the clean look of the White House. This big ballroom is a monstrosity.

Name: Terri Harley

Date: March 2, 2026 4:33:50 pm

I believe the ballroom to be necessary and the plans are lovely, but over done. The historic integrity of the White House and grounds must be kept intact as to the original plan. Remove unnecessary height and unusable porches. It will still be beautiful and serve its purpose. Our history must not be distorted or destroyed.

Sincerely,
Terri Harley

Name: Barbara Maynor

Date: March 2, 2026 4:34:10 pm

This proposed rebuilding of a larger banquet hall adjacent to the White House is unnecessary and inappropriate. It is out of scale and smacks of a grandiosity that has not been part of the American heritage.

I sincerely hope that cooler heads will prevail and a smaller building designed before such a blatant error occurs.

Thank you. Barbara Maynor

Name: Joan Mamanakis

Date: March 2, 2026 4:36:24 pm

The proposed plan is outrageously too out of proportion to the White House. In every dimension it dwarfs the main White

House, as well as the west wing. Even the attached walkway is too big. The White House must remain the focal point with any additions being more discreet and more in proportion to keep the White House as the primary focus.

I would recommend a redesign that drops the ballroom space in line with industry standards, the height must not exceed that of the White House, and the attached walkway must be one-story and more complimentary to the general architecture of the other buildings in the White House complex.

Name: Alexander Millard

Date: March 2, 2026 4:37:03 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Laure Levin

Date: March 2, 2026 4:37:59 pm

I watched with horror last October as the East Wing of the White House was demolished. How could this happen? At the same time, there were reports of an ever-increasing size of the proposed ballroom.

In February, we were able to see the final rendering of the proposed East Wing replacement. It is shocking to see a visualization of the grotesque over-shadowing of the White House. The People's House.

If built as proposed, the ballroom's size and scale dwarf the White House. The proposed South Portico is one-and-a-half times larger than the White House's, which makes it seem like the primary building. There is no functional purpose to the South Portico or the "grand staircase," so why have them interfere with the original Classical design of the White House property?

The proposed East Portico of the Ballroom is almost 200% larger than the White House North Portico and much larger than the Treasury North Portico. The White House North Portico should always be more prominent than a portico on any ancillary building according to principles of Classical architecture and its historical importance.

It's as if only cursory consideration was given to the principles of balance, scale and symmetry of Classical architecture. The same can be said for the wildly inflated square foot per person figured into the size of the proposed design.

It is remarkable that no apparent consideration was given to the historical capitol city design by L'Enfant that has been to this day honored. The proposed ballroom structure would block and restrict views from the White House to the US Capitol steps.

Clearly, a significantly smaller, lower East Wing that adheres to Classical architectural standards, historical views and symbolism needs to be proposed as an adjunct to the White House.

Since 1800 the White House has been an international symbol for the United States of America. If allowed to be built as proposed, the new East Wing will become an international symbol of architectural and historical absurdity.

Name: mark megalos

Date: March 2, 2026 4:39:05 pm

As the symbol of U.S., it is imperative that a well planned replacement be foremost in mind with this modernization project.

Adherence to cultural/architectural norms, sustainable materials and matching the style and scale of the existing White House is paramount.

Style that will stand the test of time is critical. Likewise, the naming and branding of major donors should be tastefully done in a way that minimizes the feeling and belief that was purchased for favor and not the legacy of the American people and cause.

Designs that will endure for the next 250 years should be the guiding purpose and goal of this effort; not aggrandizing this or other future administrations.

Thank you for hearing my opinion and hope for the project!

Sincerely,

Mark A. Megalos, PhD and Registered forester NC728

Name: Jonathan Visbal

Date: March 2, 2026 4:41:39 pm

The Trump Administration should adhere to the recommendations set forth by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The White House represents The People of the United States of America, not a President who demolished the East Wing without public comment so that he can build a monstrous ballroom that will overshadow the White House. At minimum, the Trump Administration needs to follow a process which incorporates the views of our nation.

Name: Kathleen Archibald

Date: March 2, 2026 4:42:06 pm

The White House belongs to the American public. Any major changes should have public input, prior to action being taken. The destruction of the East Wing should never have taken place but, now that it has, the replacement plan needs to be fully and openly shared with the public before anything is approved. A gigantic ballroom does not seem very appropriate. It is out of scale with the rest of the building and will visually overwhelm the rest of the White House. Historic buildings such as the White House must meet the highest preservation standards, regardless of the preferences of the current temporary occupant.

Name: David Golden

Date: March 2, 2026 4:42:16 pm

A ballroom built by real estate agents and Fox news personalities-in a house rented from us-financed by donations-Maybe?-Who needs to ask permission? What could possibly go wrong?

Name: Hollis Eggers

Date: March 2, 2026 4:43:05 pm

it's not a modernization project it was a demolition - we do NOT need a huge ballroom!

Name: Judith Stepan

Date: March 2, 2026 4:43:30 pm

Utterly unnecessary project considering all the other terribly important problems facing our country and climate!!! Seems a way for present administration to take donations (bribes) from rich donors!!! Us poor suckers that pay taxes have no say on anything anymore!!!
SAD!!!!

Name: Yvonne Callahan

Date: March 2, 2026 4:44:01 pm

The proposal for "Modernization" is a blasphemy. Dictators build things to enhance their egos. Democracies should build things to celebrate the common man.

There is nothing good to say about this project, and especially about those sychophants who support it. History will not judge any of you kindly.

Name: ROSE MARY DONAHUE

Date: March 2, 2026 4:44:22 pm

I strongly object to the desecration of this significant historic structure and the proposed changes to the site. The clear and deliberate decision to eliminate any opportunity for public comment and to bypass any review of this project is unconscionable. As a former member of my town's Planning Board (12 years), Town Government Study Committee, and Town Advisory Committee, experience has taught me that a project is only made better by a thoughtful, deliberative process that provides for an objective peer review and input from the public.

In particular the size and massing of this project are of concern, as they seem totally inappropriate for the site. Has anyone assessed the impacts of the increase in impervious surface proposed on the site, and how will they be mitigated? (Remember the paving of the Rose Garden!) What arrangements have been made to mitigate the additional trips to the venue resulting from a quadrupling of capacity of the ballroom? Has an evaluation been done to assess the impacts of the project on local infrastructure, and the costs of any resulting mitigation?

The White House deserves a prominent place in the landscape of the capital, particularly given its historic significance. I have yet to hear any credible case that this project meets a demonstrated need, though I have no doubts that the current venue, with a capacity of approximately 200 guests, does not meet today's needs for entertainment space onsite. The planned 90,000 sf structure (designed to accommodate up to 999 guests) seems excessive and will overwhelm the site and the White House (55,000 sf). It will also greatly diminish the significance of the architecture and stateliness of the White House.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns and to voice my opposition to this project. Thanks, too, for your efforts to ensure some meaningful review of the project. Sincerely, Rose Mary Donahue

Name: Cathy Thornburn

Date: March 2, 2026 4:45:42 pm

After seeing the presentation describing the Administration's plans for the ballroom that would replace the destroyed historic East Wing that was torn down by the president, I find myself appalled at the insensitive concept for this "ballroom". It seems a grotesque design that displays no concept of the beauty of the historic area, and is in fact grotesque in its scale, lack of functionality, and disrespect to our national architectural heritage. It does not seem a serious design by anyone with any real training. This ballroom would be a blight as well as a colossal waste of money. Our precious landmarks would be destroyed by this plan. I object strongly to this plan. We must have a plan that would respect and enhance this historic landscape. Please reject this ballroom and require a serious redesign that will not make us a laughing stock. I want to be proud of our White House, not cringe every time I see it. Thank you for explaining the true horror of what has been proposed. I would much rather see the East Wing resurrected as it was with updates to utilities and building standards. I find the idea of a ballroom ridiculous.

Name: Miriam Capua

Date: March 2, 2026 4:45:53 pm

I strongly object to the current plans to build a new ballroom structure for the White House. My objections are simple and fundamental. Major renovations to the White House should not be under the direction of one person, the president, or a committee hand-picked by the president. It should be the subject of extensive research and deliberation. Even if the proposed structure was wonderful in every respect, proper procedure must not be violated.

Further, the proposed renovation must be sensitive to the history of the building and appropriate aesthetic considerations. It is not clear that the proposed building meets that standard. I think that the National Trust for Historic Preservation would be an excellent guardian of the process.

Name: Gail Guterl

Date: March 2, 2026 4:46:26 pm

I am not an architect or an architectural historian. The White House has been an iconic building for centuries, and while I know things have to be upgraded and modernized, I do not understand why we have to give up style, proportion and practicality to have a White House ballroom.

The proposed design dwarfs the White House. It makes no sense for a room that will be used maybe 5 times a year. It will make the White House look like a Disney production, which is fine for Disney World or Disney Land but not for the White House.

I know the design was approved by Trump's handpicked committee, but a committee of experts in architectural and historic design need to have the final say.

Name: Marinell Mendoza

Date: March 2, 2026 4:47:20 pm

The new ballroom construction at the White House is very exciting. I hope to be able to see it while I am alive!. To think that anyone would object to our nation's capital having a ballroom to accommodate large gatherings is difficult to understand. For many years, tents have been erected to contain gatherings, including those for foreign dignitaries. To believe the White House has been maintained in its original design is misinformation. Calls for being open minded are offered.

Name: barbara eastwood

Date: March 2, 2026 4:49:22 pm

Wow. Do we really need a Ballroom, for what. Trump ego. We do not have Balls like they did in the Movies. Donald needs to go back to School. He has no Education on our Country. He knows nothing about America and how we do things.

He needs to go Away. He has already none so much destruction on our County and our special buildings. Make it stop.

Name: Phyllis Jansen

Date: March 2, 2026 4:52:06 pm

I strongly objected to Trump tearing down part of the White House - the People's House - and I strongly object to the building of a ballroom that is completely out of proportion to the original design of the East Wing. It's a vanity project, pure and simple, and should not be approved. He should be required to reconstruct the East Wing according to the original design on the original footprint. As an independent 82-year old voter, I'm horrified and disgusted by what he's doing and what he is being allowed to do.

Name: Jeri Sparks

Date: March 2, 2026 4:52:24 pm

The ballroom edition to the White House is a horrible idea, made only to glorify the ego of Donald Trump. The White House is the residence of public servant President of the United States. It is not a royal palace. The parties volunteering to foot the bill are merely offering bribes to a shamelessly greedy, damaged man. In just a few years, it will be torn down, demanded by the majority rule of the country. He never had the consent of the people to destroy the historical west wing, nor to grind up the historical Rose Garden, replacing it with a tacky fast food eating patio. Nor to hang his pictures on the Justice Department, nor to name and rename other federal entities. Please do not approve of any of Donald Trump's inane ridiculous ideas. He's a creepy pedophile and belongs in jail.

Name: Steven Erisoty

Date: March 2, 2026 4:52:49 pm

The destruction of the historic East Wing of the White House is a travesty that should never have been allowed. Since when is a temporary occupant who does not own the building allowed to tear part of it down??? A grandiose ballroom in place of the East Wing would destroy the symmetry of the White House. Furthermore, the symbolism of a ballroom built by and for the wealthy few, dominating the home of Democracy, must not be allowed to happen. IF anything is built to replace what has been stolen from the American People, it should take up approximately the same amount of space, size and volume, above ground, where it is visible, as the lost East Wing. Please do what you can to repair this loss sensitively for all United States Citizens.

Name: Susan Marcus

Date: March 2, 2026 4:53:43 pm

The White House is a National Historic Landmark and National Park, owned by the American people and stewarded by

the National Park Service. It has been home to our presidents since 1800 and is perhaps the most significant historic site in the United States. Before nationally significant places are permanently altered, the public deserves an opportunity to be heard and to help shape decisions that affect our shared national heritage.

Public review and review by an unbiased historic preservation committee has not been accomplished. This project should not be allowed to continue until those reviews have been completed.

Thank you.

Name: Ann Loshaw

Date: March 2, 2026 4:54:24 pm

These plans (and the prior demolition) are a complete embarrassment. They are not aesthetically sympathetic with the architecture of the White House and are an eyesore in general. They are completely out of scale and will reflect poorly on the United States of America. The lack of proper review, and demolition without permission are equally disgraceful. Our nation's capitol has standards and history that should not be bulldozed over, literally or figuratively. While every building or monument does not have to be my personal taste, they should, in fact, at least be in good taste. This is awful, and the razed east wing should have to be rebuilt.

Name: Patrick Lovell

Date: March 2, 2026 4:54:42 pm

Testing down historic buildings connected to the people's house - our White House - must not be at the whim of one man or president.

It must be through legal procedures and with authority, NONE OF WHICH WERE FOLLOWED OR RECEIVED.

We do not need or want a ballroom, and I strongly object to the way this illegal project has been conducted.

I urge responsible officials to reject, and correct the harm this project has inflicted on the White House, and on the American people's right and expectations to legal and representative process!

And while I am at it, the Oval Office needs to be returned to its original design and all the cheap looking gold decorations need to be trashed. This may look good in Russia, but not in our house!

Name: Sheila Canzian

Date: March 2, 2026 4:55:44 pm

The East Wing Modernization Project as currently proposed is inconsistent with the original vision of the L'Enfant capital layout by blocking the visual corridor between the White House and the Capital building as has been standing for over several centuries. The proposed South Portico has no functional use and is out of character with the portico scale of both the White House and nearby Treasury building. So little specific information has been made available to the public yet it is highly doubtful that the project is still in the planning phase. Regardless of claims about no tax payer money being used to fund this project, this project sits on public land, not land owned by a single individual and deserves to be treated as a public project with public input and review, not a vanity project for this sitting president.

Name: Roy Cui

Date: March 2, 2026 4:57:22 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Jennifer Hickey

Date: March 2, 2026 4:57:31 pm

The proposed ballroom is an atrocity and should not be built per current specifications. They do not appropriately adhere

to ascetics consistent with existing structure. In any case the project should go through ALL required steps, which was not done with the wanton destruction of the prior building.

Name: Alex Costa

Date: March 2, 2026 4:58:24 pm

[Attachment](#)

Name: Stephen Sywak

Date: March 2, 2026 5:00:37 pm

President Donald Trump demolished the East Wing without authorization, without proper permits, and without any environmental impact studies.

What are the penalties for that?

But meanwhile, I think he should be forced to put it back the way he found it, using money from his own pocket.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Karen Cox

Date: March 2, 2026 5:01:32 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Jan Galyen

Date: March 2, 2026 5:02:00 pm

Hello and To Whom It May Concern, I am totally in favor of everything that I have seen and heard for our beloved White House and the East Wind Modernization Project. In my opinion, this renovation should have been done decades ago rather than entertaining world dignitaries on the lawn, under tents in extremely subpar conditions, which no one of any caliber would want to be entertained in. As far as the White House's history, there have been countless changes to the buildings and landscaping throughout the decades and yet none have impacted its incredible history and neither will this much needed and beautiful renovation. Respectfully, Jan C. Galyen

Name: Stephanie Saxon

Date: March 2, 2026 5:03:02 pm

I am appalled at the suggested new ballroom that would replace the former East Wing of the White House.

- a] No demolition permits were obtained;
- b] No asbestos study was performed;
- c] The neoclassical architecture, which calls for symmetry and balance has been destroyed;
- d] The scale is completely out of proportion to the rest of a building that was intended to conduct business, not parties.

This is not a political comment. This is one regarding preserving the integrity for our national landmarks. I would be complaining no matter WHO was seated in the Oval Office at the moment.

Name: Ronald Field

Date: March 2, 2026 5:04:00 pm

The fancy ballroom is a terrible idea!!!

Name: Kristine Quart

Date: March 2, 2026 5:05:22 pm

The currently proposed Massive ballroom is completely inconsistent with the design and purpose of "The People's House."

The plan and construction were started without any input or approval by appropriate government committees or planning commissions. As it stands, the ballroom is designed in a grandiose fashion to cater to the whims of our current POTUS, and not to actual needs of the US government or people as a whole. It is - in simple words - revolting.

The more modest designs in the Planning Commission's slide are more in keeping with the history and design of the the White House. I strongly support any and all efforts to scale-in this construction.

Name: Mary Suzanne Siegel

Date: March 2, 2026 5:06:48 pm

This proposed ballroom does not fit with the existing White House architecture and layout. It is an example of wretched excess and gaudiness, I object also kto the fact that this ballroom was not subject to review by the commission, but razed before any comment could be made.

Name: Carolanne Aaron

Date: March 2, 2026 5:07:59 pm

I oppose the size of the east wing project. It should not overpower the white house and it should complement the architecture of the White House. This is the people's house and approval should have been sought before democrats. Finally, the input of the expert architects should be given priority

Name: Nancy Gale

Date: March 2, 2026 5:09:26 pm

The plans for a new ballroom addition to the White House could, and should, be scaled down, for many reasons. First and foremost, the balance and symmetry of the existing White House would be destroyed with this huge, out of portion addition.

The ballroom is supposed to accommodate 1,000 people, which would normally require a generous 15,000 square feet, yet the plans call for 22,000 square feet. How often would there be an event for this number of people? Would the ballroom remain empty most of the time? There is no way to divide or close off space in a room with 40 foot ceilings. Plans show the third floor to have 19 foot ceilings, with no justification given. If this space is to be used for offices, a 19 foot height is not needed.

Adding to the height of the additions is the fact that the service area (kitchen) is located on the entrance level. This could be moved to a lower level to reduce the enormous height of the building, which dwarfs the White House.

The most overwhelming feature of the proposed addition is the useless south portico. The grand staircase leads to a portico with no function. Besides not being ADA compliant, there is no connection to the internal building, and has been designed with fake doors. The original design of Washington DC, at George Washington's request, included a sightline connection between the two main buildings of the White House and Capitol, along Pennsylvania Ave. The proposed south portico portion of this new addition will block the viewpoint and the historical connection between these buildings.

Remove the purposeless south portico, reduce the ballroom square footage space, reduce the height of each floor (or at

least the third floor), and move the service area to a lower level. This will lessen the impact of this addition to the People's House!

Name: Neville Abraham

Date: March 2, 2026 5:09:58 pm

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing concerning the East Wing Modernization Project currently underway. While I understand that construction has begun, it remains unclear to me what authority or advisory capacity the Commission may still exercise. If such authority exists, I respectfully urge the Commission to use it fully.

The architectural character of this project should align with the established aesthetic and civic dignity of federal buildings in Washington, D.C. The White House complex is not merely functional space; it is a symbol of national identity and continuity.

I also strongly encourage that construction rely exclusively on domestically sourced materials and American labor. Furthermore, the structure should be built to the highest standards of durability — engineered to withstand Washington's freeze-thaw climate cycles and hardened in a manner consistent with the broader White House complex.

Finally, I urge the Commission to revisit its legal analysis regarding this project to ensure that its statutory oversight responsibilities have been fully and properly considered. At minimum, the finished structure must reflect the strength, permanence, and architectural integrity worthy of the American people. Anything less would be deeply disappointing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Neville Abraham

Name: Maura Pollock-Moneyhon

Date: March 2, 2026 5:10:45 pm

I believe building an unnecessary vanity project is an insult to the American tax payer. President Trump wants to build it as a monument to himself. Any reconstruction should definitely not be larger than the actual White House or gilded in gold. It should be proportional and in keeping with the history and traditional style of building - The People's House.

Name: Christine Hornsleth

Date: March 2, 2026 5:12:38 pm

What trump has done is he'd taken away the part of the White House that was meant for the people; for visitors to the USA. The East Wing is where tourists would wander through to feel the history and excitement for our national existence. There were statues and paintings that were iconic and a treasured part of our nation's existence through all of our existence as a nation. He is removing our history. This is ANTI- AMERICAN. There were offices the First Ladies shared -(except Melania who thinks she's too good to live at our White House). If she's having marital problems -tell her to forget her NDA and live with her own millions. Get a freakin' divorce!!!

Trump just took it upon himself to eliminate Americans from the White House. He's made it a hangout for senators and congressmen and only people trump wants to set foot on HIS White House. He's only president for less than half the country. He calls democrats unthinkable names. He does not act like or belong in the presidency.

When the democrats win back control next year they will impeach him again. But if you don't stop this king like take over of all aspects of our nation there will be little truth left. He is one big fat liar. You can save us and go down in history for giving the people's White House back to the rightful owners. Please stop worrying about politics. He didn't. He just wakes up every day and thinks up some wild punishment for BLUE STATES. Don't you see this? Do you care? He will be gone next year-so will dozens of republicans be gone. So why would you not correct this while you can?

Name: Andrew Fedorowski

Date: March 2, 2026 5:12:57 pm

If the White House is "the People's House", I don't see a reason to convert it into a convention center.

Name: Willard Rosenberry

Date: March 2, 2026 5:14:04 pm

Dear Friends,

I want to express my strong opposition to the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House.

The White House is more than a residence or event space. It is an historic landmark and a symbol of national continuity that belongs to all Americans, regardless of political affiliation. Its architectural integrity and carefully balanced proportions have been preserved over generations with great care and restraint.

A permanent addition of this magnitude would significantly alter the scale and character of one of our nation's most important historic structures. I find this proposal deeply concerning, both for its size and for the precedent it could set for future alterations to nationally significant landmarks.

A project of this scope warrants the highest level of scrutiny, transparency, and broad public consensus. Decisions affecting the historic fabric of the White House should be approached with caution and a clear commitment to preservation principles that transcend any single administration.

I respectfully urge the Commission to reject this proposal and to prioritize the long-term stewardship and historic integrity of this irreplaceable national symbol

Sincerely,

Bill Rosenberry

El Dorado Hills CA

Name: Anna Kammer

Date: March 2, 2026 5:17:17 pm

As a former planning commissioner for the City of Watsonville California, I am completely appalled that this East Wing Modernization Project is being done without the appropriate approval from publicly elected congressional representatives and without public input. There is a reason that public buildings go through a public vetting process; namely, this process insures that the structures that are paid for and owned by the public meet the intended guidelines in a general and/or historical plan. Please DO NOT let this project proceed!

The destruction of the East Wing was an illegal violation of an historic property that belongs first and last to the people of the United States - not to President Trump. This president's plans for the extravagant and gaudy new ballroom is an insult to our nation's history and heritage; if completed it will serve only as a lasting shame, a humiliating monument to a single person obsessed with power, wealth and greed. Again, I emphasize, do not allow this project to proceed.

Name: Colleen Theriot

Date: March 2, 2026 5:17:50 pm

Dear Planning Commission members: I cannot say enough bad things about the plan to "modernize" the East Wing by razing it to build a giant ballroom! The White House is the people's house! And the people do not want this abomination. And if we did need a ballroom, it should be accomplished by people qualified to create something in keeping with the scale and history of the White House. Please turn this whole thing on its head and STOP moving forward with it! This president will be in office less than 3 more years and we will be stuck with the world's tackiest building attached to one of its most precious historic structures. The whole thing is nauseating and an outrage. Please stop the building of the ballroom!

Name: Linda Hellmich

Date: March 2, 2026 5:18:08 pm

I am writing to express strong opposition to the current White House East Wing modernization proposal. The ballroom building and wing connecting it to the White House are so out of scale and proportion to the existing structure as to render their appearance ludicrous. The size of the proposed structure is unnecessary for the stated purposes of this building. The architectural plan presumes that size matters more than function and that dominance conveys strength. It does not.

The destruction of the visual and symbolic line connecting the White House to the Capital Building - conceived by Washington and implemented by L'Enfant - mocks our nation's history and is suggestive of this administration's unfounded beliefs about its place of dominance in a tri-bodied co-equal government. Again, if the proposed structure is built, irreparable harm is done to this historic association.

The unwarranted and illegal destruction of the former East Wing is already a tragedy of momentous consequence. In this destruction, the administration disregarded historic renovation protocols and the significance and beauty of the East Wing. To allow the current building plan to move forward adds insult to injury and is simply unacceptable.

Name: Chris Rute AIA RIBA

Date: March 2, 2026 5:18:54 pm

Dear Commissioners,

The proposed East Wing Modernization Project raises significant concerns regarding scale, preservation, and long-term impact on the White House grounds.

The planned 22,000 square foot ballroom—with 38–40 foot ceilings and capacity for up to 1,000 guests—poses a substantial risk of visually overwhelming the historic White House, a concern also noted during Commission discussion. The project's exploration of adding a one or two story West Wing colonnade to create symmetry further compounds the threat of cumulative, irreversible alteration to this National Historic Landmark.

From a preservation standpoint, the fact that portions of the existing East Wing were demolished prior to full NCPC review underscores process and stewardship issues, especially given the White House's exceptional cultural importance. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has emphasized that the American public deserves meaningful participation before nationally significant places undergo permanent change.

Additionally, early design materials presented to the Commission were described as schematic and insufficiently detailed, limiting the ability of reviewers and the public to assess impacts on historic character. Accessibility concerns also remain, as monumental stair designs appear to lack an integrated accessible entrance.

Given the White House's symbolic and architectural significance, I respectfully urge NCPC to request refined alternatives that reduce massing, avoid symmetry-driven expansion of the West Wing, fully integrate accessibility, and provide clearer design documentation. Preservation of the historic fabric should remain the guiding principle.

Thank you for your careful consideration and for your continued commitment to safeguarding the nation's most significant civic landscapes.

Sincerely,
Chris Rute AIA RIBA

Name: Sarah Chadbourn

Date: March 2, 2026 5:19:51 pm

I am strongly opposed to destruction of portions of the White House in order to build what has been stated as a 90,000 sq. ft. ballroom (the current one is 12,000 sq. ft. according to posted information). Failure to adhere to legally established procedures for potential renovation to an historic building and grounds, the White House, is unacceptable. Please stop the plan to construct a ballroom in place of a wing of an historic building that has already been destroyed. Please replace

aspects of the historic White House Rose Garden which also has already been removed and replaced with an outdoor seating / standing area.

Name: Scott Cole

Date: March 2, 2026 5:23:50 pm

I toured the White House within the last couple of years. The East Wing, while historic was not used to its fullest. Modernization makes sense, unfortunately, in this day of Uber partisan politics, neither party wants the other to have a win. I think both parties have pitched the idea of a ballroom and would like it to be a reality, just not by the other team. As with most of what this president does, it will be viewed more positively after he's out of the spotlight.

Name: Susan Balaban

Date: March 2, 2026 5:24:33 pm

The "east wing" modernization project. What an appalling euphemism for yet another illegal, corrupt and horrifying erasure and profoundly disrespectful dismantling of our American history and heritage, especially that of women. He illegally has already destroyed what can never be reclaimed. But allowing his actions to continue is criminal. Stop this man. STOP HIM. At the VERY LEAST what must be constructed now must honor with great intentionality the contributions of women in our history. And it must NOT be yet another vanity project of this megalomaniacal felon masquerading as a leader. His destruction of what we hold dear is incalculable. Congress must demand reparations for this in the most specific and vigorous terms.

Name: Alice Krapf

Date: March 2, 2026 5:26:05 pm

I sincerely hope that the NCPC does not authorize this project. It is too big in every way. It dwarfs the White House proper; the entrance alone is almost twice the size of the North Portico of the White House. The ballroom has too much square footage for the number of attendees it claims will use it, and that number of attendees, it seems to me, represents a security risk. A ballroom event at the White House should be restricted to a reasonable number of people, considerably lower than 1,000. The site plan will be lopsided: this building will block visual access to the Capitol, destroying the visual cue of what should be the working relationship between the Executive and Legislative branches of our government. The inaccessibility of the multiple and wide staircases shouts exclusion to anyone with mobility issues. We need a functional East Wing, but one that respects the original White House. Please send this project back to the drawing board, and allow enough time for thoughtful consideration and planning, as should have happened before the existing building was torn down. That action alone shows a lack of respect and understanding for this national treasure, the peoples' House. By your rejection of this design, you will be taking the first step toward the preservation of this important symbol of our democracy.

Name: Grace Corbin

Date: March 2, 2026 5:27:37 pm

The proposed scheme does not work and is unattractive.
The addition is grossly over-scaled in relation to the remaining White House and the site.
The transportation infrastructure cannot accommodate the delivery of guests in a timely fashion, whether public transit or private vehicles, nor provide parking.

Name: Rochelle Kaplan

Date: March 2, 2026 5:27:56 pm

I find it appalling that the President razed a historic wing of the White House, without warning, consultation of historians or preservationists. Furthermore, he accepted mega donations from companies and wealthy individuals, which grant them access (quid pro quo) to him - which is corrosive to our fragile democracy.

At the very least, the new wing and ballroom should be modest, publicly and frugally funded and done with the consultation of preservationists.

This is the people's house.

Name: V Armento

Date: March 2, 2026 5:35:58 pm

NCPC Members

It is imperative that the east wing project honors the design legacy that we as Americans have inherited and that the design of the new edition protects the integrity of the entire White House property.

Please ensure and respect the historic structural planning, symbolism and landscape design that was done thoughtfully and carefully by the original architects and designers of the District of Columbia. The entire White House is a classical building which requires overall symmetry; an overly large ballroom will overshadow the executive residence portion, which should be the focal point of the complex.

Scale is critical - the new structure should not be too large and overwhelm the rest of the architecture. The current proposed east wing is simply excessively large and overpowering. Any new structure needs to be balanced within the historical context of the complex.

Please protect and maintain the carefully coherent classical design of the White House complex.

The White House is the People's House, not Trump's private property!

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Name: Janet Seigler

Date: March 2, 2026 5:36:10 pm

There has been a symbolic connection between the Capitol (the Congress House) and the White House (the President's House) since the 1790s. The axial plan of Washington, D. C., allows for a person on the steps of the Capitol Building to look down Pennsylvania Avenue and see the White House. If the new ballroom is built to the size and scale that is currently planned, it will obstruct this view that has existed for over 200 years. Resizing the ballroom to high industry standards for accommodating 1,000 guests would still provide more than adequate space for entertaining guests while significantly reducing the impact of the ballroom on the White House grounds. It is important to keep the historical context of Washington, D. C., in mind and to balance the new structure with that context. In addition, balance and symmetry are important in the original plans for the White House and as such are equally important in any new construction. As a citizen and taxpayer, I would like very much to see history respected in any updates/additions to the White House grounds, with the ballroom not overshadowing the existing structures. It is important that our capital city maintains its proud heritage even as it grows and changes with every new addition.

Name: Carlton Haggard

Date: March 2, 2026 5:38:23 pm

Dear Sir or Madam

I toured the East Wing as a young boy with my parents. This project is not something citizens voted for, did not get opinions from the appropriate historical societies to keep its design in keeping with the DC Aesthetic. This is nothing but a vanity project of a President who treats DC infrastructure and history as his sole domain, though, as president, he is Temporary. This project is permanent. He has ruined my history, but I am temporary as well. We are all temporary.

There is no justification to build a 300,000.00 (and probably more) building nor should our government use Private funds of a few to erect a "Ballroom." Does anyone believe they are doing this for nothing in return? One way to be certain is to fund these projects through public monies. This Ballroom, obfuscated by calling it "modernization," is not representative of the people, which is what the buildings in Washington should be. I am against it. I can only hope other citizens write in in droves to stop this dismantling of both institutions and now damaging long-standing landmarks. It is shameful that there is no ability of the populace to stop this.

Name: Bobbee Murr

Date: March 2, 2026 5:40:16 pm

This project is not legal: This land is under the jurisdiction of multiple agencies, including the NPS and Congress, and its financing is opaque but obviously illegal - bribes to trump from corporations and public funding stolen from working people who pay income taxes. Shut down this illegal project.

Name: Zibby Crawford

Date: March 2, 2026 5:40:21 pm

I strongly oppose this ballroom and I am outraged that Trump destroyed this historic building without permission - he should be held accountable!!

Name: Genie Mims

Date: March 2, 2026 5:43:52 pm

Instead of spending millions on a ballroom, the Trump administration should concentrate on projects that help the average citizen.

There are thousands having problems putting groceries on the table and a roof over their family's heads. How about helping them out?

Damage to the Whit House needs to be repaired by the one responsible for the damage.

Name: Kathy Lavezzo

Date: March 2, 2026 5:44:10 pm

Please respect the White House and the American people by ensuring the ballroom matches architecturally with the existing White House. Thank you.

Name: Kimberly Box

Date: March 2, 2026 5:44:18 pm

To whom it may concern,

I thank you for the opportunity to express my concern for the proposed design of the East Wing Modernization Project (the Ballroom addition). With so many talented architects in our country, I find it hard to understand how a design has been proposed that doesn't take in the historical significance of the location for this ballroom. Whether a modern ballroom is needed or not is not the question at hand. The question at hand is the disregard for the inappropriate scale, lack of ADA access, lack of functionality, intrusion upon a design layout for the grounds from our founding father, George Washington, and incompatible style of the new addition to the existing building and surrounding buildings.

Having lived in an historical district and submitted plans for an addition, I know that the details of scale and style are paramount to maintaining the value of our history. I do not understand how this can be overlooked at our most historical location and symbol of our great nation. It is in these details that we maintain a connection to our past and see a connection to our future.

I humbly request that the design be re-evaluated to more appropriately co-exist and highlight the most important structure in this design, the people's house.

Thank you for your time.

Name: Emily Goodman

Date: March 2, 2026 5:45:17 pm

I am shocked at the blatant disregard for U.S. history, American values, and the people's will displayed by this out-of-scale, pointlessly and glaringly large, proposed new East Wing to the White House.

The proposed wing would dwarf the existing White House, one of the most iconic buildings in the world. It would block

the clear view from the White House to the Capitol building, which symbolizes the relationship between the executive and legislative branches of government. And it is poorly designed: far larger than necessary to service the proposed number of people who would use the new space, with floors poorly allotted between display, entry, and service functions. The proposed new wing would be inefficient, difficult to enter, difficult to see out of, difficult to use, and unpleasant to be in.

Simply by looking at the plans, one can surmise that the person who conceived them was an egomaniac, someone who thinks intimidating size is more important than good sense, usefulness, beauty, or comfort. The plans express the belief that the president is more important than the legislative branch of government and need pay them no mind. Their disrespect for the surrounding buildings suggests that our history and founding principles can be trampled and replaced. The shadiness of the way the old wing was torn down without approval and the proposed new wing has not been fully described to the public suggests that the American people have no say in what happens to our government, our public buildings, and our capitol city.

It is our patriotic duty as Americans to reject these overblown plans. Instead, we can design a wing more in keeping with real American values, and that meets with the approval of the American people.

Thank you.

Name: Nina Rubin

Date: March 2, 2026 5:45:19 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: James Terry

Date: March 2, 2026 5:48:33 pm

At this point in time I oppose the the Ballroom project as conceived. The destruction of Wing without comments or input has immediately caused a reaction such that most Americans oppose the project almost 2:1. There needs to be an effort to carefully consider comments and modify the plans to obtain a consensus before moving forward.

Name: Amy Meyer

Date: March 2, 2026 5:49:03 pm

The East Wing Modernization Project was not analyzed before the building was destroyed. The East Wing had great historic value.

As much as possible the design of the revised East Wing should respect the external configuration of the destroyed building and not overwhelm the White House.

Name: Lou Ellen Horwitz

Date: March 2, 2026 5:49:58 pm

Dear Commission Members,

I would like to voice support of the recommendations for changes submitted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States to the current proposal by the Office of the Executive Residence for the ballroom addition to the White House.

I have reviewed their options for modification, and as a citizen, and as an experienced meeting planner and as someone who appreciates the beauty of good design - especially in a building as important to our country as the White House - I agree with their recommendations to move forward with the addition but with improvements to the current design.

The current design negatively impacts so many sight lines, the balance of the White House building, the symmetrical

driveway, the landscaping, and even the ability of a visiting citizen to see the House that belongs to them - it will ultimately be an embarrassment to us all for decades if the design is left as-is.

I understand the need for a ballroom, but the current square footage planned is excessive from a meeting planning perspective. For the vast majority of the gatherings the room will feel overbuilt and under-filled, which is extremely awkward for the host because it looks like not enough people showed up. It also will make the White House look a bit like a stone crab because it will be so lopsided - not something aimed for in good design - and make the building that most people think of as "the White House" (the Executive Residence) look tiny in comparison. Also not a good look.

The National Trust has thought all of this through and has great recommendations for creating a stunning and functional ballroom that works well with all of the existing considerations of the "campus" and the White House's relationship to the rest of the city's monuments and streets. I urge you to follow their recommendations, or at least put a decision on hold until you have a chance to review them and really think this through. It is not as if there is a hard deadline on this - other than just external pressures.

The American People of today and the future are watching, not to mention the rest of the world. This building does not belong to one person or family who is in the President job at the moment, it belongs to all of us - past, present and future. Please have enough respect for our country and its citizens to think broadly, of good design principles and of the long term impact, not short term "gain". Thank you very much.

Name: Joana Mair

Date: March 2, 2026 5:50:21 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Cole Ryan

Date: March 2, 2026 5:50:50 pm

Thank you president Trump for building a beautiful and functional ball room for the USA, at no cost to the taxpayer!

Name: Barbara Barrett

Date: March 2, 2026 5:52:34 pm

To: The National Capitol Planning Commission

Please look at this design from an historical perspective as well as the guidelines of the Secretary of the Interior. The enormous size dwarfs the White House itself and reduces it to an afterthought. This is THE PEOPLES' HOUSE. It is not a casino. It has stood since John and Abigail Adams first entered it as representing the republican principles of our founders and of our country.

The fact that the bulk of this addition destroys the axis between the Capitol and the White House is unthinkable! This point of view has been a hallmark of our nation's capital. Who are these architects that they would propose such an inappropriate structure? Again, casinos are fun in their way and suit the Las Vegas Strip but this is the White House. It doesn't belong to any individual or any generation. It has stood and should continue to stand for our values. We didn't build a castle. We called our leader MISTER PRESIDENT. We did these things for a reason. We are a government by the people and for the people. If sultans and princes don't think the White House is good enough- too bad. Having a lovely ballroom may be a good idea, but it has to honor the history and architecture of the White House.

Name: June Anteski

Date: March 2, 2026 5:53:31 pm

Trump demolished the East Wing without any approval. He does not own the White House. He is merely a freeloading tenant. As such, he should be ordered to make all repairs to restore it to the same condition it was prior with all of the artifacts in same, including but not limited to the Kennedy rose garden. Then, he should be evicted. He cannot get away with this crap.

Name: Laura Kennell

Date: March 2, 2026 5:53:37 pm

The project will dwarf the White House, currently a symbol of freedom around the world, and Washington has other facilities available for use if a venue this big is needed. Finally, the cost for something that is not necessary is bound to be large, and even if private funds are raised for the build, maintenance will be just another burden on taxpayers who are currently struggling to feed their families and provide medical care for them. I am very opposed to this project.

Name: Annette Nahin

Date: March 2, 2026 5:55:58 pm

I, like millions of Americans, would like to see the design and rebuild of the East Wing of the White House done in a slower, more considerate and reasonable timeframe. A part of the People's House was torn down without permission and no apologies. Dangling drawings of a gaudy party room - obviously intended to entertain hoards of wealthy donors - underscores the fact that the people ramrodding the replacement are not qualified to make such important decisions. (Surely, office space that was destroyed needs to be replaced.) What is needed is NOT simple corrections of the proposed plan, but a new redesign. This should be done following normal procedures for building a historic site, assumably with input from experts who can develop a proposal and recruit respected architects. Certainly, comments from experts outside the political mainstream should carry the most weight. In addition, "we the people" want to pay for this building, i.e, through normal government funding. We do not want billionaires and companies to have their name on the front. Please do whatever it takes to reclaim the People's House.

Name: Susan Winter

Date: March 2, 2026 5:58:22 pm

Please stop the oversized and architectural inappropriate addition to the White House. The ball room will be an eyesore. It is a vanity project , and does not take into account the historical parameters!! The East Wing needs to be returned. Trump also needs to follow the correct permitting process. He should not be allowed to to desecrate the White House- the people's house-NOT his.

Name: David Schaff

Date: March 2, 2026 6:05:50 pm

Having a PhD in architectural history, having lectured in symposia and on the university level, and having five years experience presenting projects for Oehme van Sweden to the National Capital Planning Commission, the Fine Arts Commission, and other agencies in the District of Columbia, I hope I have some standing to submit remarks on the raising of the East Wing and surrounding grounds for the construction of an inauguration facility (aka ballroom). The destruction of the Jaqueline Kennedy terrace is an assault on our culture and tradition; the destruction of the Harding and Roosevelt Commemorative trees is an action akin to desecration of a memorial of sepulcher. There is no legal or moral excuse for either. As for the hall, the model continues ancient and royal forms of an "aula," an audience or coronation structure. The building, presented in most limited plans, is confection pseudo Beaux Arts: reactionary, poorly proportioned, and vulgar. It is totally out of scale in the context of the White House. Evaluated in the contexts of the planning regulations developed over a century for the nation's capital, this project is outside procedures and statutes. It is profoundly anti American. The situation requires remedy: rebuilding of Kennedy terrace and pergola, reestablishing the groves, and rebuilding an east wing, in harmony with adjacent structures and at the cost of those who have perpetrated this destruction.

Name: Peter Oelkers

Date: March 2, 2026 6:05:52 pm

A ballroom is not warranted. The cost and upkeep and maintenance will add necessary dollars which are not budgeted and the taxpayers should not be saddled with ongoing maintenance costs

If the Ballroom is named after Trump he and his family should pay for the next 200 years of maintenance and upkeep of the ballroom and facilities.

Name: Steven Clawges

Date: March 2, 2026 6:06:03 pm

trump has NO authority or reason to demolish ANY building or part. This ridiculous project is to memorialize a corrupt, incompetent felon, pedophile, thief, business failure and draft-dodging traitor. Ban him from doing any more damage and have HIM pay the cost to rebuild the building as it originally was.

Name: David Marshall

Date: March 2, 2026 6:06:30 pm

Dear Commissioners:

The current plans for the new east wing and ballroom are completely inappropriate alterations for a historic building, especially the White House, i.e. The People's House.

The demolition of the historic east wing should have never happened and the proposed replacement is badly designed and completely over-scaled and out of proportion. If built, this design will be a scar on America's history.

Please do what you can to protect the White House and vote "no" on this abomination.

Sincerely,

David Marshall, AIA, Architect

San Diego, CA

Name: Sherrie Hull

Date: March 2, 2026 6:08:03 pm

Washington DC's architecture, especially the White House was carefully designed and built to give the whole city a balanced look. Great architecture like what was planned and built by George Washington, our forefathers and world famous architects must be protected. This is our heritage. We must honor it and keep it in scale. The planned ballroom is totally out of scale as it is presently planned. This country has spent 250 years honoring the forefathers and our capitol city. We must keep it up while there is time to redesign the addition so it will not dwarf our heritage.

Name: Deborah Barber

Date: March 2, 2026 6:08:40 pm

Please respect the history and planning of our capitol city Washington and its important structures. Balance and symmetry are imperative to art, politics, and life. The gargantuan proposed East Ballroom is hideous and its utility is mocked by fake doors and windows and obstructed views. Enough said, I reckon.

Name: thalia lubin

Date: March 2, 2026 6:09:21 pm

This is a significant and important project. The design should be reviewed and any alternatives discussed carefully. There should be public input prior to finalizing the design. This is a chance to do it right.

Please consider all the information before making your final decision.

Thank you!

Thalia Lubin, Architect

Name: George Ferguson

Date: March 2, 2026 6:09:38 pm

One individual should not be permitted to change a historical piece of our country. The actions taken by Donald Trump alone, without Congressional approval or approve by some group having authority over construction/destroying Government property should be looked upon at the same level as treason. There should be, and maybe there is, some requirement which was violated by Mr. Trump's action that would make him subject to punishment of some sort. In my understanding of Federal Rule from my high school Civics class this would be true. I would think Congressional action could be taken to address and limit such actions.

Name: Fredricka Olson

Date: March 2, 2026 6:09:56 pm

It is my feeling the building was just fine as it was. A Pingle president shouldn't have the ability to make changes to the people's house.

Aren't there any permits that have to be pulled before changes are made? Is there any watchdog committee that oversees things like this? Who looks over things like this....changes to the building?

Trump has no sensitivity for the building....or really anything else. His hideous ballroom is a good example of his lack of sensitivity.

Name: Cathryn Baylock

Date: March 2, 2026 6:11:11 pm

Dear Commission Members,

As you know, the East wing building project is a once in a lifetime endeavor. It will be there long after we are gone and care should be taken to ensure the massing and architecture are in keeping and subservient to the White House.

I support the idea of an event space, but feel the project as proposed is not in keeping with the original White House. I strongly request that the architect reduce the size of the building and temper the ornateness of the ballroom.

The public process in our government is as important as the first amendment, especially when it comes to the prominent symbol the White House plays in our global image.

Thank you for hearing my concerns all the way from Burlingame California.

Hon. Cathy Baylock

Name: Katharine Bryan

Date: March 2, 2026 6:11:13 pm

The proposed East Wing does not need to be so massively out of proportion to accomplish the need of a ballroom and supporting areas to accommodate 1000 and should not be approved as currently planned. The beauty and Classic balance of the original layout will be permanently lost and the visual and symbolic connection between the White House and the Capitol will be irrevocably severed. Please regard the historical imperative of the founding father's planning for Washington DC. The entire East Wing Modernization Project should be greatly reduced in scale!

Name: Holly Wahlberg

Date: March 2, 2026 6:11:34 pm

I urge you to reject the Trump Ballroom plan in its current form which is shockingly out of scale in comparison to the White House. The White House MUST remain the most important element of this composition with low flanking wings on either side that are SUBSERVIENT to the White House. The current plan ignores the importance of balance and symmetry in a classical aesthetic since the east wing "modernization" is obviously too large to properly balance the west

wing. In fact the "modernization" is so large that it reduces the White House to a mere bit player. An entertainment venue should be proportionately designed for what it is: a mere entertainment venue. A facility of this size that will sit empty for much of the year and is unable to be broken into smaller settings with partition walls is grossly wasteful. We do not have palaces in America. We do not have golden ballrooms for the privileged few to entertain themselves in splendor. The beauty of the White House complex is in its humility and simplicity. State dinners in America's "ballroom" must reflect that we, as a people, strive for decency, humility and true beauty which is born of the value we place on simplicity, dignity and humility. The plan you have before you currently is garish bombast. It is, in fact, un-American in the deepest sense possible.

Name: Shaun Rose

Date: March 2, 2026 6:12:56 pm

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the "White House East Wing Modernization," project. I am an historic preservation professional working for a local government that conducts design reviews for exterior alterations to buildings that are designated historic in our city. I have a master's degree in history with a focus on cultural resource management/Historic Preservation. Thus, I know a few things about modifications to historic buildings. And the White House is, arguably, THE most significant building in the entire country. This means that any changes to it ought to be closely scrutinized. I am deeply disappointed, yet not at all surprised, with the cavalier attitude with which Donald Trump and his administration has treated the People's House. While I agree, in theory, with his conception of opening the House up to the People, it is abhorrent that several opportunities for public engagement were skipped entirely and that demolition took place seemingly before seeking any input from historic preservationists. It should be noted, for the record, that this project appears to have only made its way to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) after large-scale outcry amongst the Historic Preservation community.

Anyway, I digress. To follow are several issues I see with the current proposal, as presented to the NCPC. The ballroom massing is nearly triple that of the white house when considering cubic feet rather than square footage. Quite frankly, this would not be considered approvable by my City's Architectural Review Board because the addition massively overpowers the primary building. Moreover, the current proposal is not in alignment with Secretary of Interior (SOI) Standard 9, which states that "New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment." There would be an overall lack of symmetry at the White House site created by the proposed ballroom. Again, the Ballroom overshadows the primary building and makes the site discordant to anyone with more than a cursory glance. The portico appears to be virtually completely for show as it does not provide any access into the building – this is gaudy and should not be allowed on what is, again, one of the most important historic sites in the country. Having faux doors is just unacceptable... this is a portico without a purpose. Perhaps most importantly, the axial connection between the White House & U.S. Capitol that has existed ever since L'Enfant planned the city of Washington D.C., will be blocked and forever altered by the ballroom. This is unacceptable. The symmetrical Olmsted drive on the White House site would also be detoured. Symmetry is one of the most important symbolic features of Classical style architecture and disrupting this on both the White House, itself, and in the landscape of the site is detrimental to the historic character. The height of the ballroom rivals that of the White house at just about 1' less...again, this disrupts the Classical architecture wherein height is related to importance. The Ballroom is 170% larger than the white house north portico & 35% larger than the Treasury Building North portico. The kitchen, as proposed, is 2 & ½ times the industry standard for 1000 people (the stated programmatic need) and, therefore, overblown. Also, the size/massing of the ballroom is much larger than industry standard for 1000 people—it is closer to 1500 people. This means that, if built as currently proposed, the Ballroom's interior would feel absolutely cavernous and disconcerting when used for events that have less than 1500 people. Reducing the size & scale of the ballroom to meet the industry standard could resolve the symmetry & symbolism issues. Lastly, the existing White House and Treasury building columns are Ionic, not Corinthian. In Classical design, the most decorative columns (Corinthian) would always be used on the primary building, not a later addition or wing.

I respectfully ask that the NCPC please carefully review the proposed east wing addition and listen to my comment and, undoubtedly, many others in the preservation community who have pointed out these and other issues. I understand you are likely under political pressure to approve the designs, but please do not abdicate your duty to review the submittal objectively and based on its merits. We, The People, are not against a modernization project and fulfilling a programmatic need. However, the current proposal is not designed sensitively given the White House's Classical style architecture and superlative importance. Modifications can, and should, be made to the project proposal to better follow well understood best practices within the historic preservation field. These include not overpowering the main structure, meeting the SOI standards, providing aesthetically pleasing yet functional design, understanding and adhering to the principals of Classical architecture, and refraining from disrupting the L'Enfant City Plan of 1790.

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Sincerely,
Shaun Rose, M.A., CAPZO

Name: Lisa Hammermeister

Date: March 2, 2026 6:31:05 pm

A Colossal waste of money and an inappropriate, unnecessary vanity project to fulfill his endless ego. He wanted a bunker for his billionaire supporters and minions. The hell with protocol, tear down the peoples house. We won't be using it, billionaires who fund his wack a mole, rich endeavors to benefit the 1% will. I have voted since 1974 and never thought an undereducated, racist, sexist and greedy man would be elected by an undereducated electorate. He showed us the first time around he was unfit.

Name: Nancy Beddingfield

Date: March 2, 2026 6:34:31 pm

Comments informed February 25th webinar by architects Bill Bates and David Parker (presenters), moderated by Tom Mayes:

Thank you for providing historical context, the setting for “The People’s House”: L’Enfant’s street plan aligning the White House with the US Capitol building, cornerstone plumbd and set by George Washington conforming to sacred geometry, enhanced by Olmsted’s envisioned setting.

Any project connected within the White House grounds must respect its classical provenance. Focus on classical elements and you design for the ages (a future!). The “scaled” East Wing Ballroom suggested by Bates and Parker makes better sense, and space to accommodate 1,000 should meet the needs of those requiring “more”.

A practical question: the incomplete design—the East Wing Ballroom Building that constipates Pennsylvania Avenue, blocking the symbolic line of sight from the Capitol to the White House spilling into the South Lawn—could this interfere with Presidential helicopter access to the South lawn?

A final thought: There should be no “naming”, no branding on the new Construction’s exterior, in this people’s opinion.

Name: Deborah Colgan

Date: March 2, 2026 7:18:35 pm

This is an abomination. Changes to historic structures must undergo rigorous public and expert processes to prevent inappropriate changes and additions.

This project demonstrates poor taste, shameless promotion and grift. It should be removed in 2030.

Name: William Bozic

Date: March 2, 2026 7:22:59 pm

The plan for the ballroom at the White House is GREAT!

Move ahead with the project as fast as possible!

Name: Elliott Wright

Date: March 2, 2026 7:24:11 pm

As an architectural historian and professional historian with a master’s degree in historic preservation, I find the current ballroom plan horrible. The East Wing should’ve never been demolished, but it certainly shouldn’t be replaced by a ballroom 3x the size of the White House.

Americans should demand that laws and regulations be followed. I hope that a historic architect will be hired for the new design and that the new plans will reflect the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for additions to historic structures.

Name: Carol Tunner

Date: March 2, 2026 7:24:53 pm

For 20 years, I was the trained Historic Preservation Planner for Fort Collins, CO. The east wing ballroom is insane and should never occur. It's destroying our history for Trump's whim and will overshadow and obliterate the importance of the historic building.

Name: Adrian Scott Fine

Date: March 2, 2026 7:25:12 pm

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

The upcoming NCPC hearing on the proposed White House Ballroom is a pivotal moment for safeguarding one of our nation's most iconic historic landmarks. The White House is not only the residence of our presidents but a deeply symbolic place that reflects more than two centuries of American history and democratic identity.

Any change to its design or setting must be approached with the utmost care, transparency, and respect for its historic integrity. I hope the Commission ensures that preservation remains at the forefront of this discussion and that the American public's voice is meaningfully included in shaping this decision.

A genuine win-win outcome is well within reach if the Commission exercises its full discretion to require meaningful design modifications — including a reduced scope, scale, and massing — while still allowing the proposed ballroom use to proceed. This need not be an either/or decision. With thoughtful redesign, the project can achieve its intended function and, at the same time, uphold the integrity of the White House setting and the preservation standards that will guide future decisions.

Thank you.

Adrian Scott Fine

Los Angeles Conservancy

Name: Barry Ellington

Date: March 2, 2026 7:25:45 pm

I'm looking forward to the completion of this project. Our nation's house has lacked a meeting and event venue of adequate size and character for decades. The Lewinsky Ballroom is going to be magnificent!

Name: Wm Poling

Date: March 2, 2026 7:27:36 pm

The Trump Administration has already shown its disdain for public participation in this process, so it is not likely that public comment at this point will have much impact. But, for the record, I vote No on the current design and suggest that we go back to square one and devise an alternative plan for East Wing Modernization.

Name: Jamie Bradnurn- Kilcline

Date: March 2, 2026 7:30:20 pm

A piece of history has been torn down due to the current president Donald J Trump! The east wing is now gone offer a ballroom that none of us regular people will get a chance to see. I strongly oppose building this ballroom.

Name: J States

Date: March 2, 2026 7:33:09 pm

90,000 sq ft is the size of 2 football fields. It is difficult to imagine that something this large is necessary. The overall size will dwarf the main White House building which should be the focal point. Half that size footprint and half the height should be more than adequate. The plan strikes me as nothing more than ostentatious assuaging of President Trump's need to have the biggest and most ostentatious. .

Name: Theresa Pearce

Date: March 2, 2026 7:36:50 pm

To Whom It Concerns:

I have been fortunate enough to visit the White House so I am aware of how it is situated on the grounds, the magnificent gardens and historic tree gifts and the beauty of the historic facade.

In my opinion the proposed addition would be a hideous appendage that would overwhelm the property and destroy the symmetry of the historic White House structure as well as the grounds.

If a large event space is needed the Kennedy Center or another venue could be used for the occasion that required that amount of space.

I can't understand how the wreckage of the East Wing was allowed at all and I cringe to think about any future damage to the main house. One has to appreciate art and architecture as well as the history of this house that belongs to the People to grasp how wrong this immense structure would appear as it looms over the main structure which should be the centerpiece in the setting.

This project is an assault on our senses and our wallets. It must not go forward and the East Wing must be restored.

Sincerely,
Theresa Pearce

Name: Jill Martin

Date: March 2, 2026 7:37:40 pm

Trump was out of line in destroying the East Wing of the White House. His ballroom is a hideous embarrassment. The stately White House would be become an appendage to a grotesque, pay to play nightmare of an attraction. Please stop this abomination. Gilding it in gold doesn't make it esthetically appealing.

Name: Leslie Jagoda

Date: March 2, 2026 7:38:15 pm

To Whom it may Concern, I believe preservation of the East Wing was important. This did not happen, so we must move forward with consideration that this is The People's White House. It is not a personal ballroom for the current President. The architecture must be tasteful with beautiful. There are so many knowledgeable people that can be important decision makers to guide this project forward.

Thank you, Leslie Jagoda

Name: Daniel Bernath

Date: March 2, 2026 7:39:30 pm

The space should be made with a humble simplicity and without gold trimmings or excessive decorative furnishings, but represent all of our humble beginnings from our fore fathers and with the advent and inclusion of all men and women. There should be an annual celebration of invitees, selected through a lottery of two individuals per applicant from every walk of life, of every race starting with Native Americans.

Name: John Drayton
Date: March 2, 2026 7:41:03 pm

I would like to provide my strong dissatisfaction with the new proposed ballroom at the White House. I believe its enormous size is out of proportion and overwhelms the beautiful White House and surrounding buildings. It is in poor taste. It also ruins the sight lines from the Capital that are part of L'Enfant's brilliant design and changes the park designed by Olmsted.

Furthermore, the "people's house" is owned by all Americans and the decision should belong to the people and their representatives, not by a single individual.

Sincerely,
John Drayton

Name: David Gobuty
Date: March 2, 2026 7:42:10 pm

The size and design of the project is obscene. It is too large and dwarfs the White House. It appears bigger than the Treasury building to the east. It should be smaller, and its height should be decreased by 33% to allow the White House to be the prime sight on the property.

Name: Ellen Drager
Date: March 2, 2026 7:43:35 pm

I am totally against this 90,000 sq ft new ballroom monstrosity. Not only will its scale dwarf the existing White House, but ruin the entire park, like setting of the White House and grounds.

I urge you to fight what has already been done and to force Trump to restore this area to its original East Wing plan and design. Thank you.

Name: Thomas Troshynski
Date: March 2, 2026 7:45:49 pm

I do not support this project. If it is necessary, please don't make it larger or taller than the White House.

Name: Michael Caradine
Date: March 2, 2026 7:46:53 pm

The proposed new ballroom is vastly overscale in relation to the existing historic white house. Please consider reducing the size of the addition and remove columns and portico that overpower and diminish the main house. The structure should be repositioned to maintain historic sight lines.

Name: Lynn M Wallace
Date: March 2, 2026 7:47:13 pm

My comment is...this should have never happened. The bulldozing of the White House was against all federal building guidelines and historical building preservation.

Preserving our national buildings and in this case, "the people's house" needs to be paramount in the role of the planning commission. A decision by one man should not have created this tragedy.

The people don't need a ballroom for parties. The people need a functioning East Wing that provides spaces for interactions with the public and a space where important work is accomplished.

I recommend that the planning commission overrule the ballroom and rebuild the East Wing as it was, but modernize the technology, etc.

Sincerely,

Lynn Wallace

Name: Victor Ortiz de Montellano

Date: March 2, 2026 7:47:41 pm

I am fervently opposed to President Trump's plan to build a 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House. It should be denied because: (1) the administration did not seek approval of the project before destroying the East Wing -- that lawless demolition cannot be awarded by approval of the ballroom plan, and (2) the size and design of the ballroom is entirely out of character with the existing White House and will permanently damage the character of the site. I urge the Commission to direct the administration to rebuild the East Wing as close to the original, with modernizing infrastructural upgrades as needed. Short of that, I urge the Commission to only approve a radically revised ballroom plan that (1) is MUCH smaller, (2) that is designed by independent experts, not President Trump, and (3) that is without any of the self-aggrandizing features that President Trump features on all his properties. Thank you for protecting the legacy of the White House.

Name: Sharon King

Date: March 2, 2026 7:49:14 pm

I am a proud 11th generation American who deeply loves my country. The White house is an enduring symbol of America known throughout the country and the world. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed ballroom. The proposed ballroom obstructs and upstages the White House in terms of size and architecture. The entire new ballroom structure should be smaller than the White House and its architecture should mirror the architecture of the White House. Further the proposed ballroom should not impinge on existing White House landscape design or the Washington DC city grid design. Lastly, I question the need to build a space to accommodate 1,500 attendees. I do not think that is a regular need. I am hopeful that the commission's decisions will respect the White House, the people's house, and only approve a ballroom structure that honors our history and legacy.

Name: Diane T

Date: March 2, 2026 7:49:45 pm

IT IS OUR HOUSE.
NOT YOURS.
OUR HISTORY.
NOT YOUR PLAYGROUND.
OUR DEMOCRACY.
NOT YOUR KINGDOM.

Name: Elizabeth Cook

Date: March 2, 2026 7:50:18 pm

Has there been a security audit of the proposed ballroom? Because that inaccessible south portico that creates a blind corner seems like a liability should anyone breach the grounds.

Name: Sheila McEntee

Date: March 2, 2026 7:51:18 pm

I am very concerned that the ballroom in its present size is out of balance with the existing White House and makes the building seem lopsided.
I always thought of the White House as America's Homestead - a garish ballroom should not be part of that homestead. It

is too large, too ornate, and does not reflect our national psyche.

I do not think part of America's homestead should be paid for by a group of very, very rich people. We all want to contribute to our homestead because it IS OURS. It should reflect all of us not a very limited few.

We are the citizens of the United States and we want our homestead to reflect us, be part of us, and be paid for by us.

Name: Greg Raike

Date: March 2, 2026 7:58:16 pm

Please do not approve. Thank you.

Name: Genell Scheurell

Date: March 2, 2026 7:58:24 pm

The following are my comments concerning the East Wing Modernization Project's "White House Ballroom":

- While I don't doubt the need for a ballroom addition in D.C., the design of such a structure should respect the neoclassical design of the most important building in the country, the White House, and the historical significance of its surroundings.
- This proposed structure with its wasted space and wasted dollars for its construction, not only disrespects James Hoban's plan for the design of the White House, it will forever adversely affect the Frederick Law Olmstead's plans for the grounds and Pierre Charles L'Enfant's Plan for Washington, D.C. This is a thoughtless proposal randomly contrived to satisfy a self-serving person that currently sits as President of the United States.
- I find the proposed plan egregious in its size and proposed siting on the White House grounds. The megalomaniacal proposal echoes the Nazi's buildings created solely to convey power & dominance. This is not what we need as an extension of the "Peoples' House". It is an embarrassment and an affront to the citizens of our country.

Sincerely,
Genell Scheurell

Name: M Brown

Date: March 2, 2026 8:05:19 pm

The destruction of the East Wing is a direct assault on the history of our country - specifically the role that first ladies and women have played. Not following the protection systems in place threatens the significant architecture marvels of our country, treating them like they are the President's personal property. They are not, they belong to the people and tax payers of this country. If the check and balance systems are not restored, then next we will lose the Kennedy Center (columns already painted white), and who knows what after that. The public looks to the NCPC to protect our interests and not just allow the significance structures of our nation's capital to be demolished during a government shutdown behind a high fence when no one was watching. It is your job to watch, and protect. We are counting on you.

Name: Robert Benn

Date: March 2, 2026 8:05:53 pm

The East Wing is owned by the American Citizens, not by the person sitting in the oval office. I understand the need for "modernization" of the building but I believe the plans stated by the President are not reflective of the desires of the nation. The East Wing should not be higher or more massive than the White House itself. The White House should be the tallest part of the complex, so that the executive branch shows its importance in the government. A massive East Wing will dwarf the white house visually and symbolically.

This country is not about a noble or royal class. A ostentatious ballroom does not reflect a "... government of the people, by the people, for the people" Instead it show the US as just another elite institution ignoring the needs and importance of its citizens. A braggart's show of wealth, shows weakness, True strength and significance comes from the actions of the country, not a golden-laced palace.

I think the rebuild should closely adhere to the original East wing size and styling. It should be treated as a historic re-creation of what was destroyed without authorization and most importantly without the will and consent of the people.

Name: Theodore Johns

Date: March 2, 2026 8:06:23 pm

The 90,000 sq ft ballroom would be great for a king, if we had one, but we don't. This is a massive waste of hard working middle class Americans' money. A fraction of this money could have been used to save the lives of the poorest people on earth through the USAID program that was ended abruptly under the Trump administration.

If he wants a ballroom that badly let the wealthiest Americans who have benefited most through massive budget cuts foot the bill.

Theodore Johns

Name: Doris Brown

Date: March 2, 2026 8:07:46 pm

The proposed new ballroom will overwhelm the symmetry of the of the People's House and obstruct the view down Pennsylvania Ave. to the Capitol, our co-equal part of our government. The design of the ballroom does not fit in with the historic look of the White House.

The destruction of the East Wing before any review or approval was an outrageous act with no regard for proper review process. This project needs to be stopped and redesigned to be in balance with the rest of the White House.

Name: C Scheer

Date: March 2, 2026 8:08:15 pm

I oppose the construction of the totally unnecessary and out of scale ballroom. The destruction of the east wing was outrageous (and should be rectified) and the construction of this ballroom (regardless of who actually ends up paying for it) is quite simply a Trump vanity project. If an additional space of this type is truly needed it should be carefully considered and constructed to complement, not overwhelm!, our existing historical buildings. Please halt this project, and instead look at restoring the east wing, perhaps with some additional event space.

Name: Joanelle Mulrain

Date: March 2, 2026 8:08:26 pm

Rebuild our East Wing back the way it was. No one gave permission to tear down our national landmark. No one approved this debacle. What a horrible suggestion to build such a monstrosity - not to mention the high security of having too many important people in one place at one time, nonsense. No more gold. No more ostentatious appointments. Our White House - THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE - has been partially demolished without input - input is too late. I am ashamed of this debacle. do not let this pass. It's doubled - TRIPLED in size - it is architecturally outlandish. OUR house is not for sale to private investors. This is not to be named, either. What is happening? Where are our laws to prohibit these desecrations? It was not approved...so, build it back to exactly what it was. Again, this is THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE, not a ballroom for the few.

Name: Faith Gobuty

Date: March 2, 2026 8:09:10 pm

It is too big! It doesn't represent the people of our country! We are not a show how rich we are country. I am disappointed on how it overshadows our capital building. Scale it down please!!!!!!

Name: Marilyn Serge

Date: March 2, 2026 8:14:25 pm

I think the design of the Ballroom should be along the lines of great classical mansions such as those in Newport RI, or

even on par with Versailles. It would be inappropriate to design a modern ballroom with current modern day architectural styles for our beautiful White House. Let's get back to elegant ballrooms, please!

Name: Robert Zoeckler

Date: March 2, 2026 8:14:38 pm

I am opposed to this design. Demolition was a horror. Disgracing our White House with this replacement ballroom design is a disgrace. Please do NOT allow this to proceed!

Name: Judy Romano

Date: March 2, 2026 8:16:15 pm

Trump feels he will be in office for ever, this is his ballroom. The east wing should never have been demolished, for a tacky gold monstrosity that the average American will never set foot in. The money should be used for projects that help the American citizens.

Name: Thomas Archer

Date: March 2, 2026 8:18:00 pm

The proposed design for the new ballroom will greatly compromise the White House grounds and complex and will overpower the White House. The ballroom should be partially below grade and diminished in square footage so as to attempt to fit into the current landscape. The current design should be totally rejected, construction paused, and a call for new design proposals that are more sympathetic to the White House scale and design. You should not be a spineless rubber stamp.

Name: Rachel Lovelace-Portal

Date: March 2, 2026 8:20:48 pm

Mr. William Scharf

Chair

National Capital Planning Commission

401 Ninth Street NW, Suite 500N

Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Scharf:

I am respectfully submitting my comments and concerns about proposal by the Office of the Executive Residence for the construction of a new ballroom addition to the White House.

Preserving our nation's history is important and preservation includes preserving our Nation's architectural landmarks.

The White House has been the residence of our presidents since 1800. The landscape and architecture of the White House and its grounds are all part of our Nation's history and we must preserve the intent and character of the buildings and grounds. The new ballroom will destroy the historic landscaping plan for the White House grounds and disrupt the Classical architecture of the White House.

George Washington selected James Hoban design's for the White House. Hoban designed a building in the Georgian and neoclassical style. A key feature of this style is balance. The new ballroom will be larger than the president's residence.

The cubic feet of the ballroom is three times larger than the White House. The structure will disrupt the balance between the White House and its wings. Though it does make sense that the White House should have a meeting and event space, the planned building is much larger than need be. It is 47% larger than the industry standard for this type of structure. The size of the ballroom will over shadow the Executive Residence which is only 55,000 square feet compared to the ballroom's 90,000.

Another concern is the proposed South Portico has no interior access and is not ADA accessible. The doors along the portico are fake with no access to the inside or outside. This should be a safety concern besides also not following the Classical value of utility.

The design for the White House is an iconic building in our Nation's capital and its position and the views from it were carefully considered by George Washington and Pierre L'Enfant. The city was designed around axes with the most important one being the link between the legislative branch and the White House. The ballroom will disrupt this axis and the link that was intentionally created by L'Enfant. The ballroom will also create a detour in the historic driveway created by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. Balance and symmetry are key features of his design the detour destroys that.

One of the key standards in historic preservation is that a new construction project on a historic property cannot destroy the historic fabric or character of the property. Clearly the plans for the ballroom do just that. The new structure should reflect the historic character of the rest of the White House not overshadow and overwhelm the existing building. I am deeply saddened that the East Wing was torn down and am concerned that measures were not taken to preserve the historic artifacts inside. We are in our 250th anniversary year. Please consider my comments and those of other concerned citizens in this review period. We love America and our history and want to see our capital's historic character and buildings preserved.

Name: Nancy Okimoto

Date: March 2, 2026 8:22:02 pm

I am deeply troubled by the proposed size and proportions of the current design for the East Wing ballroom and connecting East corridor. This design seems to be larger in total volume, with higher ceilings and gratuitous spaces (e.g., unusable front facing portico, vast kitchen space, 2-story high 4th floor) than required even for generous allowances for gatherings of 1,000 people and to accommodate functions previously housed in the East Wing. In fact, it is so large as to become unsuitable for gatherings of less than 1,000, a problem often seen in convention centers and conference halls. Several aspects of the current design violate the essential classical style of the White House: the use of Corinthian columns versus the Ionic columns on the White House and the Treasury Bldg; the frightful imbalance between the East and the West Wings; blind windows on space that could otherwise be placed partially or wholly underground. Furthermore, the building protrudes into the historic sightline between the White House and the Capitol building, a core concept in the historic plan for the city itself. It makes no sense to build something larger than required and forever destroy the historic and architectural integrity of one of the most important and beloved buildings in our nation.

Name: Ronald Nestor

Date: March 2, 2026 8:22:06 pm

I am an Architect, educator and a qualified Historic Architect with 50 years' experience. I STRONGLY oppose the proposed monstrous ballroom that the administration has envisioned on so many levels. It is ridiculously proportioned, overwhelming the historic complex. It violates the diagonal vista from the Capitol to the White House as envisioned by L'Enfant. The south portico, that apparently has no real function, overwhelms both the White House and the Treasury with its exaggerated scale. The floor plan is much too large to accommodate the suggested number of occupants. Most ballrooms are designed to be modulated to fit the audience, which in this case is impossible. The kitchen and back of house facilities should be put into the basement, the building brought down to grade. The historic Palladian window on the White House east facade should not be obstructed, the double height east colonnade should be eliminated. Formally, it appears to me to be designed by several different people that never spoke to each other, with opposing architectural languages of Roman Porticos and too-tall round arches on narrow columns that are disrespectful of historic proportions. The historic Olmstead organization of the south lawn must be preserved. It is imperative that this monstrosity be tamed and be redesigned to be respectful of this historic place.

Name: Jaime Camacho

Date: March 2, 2026 8:24:33 pm

A President is merely entrusted with the temporary occupancy of the White House for the duration of his or her constitutional term. As a provisional steward of that historic property, the President possesses no authority to undertake permanent structural alterations, nor to implement lasting modifications to its architectural integrity or interior design. The occupant is obligated to preserve the decorum, austerity, and classical character that have defined the building since its original conception and construction.

The current occupant appears to assert authority in disregard of the 249 years of tradition and respect governing the conditions under which the Executive Residence has been entrusted. The limited remainder of a presidential term does not, under any circumstances, confer authorization to alter the architectural language or interior character of the premises, nor to treat the property as though it were privately owned.

The demolition of the East Wing constitutes an additional grave transgression, compounding concerns regarding conduct unbecoming of the office, particularly in light of prior criminal convictions existing at the time of assumption of office in January 2025.

Moreover, any disregard for the Constitution that governs the Nation, any treatment of the Presidency and the White

House as instruments of private enterprise, and any exploitation of the office for personal financial enrichment are profoundly objectionable and constitute an affront to the dignity and interests of the United States and its citizens.

Name: Carlina Valenti

Date: March 2, 2026 8:27:24 pm

To The National Capital Planing Commission

I wish to state my disapproval of the proposed monstrous Trump Ballroom. It is ill-conceived, ridiculously large and high for the area (obviously intended to overshadow our beloved White House to appease Trump's overshadowing ego) and, based on his past history of bald-faced lies, its \$400 million+ cost will be paid for by We the People, not Trump and his business cronies.

The East Wing of the White House was demolished without Trump asking permission or approval from the proper authorities - he does whatever flight of fancy comes into his brain and acts on it. Why did the Planning Commission not jump in right away and block the mere thought of the demolition knowing he didn't have the authority to do such a thing? This is our House, "The People's House" and a short-term renter shouldn't be dismantling it!

Please stop him now before the entire Washington D.C. countryside is obliterated by gaudy marble and gold statues dedicated by Trump to himself for the purpose of his own self-glory . . . although he has never done a glorious action in his life, and, we will be paying for those also!

Thank You,
Carlina Valenti

Name: Cynthia Gillette-Wenner

Date: March 2, 2026 8:29:53 pm

Many thanks, and kudos, to the Natural Trust for Historic Preservation for the excellent webinar detailing just what the East Wing Modernization Project would entail, and how it would affect the surrounding areas. It is quite obvious the current architect(s) had no desire to maintain the well thought out balance and scale of this most important area of Washington D.C. To create a new building of such an enormous scale that it changes view planes of the White House itself, that it changes the symmetry of the beautiful Olmsted grounds, is a travesty. The need for a ballroom is not being questioned. What is the enormity of this addition, adding Corinthian and not Ionic columns, and the disregard of the classic design that has thus prevailed since the time of the founding of our Capitol. And how often would the need be to fill such a huge ballroom space for 1000 persons?

This project must be kept in scale to what already exists, and must keep the balance and scale of the entire area in consideration, while maintaining its beautiful classic design.

Please do not let this project go through as currently designed.
Thank you.....

Name: Gary Stackpole sr

Date: March 2, 2026 8:30:54 pm

I'm writing this letter in regards to the east wing ballroom proposal, at the White House! I'm not sure if my comment will do much good considering that so much demolition has been done at the White House already!! but I want to say that, even though they've been many reservations to the White House by prior presidents! The amount of demolition to the White House, the East wing, and paving over the rose garden! To suit Donald Trump's self impose, egotistical person! Who cares nothing about the historical importance of the White House! And how much it means to American people and whatever represent represents! Just because Donald Trump has illusions of Grandeur about himself! And that's all he really cares about! And that's very sorry for the American people! Thank you! And I hope that my comments will be taken seriously! Because I'm not the only American citizen who is appalled at what's been done in this country! Thank you again!

Name: S Yvonne Novak

Date: March 2, 2026 8:34:04 pm

Please reconsider the proposed size of the new East Wing. There are several reasons for making this request:

1. The new ballroom is out of scale and proportion with the current White House, destroying the symmetry of the classical architecture. It obliterates the view between the Capitol from the White House (part of L'enfant's 1791 design of Washington, DC) and requires rerouting of the currently symmetrical driveways initially created by Frederick Law Olmstead.
2. The ballroom is much larger than it needs to be to accommodate 1,000 guests at the high end of industry standards. The ballroom is 22,000 square feet when 15,000 would accommodate a seated dinner for 1,000. The kitchen is also far larger than the standard and above ground, even though it has no windows (the proposed plan shows indentations that are not windows) -- the service space could easily be accommodated underground, allowing the ballroom to be more easily accessed (instead of more than 25 feet above street level) and the overall height of the building reduced to a more appropriate scale.
3. The East Portico and its wide staircase is very large but useless as there are no doors into/out of the ballroom to that space. ADA access has also been ignored.

And there are so many more reasons to reduce the size (and cost) of the proposed East Wing.

Please listen to comments from the National Trust and other groups that are knowledgeable about the history of the building and its surroundings.

Name: Linda Meier

Date: March 2, 2026 8:34:16 pm

Dear Committee,

The proposed 90,000 sq. ft. ballroom Trump wants to have built to replace the East Wing of the Whitehouse is simply a ludicrous idea! This structure will drastically change the esthetic of our beautiful, historical landmark and home to U.S. presidents. Please deny this project to proceed. Most Americans are shocked by what damage has already been done to the 'people's house'. This huge, proposed building is a wanna-be king's wish, not an American dream.

Name: Julie Chaffin

Date: March 2, 2026 8:34:59 pm

East Wing "Modernization" is a total misnomer. This historic section of the White House was deliberately torn down without permits and without advance notice to the American people, who own the building, by a temporary renter. Trump did not follow the law. He clearly thinks he can do anything he wants, with no consequences. The consequence here should be that he build back the East Wing exactly like it was, at his personal expense. We do not need a fancy, gilded ballroom; especially one that dwarfs the White House. It will destroy the aesthetic of the White House. It is a total waste of money. Everything he has done to the White House and its grounds is tacky. He destroyed the Rose Garden. He has put fake gold everywhere. He has a picture of the Russian dictator/war criminal in the building. Stop him now!

Name: Stephen Lubin

Date: March 2, 2026 8:35:51 pm

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,

I am an architect with over 50 years of experience.

I have toured the White House and love its restrained scale and lovely proportions.

I have reviewed the proposed ballroom addition and am distressed at what I see.

This addition is wildly out of scale with the existing building, disturbs the L'Enfant axis down Pennsylvania Ave from the Capitol, as well as the Olmsted site planning. It destroys the Palladian windows of the East Room.

The National Trust has prepared a thoughtful evaluation of the proposal which I hope you take the time to watch.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vf1q_HgLpw

It would be a betrayal of our national heritage to approve this project as proposed.

Please don't do it.

Regards,

Stephen Lubin, Architect

Name: Tara Goode

Date: March 2, 2026 8:36:01 pm

The most appropriate course of action is for the East Wing to be reconstructed in its original format. As that is unlikely to happen, my comments on the proposed new design are as follows.

The proposed structure does not reflect the classical design of the White House (WH). The style of the new build should be Ionic, in keeping with the WH and Treasury design. The new wing's scale should equal that of the WH, with the new structure and WH as a whole proportional and balanced as per classic design standards. Symmetry and balance are critical to the architectural style. The proposed structure is too big, too tall, too overbearing, gaudy, ostentatious. It looks like a cheap, low-brow attempt at classic design. The East Wing should be an extension of the WH proper that is timeless and tasteful.

The proposed structure does not respect the history of the WH, grounds, and the design of the city. The gorgeous Palladian window would be impacted by the proposed East Wing design. The magnificent Frederick Law Olmsted design of the grounds would be altered; the sheer size of the proposed structure interrupting the curved drive and destroying the symmetry and beauty of the landscape. And the proposed structure would interrupt the axis drawn by Pennsylvania Ave, the symbolic and visual connection between the WH and the Capitol. These connections between the branches of government are a key feature of the cityscape; severing that connection is a troubling symbolic gesture.

The proposed structure is wasteful, with excessive amounts of square footage dedicated entertainment space as well as bak of house functions. The space allocations are well above industry standard. The functional space doesn't need to be above ground and contributing to the scale issue. The exterior colonnade and portico space and grand stairs are nonfunctional, with no access to the interior and completely useless for hosted functions. It is insulting to the American taxpayer to even propose a design so excessive, and this kind of wastefulness should not be the impression our government gives to guests at the WH.

The White House is the People's House. Full stop. Any changes to the structure and grounds should be carefully considered with the emphasis on what is best for this symbol of the United States. It does not belong to the President; they are but a tenant and on a short lease at that. The rebuilding of the East Wing needs to be done respectfully, with timeless proportional design, mindful space allocation, and a responsible budget. What is currently proposed meets none of those requirements.

Name: Nancy Shea

Date: March 2, 2026 8:38:54 pm

No. Just no.

Name: Angelique Higgins

Date: March 2, 2026 8:48:09 pm

Please preserve the architectural integrity of the White House and its grounds by refusing to approve the current East Wing Modernization Project. The tragedy of the unilateral and unapproved destruction of the historic East Wing must not be compounded by construction that is disproportionate, costly and purposeless. It is imperative that the current plans for an oversized (by 3x volume) ballroom NOT be allowed to move forward. The proposed building and its colonnade are out of scope, symmetry and out of character for the grounds. The manner in which this project has been undertaken an affront to the notion that the White House is the Peoples' House. For 250 years the country has managed without such a space. No meaningful argument has been made why we suddenly need dinner seating for 1500 people. The building and colonnade plans must be scaled down to a proportional scope and functionality before any rebuilding phase can move forward.

Name: Lisa Borgeson

Date: March 2, 2026 8:49:47 pm

The size and scale of this project is out of balance with the existing historic building. It is unnecessary as many White

House balls and dinners have been held in the existing property. The addition will dwarf the historic structure causing it to lose its scope, scale and relation to the land and the city.

Name: Gwyn Smith

Date: March 2, 2026 8:50:15 pm

I wholeheartedly support President Trump's plans for the ballroom. A large ballroom with all the support functions is necessary to host events that now are hosted in tents.

Name: Jonathan Sands

Date: March 2, 2026 8:50:29 pm

This is clearly a self-aggrandizing project of Donald Trump. There was no need for such a huge ostentatious ornate ballroom. If anything other than what was torn down in the razing of the East Wing is to be rebuilt, it should be in the scale and design of the building as it was when Trump took office.

Name: Sharon ONeal

Date: March 2, 2026 8:54:19 pm

[Attachment](#)

Name: David Hostetter

Date: March 2, 2026 8:55:30 pm

Washington DC has to grow and the White House has to change, as it has in the past, as America's role in the world changes. Perhaps there is a legitimate need for a Ballroom that I personally do not see. However, those plans MUST go through proper channels before this project goes further. I am angered that after the public was told that the East Wing would not be touched, it was immediately destroyed; if the Ballroom plan moves forward it must be held to its revealed plan and adhere to construction standards and building codes. Before it proceeds, there should be detailed public plans of what is to be built and detailed public plans of how all portions of the building are to be used in order to justify the project. Consideration of the plans should proceed with a view to architecture and history of the site, WITHOUT political input. This cannot be a vanity project. I think the current plan to the extent that it has been revealed is appalling. A portico with no access to the interior or ADA considerations? Areas that are far in excess of industry standards? Blocking the line from the Capitol to the White House? These types of things betray poor planning with little concern for the historical architectural standards of the White House and the city as a whole. If a Ballroom can indeed be justified, and must be on the White House grounds, the smaller version proposed with spaces more toward industry standards may be a reasonable compromise. I find it quite a bit more attractive than the grandiose, larger proposal.

Name: Mary Arrington

Date: March 2, 2026 8:56:22 pm

The East Wing of the White House should have been preserved, not torn down. There was no apparent effort to preserve any portion of the East Wing that had historical significance. Demolishing any part of the White House without the participation of historical societies, architects and engineers, and governmental oversight should have never occurred. There are no firm plans for the grandiose ballroom the current president desires, nor is there a need for a ballroom that dwarfs the White House. The ballroom is not in keeping with the stature or history of the building. There has been an overall lack of communication for any change the current president has made to the White House. Paving over the Rose Garden and making it look like a resort was not in keeping with the history of the residence and yet that had occurred. The current abomination that is the "ballroom" project must be stopped and the East Wing should be recreated as much as possible.

Name: Rosalyn Gerstein

Date: March 2, 2026 8:57:25 pm

I am submitting my comments for your consideration regarding the East Wing Modernization plan. In addition to my opposition to spending \$300 million on a construction project initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review, this is an entirely inappropriate design. In offering my opinion, my credentials go beyond concerned citizen. I have a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Department of Urban Studies, and an undergraduate degree in design and master's degree from the Rhode Island School of Design. I hope that you will respect my professional opinion, along with all those citizens who feel that this project is a complete razing of American history.

The best scenario would be to cancel this project and require that the East Wing be rebuilt and restored to its former design. Understanding that there may be a functional need for a ballroom, I will make suggestions that can be passed along to the developers of this project. Whatever is built in this historic city must be compatible with the existing White House and the designers should thoughtfully consider both proportion and balance in this significant location.

The proposed building would block the direct view from the White House to the Capital along Pennsylvania Avenue that was an intentional axis when the city was laid out. The proposed building impacts its surroundings and need to respect the White House campus. The classical nearby buildings with Ionic columns on both the Treasury and the People's House are upstaged by the unfortunate selection of decorative Corinthian columns. The use of fake windows and doors is an insulting choice on a building that would live forever on historic grounds.

Lastly, the imbalance on this landscape is so egregious as to be obscene. This proposed ballroom is out of scale, does not consider the original 1792 design by James Hoban, nor does it respect the symmetry of the Olmstead designed grounds. This is an egocentric project, there is no need to construct a structure that is far larger than the required. The 13,000 square foot kitchen is two and a half times the industry standard for 1,000 people. According to the architecture professional standard, ten square feet is allocated to accommodate each person. This room would have guests feeling isolated from each other in the vastness - and it would ultimately be an empty room rarely utilized - how ridiculous is this project?

Dr. Rosalyn Gerstein

Name: Karen Johnson

Date: March 2, 2026 8:57:28 pm

Comments on East Wing Ballroom

To: Honorable members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the design and impact of the proposed East Wing expansion. This project has captivated me and I've watched the recording your meeting with the presentation by the architect and officials on the plans for the East Wing. I also appreciate the National Trust for Historic Preservation sharing this information across the nation and facilitating comment. I also viewed the presentation by savingplaces.org with Bill Bates and David Scott Parker which presented some key elements that are important considerations as NCPC moves forward. I encourage the NCPC to request design changes that align with the many concerns expressed about the historic architecture and planning for Washington DC.

I am not an architect nor a preservationist but I have worked with design and preservation professionals in Oregon all my life and appreciate the issues presented in the conceptual design and challenges to the historic building and landscape of the White House. I also am speaking as a former Williamsburg, Virginia resident with great appreciation of our nation's history, National Endowment for the Arts Design Arts Fellow, and now, long time Oregon resident who values design, historic buildings and landscapes. That being said, here are a few thoughts I'd like to share with you all.

1. The White House building and landscape are truly national treasures and modifications to the gardens and architecture should not be treated in a cavalier manner or rushed to approval without due consideration. I appreciate the presentation about the challenges and issues in the historic building and the changing requirements for national leadership to have a secure and exemplary location to host leaders of all nations. I believe we can do better and have a more thoughtful and appropriate classical design than what is currently being considered. Reflecting on the 1791 master plan for the nation's capital by L'Enfant (as commissioned by President George Washington) and the Olmsted landscape design (also a national treasure), I strongly ask the NCPC to honor the critical site lines, pathways, drives, and viewsheds that

demonstrate in physical dimensions the importance of the connection to the US Capital and White House. I urge the NCPC to ask the architects and planners to reduce the size of the proposed ballroom in order to protect these site lines and drives.

2. I also recognize the important role of the First Lady's/First Gentleman's offices to involve the US citizens in important agendas for health, recovery, landscape conservation, education and literacy and more. Providing appropriate space for the First Lady's or Gentleman's offices should be placed on equal or greater value than the ballroom itself. I recommend that the suite of offices and access and view of those spaces be improved. The First Lady/Gentleman offices below grade should have windows and an entrance to portray the importance of the duties of the women and men who fulfill those roles and to the other public servants who provide staff support.

3. Plainly stated, the building is out of scale with the White House and adjoining buildings. The site line of the height of the building should be lower than the central White House rather than align with it. I agree with Commissioner Phil Mendelson's comments that the overall height and mass of the building could be less high. The floor levels from street view are also out of scale. The portico is outsized as well and dominates the White House. The interior space will still be considered grand in volume and fulfill its mission even if the size is reduced. The central colonnade/portico of the White House should be most the dramatic view point depending on which side you see, for all who visit and see the building. Efforts to focus on that main White House view is important. The proposed columns are out of scale and don't appear to have any purpose. The proposed pediment is taller than the White House and Treasury building. All of these facts demonstrate that the proposed design is larger than required to serve the function, will harm the historic views to the White House, and doesn't conform to the Secretary of Interior Standards for historic building and the classical architecture so prominent in Washington DC.

4. Plans should include an elevator for access to the ballroom and First Lady/Gentleman's office should be included, not only for ADA regulations but for demonstrating the importance of accessibility.

5. Once the ballroom space is constructed, I'd like to see the paving removed from the previously recognized Jackie Kennedy rose garden. Hopefully the plants can be replanted and the garden restored. It is an important legacy and should be restored.

I strongly encourage the NCPC to review the study done by architects David Scott Parker and Bill Bates from savingplaces.org and others regarding the industry standards of ballrooms, street level and floor access, classical architectural elements and other important considerations. They have demonstrated that the space as currently designed would seat 1500 persons and if the goal is 1000 people the size can be 15,000 sq. ft. Currently it is 47% larger than industry standard and more than 3 times the size of the White House. There is still the opportunity to do better and have the addition done with grace and elegance so fitting of our nation's capital. Thank you for your service.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen J Johnson
Eugene, Oregon 97405

[Attachment](#)

Name: Rose-Mary Strom
Date: March 2, 2026 8:57:51 pm

I hope that Trump's plans for the East Wing can be stopped. It is not up to him to make decisions like this and his choices are so poor.

A ballroom with gold decorations is not what represents the people of the US and I think it should be left to the people who have been appointed to positions for this very purpose.

Name: Ellen Lowitt
Date: March 2, 2026 8:57:56 pm

Proper protocol for approving this did not occur and it is a waste of taxpayers money. There has been no review process or oversight of the plan by appropriate parties. Our beloved White House has been destroyed for a vanity project.

Name: Rosiland M McCloud
Date: March 2, 2026 8:59:49 pm

I would ask the Commission to deny this project because 1) it resulted in trump demolishing the historic East Wing WITHOUT permission; 2) Trump pressured various businesses/individuals illegally to donate to HIM for the construction of a 90,000 sq.ft. Ballroom, but the American public did not want to see this happen; 3) Trump did not get prior approval or get feedback from the American public ahead of destruction & planning this ridiculous ballroom idea; 4) trump should be required to restore the East Wing as near to what it looked like before destruction AT HIS OWN COST! You would not let a regular citizen to do such destruction and it must be repaired and the ballroom denied permanently!!!

Name: John Bell

Date: March 2, 2026 9:01:01 pm

The destruction of the White House East Wing without appropriate review and comment as required by law was an act of vandalism for which the perpetrator must be held accountable. That person should be required to rebuild the East Wing exactly as it was prior to its destruction utilizing his own funds without recourse (illegal or otherwise) to any governmental funding. The very name of this project as shown above is an obscenity and is a clear indication of the contempt for Historic Preservation held by the perpetrator of this action.

Name: Dennis Overmyer

Date: March 2, 2026 9:03:14 pm

don't do it! we're supposed to be a democracy not a dictatorship

Name: Keith Stegall

Date: March 2, 2026 9:04:09 pm

This project proposal is an abomination. Epstein's best friend had no right to demolish OUR White House. I am demanding that this project be scaped and that Epstein's best friend be made to pay for its restoration to it previous condition.

Name: Marilee Wyman

Date: March 2, 2026 9:04:32 pm

what a MASSIVE waste of money. after promising not to touch anything an entire wing was decimated and the way that existing structure was trashed spewed asbestos into the air. irresponsible to the max. there is absolutely zero need for a ballroom of any size at the White House. I'm disgusted.

Name: Margaret Zentz

Date: March 2, 2026 9:07:32 pm

Overall, I see the proposed ballroom project as depressing. As an American citizen who has visited the White House several times, I find the concept of a massive ballroom, chilling to say the least! Why?

- use of fake windows and doors
- the ballroom portico looks ridiculous
- reroutes driveway
- ignores symmetry as it is out of balance
- floor of ballroom doesn't connect to portico
- interrupts the smooth connection from White House to Capital
- ceiling height of ballroom is disproportional
- blocks public view of the White House

Please do not approve the ballroom design as it was shown in the webinar--the ballroom is a disaster!

Thank you,
Margaret Zentz

Name: Karen Huebner

Date: March 2, 2026 9:09:19 pm

The White House is the Peoples House and belongs to the entire US population. There is no way that one person can circumvent all the lawful review processes necessary to partially demolish a designated Landmark Building and erect in its place a similarly unreviewed structure that will overwhelm The White House.

Name: Mary Maher

Date: March 2, 2026 9:15:37 pm

I do not believe the Whitehouse ballroom should be built because destroying the east wing was a destruction of historic property without proper oversight. The construction of a ballroom violates legal requirements for historic preservation. The project is being rushed without adequate public input or discussion. Plans should proceed with careful consideration of legal, historical, and community aspects. The white House is, "The Peoples House" and belongs to We the People of the United States of America, and not any sitting president.

Name: Janice Armento Scherba

Date: March 2, 2026 9:17:04 pm

I respectfully ask that this east wing project honors the design legacy that we as Americans have inherited and that the design protects the integrity of the White House property. This is the People's House.

DC was carefully planned and contains inherent symbolism. Please respect the historic structural planning, symbolism and landscape design that was done thoughtfully and carefully by our original designers.

Please protect and maintain the carefully balanced classical design of the White House. The White House is a classical building which should be symmetrical overall, too large of a ballroom will overshadow the White House which should be the main building of the complex.

Scale is very important - the new structure should not be too large and overpower the rest of the architecture. The current proposed addition is simply too large and overpowering. Any new structure needs to be balanced within the historical context of the complex.

Thanks you!

Name: Ann Sims

Date: March 2, 2026 9:17:15 pm

The project as proposed is completely out of proportion and completely inappropriate for the people's house. The White House is more than a presidential residence and office space. It is a powerful symbol of our proud tradition of representative democracy--elegant, classical, without ostentation. The proposed addition must be scaled back to preserve the style and proportions of the executive mansion and to preserve the historical integrity of one our country's most well-known and revered symbols. Thank you.

Name: S Wright

Date: March 2, 2026 9:17:55 pm

Just. NO!!

SO many factors are wrong, illegal, immoral about this project.

Proper, appropriate legal procedure was not followed in the planning, permission, and appropriation of funding for this project.

The United States of America has SO many more important and vital needs than funding this vanity project for the criminal in the White House. Feeding and housing our veterans, the homeless, feeding this nations children, providing for the disabled, and the poor and marginalized, and on and on.

Building a ballroom?!!

NO!!!!

A thousand times NO!!!!

We, The People, were not asked about, nor, do we want this ballroom.

Just stop it!!

Name: Elva Mendoza

Date: March 2, 2026 9:18:03 pm

I am in vehement opposition to the proposed ballroom plan. The scale of the building is totally off-blocking the view between the Capitol and the White House; deforming the symmetrical drive leading to the south entrance; and sending the signal that on the grounds of the White House, wining and dining foreign dignitaries (and let's be honest, Trump's donors and inner circle) takes top priority over the business of the American people. It is a travesty that the East Wing was destroyed without public input. The White House belongs to the American people, not one temporary occupant. It is not Mar-a-Lago. Please put the wishes of millions of U.S. citizens above the whims of one individual (who will leave office in three years.) Please build a ballroom that is the appropriate scale to respect and preserve our historic national monument. Thank you.

Name: Kathi Mowers Moore

Date: March 2, 2026 9:19:24 pm

Do not allow the huge monstrosity currently proposed for the East Wing of the White House that will dwarf the rest of the White House and its historic simplicity. As proposed it is garish and not reflective of the humility and grace of the historic building. It is disgusting and horrible use of the space. The United States does not need a huge, garish ballroom.

I would sincerely ask that you not allow this president push through this horrendous proposal after he demolished the east wing without consulting congress, National historical experts or anyone else.

This is a disgrace Please do not let this happen.

Name: April Hansen

Date: March 2, 2026 9:23:05 pm

My opinion is that the White House is the most important building and the proposed ballroom is way too big and out of proportion. It dwarfs the main building and this is wrong. The new ballroom should not dwarf or block the view of the main White house. And it should not affect adversely the historic gardens or driveway. Also, it is out of step with the main building to have all the columns with fake doors that block the view of the tables inside. Similarly, the hall that attaches the main building to the ballroom is too large and long and should not have fake windows. Both the kitchen and the family movie theater are also too large and unnecessary. The architecture of the ballroom should be the same style or a complementary style to the main building. An addition should not diminish or change the original structure. It must be kept in mind that the original White House is the main and most important building and the proposed ballroom forgets that. As it stands now, the proposed ballroom is an ugly monstrosity.

April Hansen

Name: Laura Johnson

Date: March 2, 2026 9:31:53 pm

I am writing to express my concern about the White House Ballroom project as currently designed and under construction. Setting aside the issue of whether this should be built at all – and I believe that it should not without a comprehensive design review including Congress and detailed accounting of funding – the current design falls short in several ways.

1. The overall mass of the ballroom is 3x that of the existing White House in volume – which causes the ballroom to overshadow the White House itself.
2. The ballroom includes approximately 4,000 SF of massive South Portico that is out of proportion to both the White House and Treasury Building South Porticos. In addition this massive portico is a false front – it does not provide access to the ballroom which is actually 12 feet above the portico floor and it is not accessible from the building – it is simply a

very large decorative front adding no function to the building.

3. The ballroom as designed will impinge on the south drive of the White House and will cause it to bend inwards as it approaches the SW corner of the ballroom thus destroying the classical symmetry designed into the White House grounds by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. ninety years ago.

4. The ballroom as designed will block the sightlines from the White House to the Capitol – a key design feature of the original designer of the capital city Pierre L’Enfant. This sight line along Pennsylvania Ave. ties together the two branches of the US Government visually and is one of four main axes that L’Enfant designed to radiate out from the White House. – features that have existed since his original design in the 1790s

5. Current high architectural standard for ballroom design allocates 15 square feet per person for a sit down dining experience (the most space demanding of uses). With the current design stated to accommodate 1,000 people it would require 15,000 SF not the 22,000 SF as designed. Note that the 22,000 SF does not include the South Portico space which adds to the volume and visual impact of the building. Reducing the ballroom level to 15,000 SF and placing the service areas below grade would lower the overall height of the ballroom structure and make it better fit with existing buildings. Resizing the building and reducing its overall height by moving service areas below grade would also restore the historic sight line to the Capitol as designed by L’Enfant.

6. The South Portico design includes 24 five foot diameter columns which will substantially block the views from the grand ballroom windows on the south end. This is another reason to remove the South Portico from the design.

The above points are from a video produced by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Attached are two screenshots from that video that illustrate the improvements found by reducing the overall size and height of the ballroom without affecting its current design function.

The White House and its surrounding landscape are historic grounds with deep significance for all Americans. Major changes that affect the historic classical design and that impact the existing structures should only proceed after honest conversations about the design and intent and with planning and input from the American public and our elected representatives. To do otherwise is to usurp the people’s voice and their interest in this historic property that is owned by us all.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Karen Hall

Date: March 2, 2026 9:34:29 pm

There are reasons architectural reviews are required BEFORE changes are made to Historic Buildings. What is planned for the White House Ballroom is wrong on so many levels. It is not in proportion to the White House and surrounding buildings. It ignores the view lines designed into Washington D.C. itself - blocking views of the White House itself. All of our history and the tenets of classical design are being ignored. If we truly need a ballroom for 1000 it is just too big. Send these plans back for more input from those with Historical Preservation experience. Protect the People's House. Don't Diminish it.

Name: Karol Dietrich

Date: March 2, 2026 9:34:30 pm

First off, it's not an East Wing Modernization, it's an East Wing demolition so Trump can have his way with a ballroom that no one in America will ever use, and I'm sure it's pretty expensive. Also, the design doesn't fit in with the main building, and the other west wing looks disproportionate. It's so lopsided, but then who do we thank, the Grand Con Man. It's ridiculous that he has already had the East Wing destroyed and will have this grand ballroom sticking out like a sore thumb. If only he could be persuaded to make it less dramatic, less expensive (BTW, who is paying for this monstrous looking takeoff of a Greek/Italian motif?) It's certainly nothing that the White House needs. I believe the Golden Age has passed. Could you please tell Don the Con that he's out of touch and needs to rethink this grand design.

Name: David Blewett

Date: March 2, 2026 9:35:25 pm

The White House East Wing plan is a gaudy monstrosity. The original was properly planned and illegally destroyed. The proposed new structure should be rejected in favor of a design that is a better fit.

Name: Jeffery Steward

Date: March 2, 2026 9:37:42 pm

After reviewing the proposed plan of the White House Ballroom addition I am disturbed to see how the volume, height, and mass will overwhelm that of the White House itself. Surely this project can be scaled down to realistically meet the needs of Presidential functions without dominating the site. The loss of the historic Palladian window at the point of attachment to the new structure is tantamount to vandalism and requires careful reconsideration. Finally, it is upsetting to see that this plan will destroy the historic and symbolic axial relationship between the Capitol and the White House that has existed for over two centuries by blocking the view down Pennsylvania Avenue of the Presidents' (the People's) house and grounds. The Classical architecture of the plan is commendable and in keeping with the site but, please, reconsider the size and scope of the addition and adjust it so as not to destroy the aesthetic, historic, and symbolic integrity of the White House.

Name: Robert Shirkey

Date: March 2, 2026 9:42:19 pm

If a ballroom is to be built as an addition to the existing White House, it should be designed to be proportionally sensitive and in scale with the existing White House. It should be designed to be in harmony with the existing style and materials of the existing building.

The preliminary drawings that I have seen show an addition out of scale with the existing White House.

A full review by a neutrally appointed architectural committee should be carried out.

I fully support the National Trust for Preservation in its position relating to the design of any ballroom addition to the White House.

I believe a full study analyzing the need for a ballroom and what the size and functions of such a ballroom must be carried out before any further construction of such a ballroom takes place.

Robert Shirkey, architect

Name: Heather Venditti

Date: March 2, 2026 9:43:03 pm

I strongly oppose the size and scale of the Ballroom design proposed by the Trump administration.

It is poorly designed and ignores the classical precedent that the "peoples house" was so eloquently designed.

The size alone disrespects the sight line down Pennsylvania Ave, which is not only symbolic but fundamental to the democracy that it represents. The size over shadows the white house which is inappropriate.

The consideration to heating , cooling and maintenance of such a large building and the burden to the tax payer are not being considered. The program, ceiling heights, location and lack of fenestration are all poorly designed. A building much smaller would be more efficient, while still achieving the needs of its intended purpose while respecting the historic nature and impeccable and eloquent well documented original design intent of this complex.

The proposed design is a egregious and disgusting affront to the integrity of tone if the most important structure to the United States Government and the country.

The haste with which this project is being done will lead to cost overruns and unforeseen construction administrative problems ultimately being the biggest money pit the like we have not seen.

Please do not approve the current design.

Name: Kari Grabinski

Date: March 2, 2026 9:45:40 pm

I am writing in opposition to the proposed ballroom design on the East Wing of the White House.

The proposed design does not take into consideration the proportions of the West Wing and Residence and disrespects the aesthetics, architectural tradition, and historic layout of Washington, DC.

This design disrupts the axial connection between the White House and the Capitol building. Diagonal avenues were a critical element within L'Enfant's plan of Washington, DC, and Pennsylvania Avenue serves as a symbolic connection

between the executive and legislative branches of government. Constructing the ballroom to the proposed scale would truncate the diagonal connection and obstruct the view between these to White House and the Capitol.

Constructing the ballroom to the proposed scale would also impact the circular drive designed by Frederick Law Olmstead; this significant landscape design element would become asymmetrical.

This proposed ballroom addition does not adhere to the “Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing Historic Buildings” as they relate to The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. “New Exterior Additions to Historic Buildings and Related New Construction” Recommends 1) Constructing a new addition that results in the least possible loss of historic materials so that character-defining features are not obscured, damaged, or destroyed, 2) Designing a new addition that is compatible with the historic building, and 3) Ensuring that the addition is subordinate and secondary to the historic building and is compatible in massing, scale, materials, relationship of solids to voids, and color.

The proposed design fails to adequately meet these guidelines:

It seems instead of trying to design the ballroom to keep within historical precedent in terms of scale and detailing - including columns, capitals and floor heights - this design is meant to overwhelm. The design does not try to minimize its impact on the site – showing no deference to historic buildings, additions and landscape features – but rather it intends to dominate the site. In fact, the occupancy of the proposed floor plan, based upon industry standards, is calculated to be well above the targeted 1,000 people – meaning its volume could be minimized. The proposed design references historical details with little to no understanding of their historical precedent. The scale of the columns does not follow historical precedent. The capitals of the columns do not follow historical precedent.

If this addition were going through an internal compliance review by the National Park Service, it would be considered an adverse affect.

Name: Susan Gray

Date: March 2, 2026 9:47:08 pm

Destruction of East Wing was a travesty. The planned ballroom overwhelms the historic White House and shows à lack of appreciation and understanding of historical architecture and Precedent.

Name: Steve Thompson

Date: March 2, 2026 9:47:33 pm

How dare our President demolish the East Wing of "The Peoples House."
Who does he think he is. After his 2nd tern is up, he'll no longer be the occupant of the White House! Our Constitution says: Two-terms max! My allegiance is to The Constitution of The United States of America, Not my Republican President or my soon to be ex Republican Party. I'm an Abraham Lincoln - Teddy Roosevelt Republican!!! Where did these Republicans go!

Name: Richard Dippolito

Date: March 2, 2026 9:49:39 pm

As an architect, I am very concerned about the scale and massing of the proposed ballroom. The building overwhelms the White House and surrounding area, and negatively impacts the beauty and elegance of the grounds. The building also blocks the view of the White House from the Capitol which is a main feature of the centuries old plan for the city. The lack of windows at the pedestrian level make the building unapproachable and the “fake” portico adds mass for no purpose. By eliminating the non-functioning portico, placing the kitchen underground, rightsizing the ballroom itself, and reducing the interior ceiling heights, the building can be brought to a scale that can be a complement rather than a detriment. I strongly encourage you and implore you to require the design to respect its historic context. We have a tremendous opportunity to add a national treasure to this site. Let’s design wisely to benefit the generations that come after us. Thank you.

Name: Cathy Maloney

Date: March 2, 2026 9:49:55 pm

I am opposed to the new ballroom on the White House grounds. I believe the scale and massing of the building, destroys the inherent symmetry and symbolism of the White House grounds. I believe other alternatives exist, and do not think that a massive ballroom is appropriate for our country.

Name: Khaatim Sherrer El

Date: March 2, 2026 9:50:02 pm

The Whitehouse was built as a testament to this country's greatness and has stood the test of time in preserving its historic character. The planned renovations, while noble in its aim to modernize the building, misses the mark in its scale and planned use. The Whitehouse serves two purposes: 1) as the residence for the president and their family; and 2) administrative offices for the president and members of their Cabinet. It was never intended to be a world unto itself whereby the incumbent office holder can host lavish gatherings for its guests without ever having to mingle and be of and with the people of this country, all over the country. There are plenty of venues for large scale gatherings. Those venues should be used and visited to keep the president connected to the every day life of Americans, not to bottle up the president so we never see them engaging with the people they serve.

Name: Lynn Setzer

Date: March 2, 2026 9:51:39 pm

I can't imagine anything uglier than the proposed ballroom. Don't do it! The East Wing should never have been abolished. I understand the ballroom is for "state events." Does the country really have that many state events to host? I'd rather see a serious government making thoughtful decisions than a government putting on a show in a tacky, gilded room.

Name: Catherine Artman

Date: March 2, 2026 9:54:39 pm

Imbalance. That's the theme of the current administration.

The People's House should not reflect this time of devastation and upheaval after it ends. An enormous ballroom would be salt in the wounds, permanently.

The East Wing shouldn't have been leveled. But the White House can be restored, at least architecturally. It can again be a physical representation of balance, carefulness and calm.

Name: R Lappier

Date: March 2, 2026 9:54:51 pm

From the desk of
R. Lappier, US Citizen

March 2, 2026

Executive Director Marcel Acosta
Chair Scharf, Vice Chair Levenbach, Commissioner Blair
Commissioner Dixon, Commissioner Argo
Ex Officio Members Hegseth, Burgum, Forst, Paul, Comer, Bowser, Mendelson
National Capital Planning Commission
Washington DC

Re: East Wing 'Modernization' Project

Dear Mr. Acosta, et al.,

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on the 'Modernization' project which was initiated without proper authorization,

permits or design reviews. Trump's East Wing demolition was a brutal razing of US history. Akin to rape, make no mistake, what he did to the East Wing was a violation, taking what he pleased without permission, dismantling our democracy at its historic foundation. He's a cruel Toddler Tyrant, a convicted felon, a demented menace degrading our nation.

His East Wing demolition, without preservation, without approval or consultation, was illegal and immoral and an abomination.

Please DO NOT REWARD HIS TANTRUMS WITH COMPLICIT COOPERATION. Oh, and F his BS ballroom and his gaudy gold decorations.

The East Wing should be rebuilt and restored to its former design. Those who abused power and defied the law and the constitution, including, if applicable, NCPC appointees and members, must be held to account. Anything less is an affront to the memory of our forebears, to all US citizens, and to future generations.

"Thank you for your attention to this matter."

Sincerely,
R. Lappier

cc: US Congress Representative Mark DeSaulnier

[Attachment](#)

Name: Gary Fogg

Date: March 2, 2026 9:55:23 pm

I have watched the webinar and I understand there is much public dissent about the Trump administration's plan, but in all honesty I think the American people deserve the ballroom the Trump administration has planned. Sometimes we have to look to the future to what is best and what is most viable and most useful for the country down the road. This administration and many more in the future will benefit from a grand ballroom on the scale that they want to build it and it will provide security for future state functions going forward. Once completed I am confident it will serve the government and the citizens of the United States with the utmost satisfaction.

Name: Wendy Ouellette

Date: March 2, 2026 9:58:30 pm

Respectfully, I think the East Wing should be restored--not modified, and certainly not enlarged. That Mr. Trump chose to ransack The People's House should be punishable by law (and/or impeachment). The original design by Olmstead should be maintained, and nothing should interfere with the city sightlines, which were so carefully planned by the First President of the U.S.

Thank you.

Name: Robin Schwartz

Date: March 2, 2026 10:01:02 pm

The East Wing -- which technically doesn't exist anymore because Trump bulldozed it to satisfy one of his mad whims -- doesn't need to be "modernized". It needs to be rebuilt as it was, with not one jot of the gaudy embellishments Trump's slapped onto the rest of the White House, turning it into the Gold Bordello.

As for the bunker beneath the East Wing, which Trump wants to turn into a state-of-the-art fortress to protect him from whatever hell he rains down upon the US and the rest of the world: Absolutely. Not.

We need clean air and water. Healthcare. Affordable homes and groceries. Safe transportation. A safe WORLD. Not to mention taxes on billionaires commensurate with the money they've stolen from us in their endlessly crooked schemes and dirty deals. What we do NOT need is to allow the 34-Count-Convicted-Felon in the White House to pocket more money from US taxpayers to feed into his black hole of an ego.

Name: Katherine Button

Date: March 2, 2026 10:02:57 pm

The new East Wing should resemble as much as possible the historic East Wing, inside and out. It should be built to the highest LEED standard - Platinum. A model for energy efficiency. A Zero Energy building. The landscaping should create an oasis of calm with lots of greenery and rose bushes to replace what was lost when the old rose garden was paved over.

Name: Mary Ann Viveros

Date: March 2, 2026 10:05:05 pm

I was shocked last fall to turn on the news and hear that the East Wing had been demolished- with no warning and no chance for the public to have a say in what happens to such a historic and important building. We had been led to believe that the White House belonged to all Americans as citizens and taxpayers, but we must have been mistaken.

Now we're presented with a plan for a ballroom so much larger than the White House itself that it dominates the whole property, blocking views, throwing off the symmetry and even making it necessary to change the path of the driveway to accommodate it.

We're being told this will be paid for with donations. I can't help but think these donors will expect something in return, and as the cost goes up, the taxpayers will end up paying for most of it.

I feel that the only acceptable plan would be a new wing as similar as possible to the one that was destroyed. Please reconsider this extravagant and oversized building!

Name: Trent Whisenant

Date: March 2, 2026 10:07:37 pm

I am writing to express my deep opposition to the East Wing Modernization Project and the proposed White House State Ballroom.

I am appalled by the administration's decision to demolish the historic East Wing of the White House — one of the most symbolically significant structures in the United States — without completing the legally required federal review process before breaking ground. The East Wing has served as a vital part of the White House complex since World War II, housing the offices of the First Lady and serving as a workspace integral to the executive branch. Its destruction represents an irreplaceable loss to our national heritage.

Equally alarming is the scale of the proposed ballroom itself. A 90,000-square-foot addition — at an estimated cost now exceeding \$400 million — is an extravagant and inappropriate use of the White House grounds. This is not a modest modernization; it is a massive personal vanity project that fundamentally alters the character, footprint, and historic integrity of a National Historic Landmark and National Park belonging to all Americans.

The NCPC exists precisely to prevent this kind of unchecked alteration of our most treasured federal spaces. The fact that construction and demolition were allowed to proceed for months before any formal review took place — bypassing the rigorous, multi-step public process required for far smaller projects — is a serious failure of oversight. The commission should not lend legitimacy to a process that was designed from the start to minimize public input and circumvent historic preservation law.

I urge the Commission to use every available authority to require full environmental and historic impact review, demand genuine public participation, and insist on design alternatives that preserve the integrity of the White House complex. The American people deserve better than a fait accompli review of a project already halfway built.

Respectfully submitted,

Trent Whisenant

New York, NY

Name: Catherine Capriles

Date: March 2, 2026 10:08:17 pm

This project was NEVER proposed before demolition began, thus making a new structure imperative. So, in great protest, I submit the following proposed restrictions to the proposed drawings.

First, we must keep this project in line with the current White House and surrounding buildings. The proposed size is indiscriminately and unnecessarily large when notes indicate that this is meant to accommodate 1000 people. The ballroom space should be kept to the industry "high" standard of 15,000 square feet at maximum. In addition, nowhere in

the current proposal is there any indication how this space would be used when not in use as a formal hosting space; therefore, making it useless space for much of the time.

Second, this building must maintain the historical design of President Washington's design of the city in the late 1700's. The site line and direct access between the Capital and the White House must be preserved. The location and size of this building will destroy that design and more than symbolically eliminate the link between the legislative and executive branches of government. Pennsylvania Avenue must be maintained and the legacy of this design respected.

Third, the proposed building must respect the architectural designs of the entire city, meaning that the columns should be Ionic, not Corinthian, the height must be within reason and not overwhelming to the people inside nor the buildings around it. The most important house in America, the White House, must be maintained as the focal point of the District.

Fourth, the use of the entire building must be expressly identified to justify the heights, the size, the spaces and more. If the use is not specified, then the entire building is not necessary and should be significantly reduced in size. For example, the kitchen is far too large for the intended use of feeding 1000 people. The height of that floor (14') is completely unnecessary, and the location should be below grade to maintain a more visually respectful line. The height of each of the three floors is completely unnecessary and would contribute to an overwhelming visual incumbrance.

Fifth, the oval road leading to the front of the White House must be respected and the proposed building should be small enough to fit within the designed grounds/gardens of the historical structure. Adjustments to the symmetry of the grounds must be avoided at all costs.

While the whole idea of this project is a slap in the face of the American people, at this point there must be some semblance of respect to the design and history of this, America's first city and home to our federal seat of government. Please consider the history of this building going forward and the legacy the AMERICAN PEOPLE would want to leave of this time in our history.

Name: PAULA R BEATTY

Date: March 2, 2026 10:11:10 pm

I was devastated to see the demolition of the White House. The ballroom is way too big, and has no business being on the White House grounds. It should have been reviewed after a formal submission and President Trump should not be rewarded for his terrible, impulsive and bombastically narcissistic project. At a minimum, in the hopefully unlikely event this project is approved, please make it a much scaled down project so as not to overshadow the People's House. Thank you.

Name: Jeffrey Gustafson

Date: March 2, 2026 10:12:09 pm

The sheer massing and height of the proposed 90,000 square-foot East Wing Ballroom construction will overwhelm the Executive Residence, which is only 55,000 square feet.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation offer clear guidance for construction projects such as this one that affect historic properties. 36 C.F.R. § 68.1 et seq. The Standards provide that new additions should not destroy the historic fabric of the property, and that the new work should be "compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing" of the existing structure. Id. § 68.3(a)(9)-(10). To that end, the National Park Service's Comprehensive Design Plan for the White House, issued in 2000, recognized the need for expanded event space — yet proposed locating such facilities in "new underground structures" so as to "minimize any new intrusions on the surface" and ensure that "the integrity and character-defining features of the White House and its grounds ... are preserved and maintained."

The ballroom addition should be subordinate in scale to the Executive Residence. Its height should also be substantially lower than the Executive Residence. And the majority of it should be underground.

As we approach the 250th Anniversary of our country's founding, the preservation of historic places that represent our nation's history has never been more relevant or important. I urge you to undertake a review process that ensures the protection of the historic White House complex. For additional detail, please follow the comments and suggestions submitted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Best regards,
Jeffrey Gustafson

Name: Lisa Rustici

Date: March 2, 2026 10:12:45 pm

I am so appalled and disgusted about what has happened already to our beautiful historic White House! How can this be allowed? We do not need a “ballroom”! And we certainly do not need one as elaborate and huge as what is planned! This President is doing whatever he wants to do and ignoring laws and protocols. As an American citizen, who pays taxes, I do not appreciate the desecration of our historic buildings. The White House does not belong to Trump! It belongs to America. Please stand with those of us who truly care about democracy.

Name: Elaine A. Lailas

Date: March 2, 2026 10:13:57 pm

This proposed Mega East Ballroom as an addition to the White House is nothing but an imbalance to the architectural design of the present White House. What is the true purpose of this Mega Ballroom? It would only be used maybe once a year to accommodate thousands of people at a time?

While each person has to go through the security at the White House, that large of a crowd would be impossible to control and also to safely enforce security for all persons.

This is a security nightmare waiting to happen. One would lose the sacredness of being a guest in the White House.

In addition to the cost of building this nightmare of a building, to employ the staff to protect and serve the purpose of the Ballroom would add skyrocketing costs to the maintenance of the said building forever.

Let’s be realistic! Why do we need this size of a Ballroom. Having been to the White House on various important occasions, the largesse of the present rooms are more than adequate to meet the President’s agenda!

Please reconsider this proposal and reach the conclusion that this is an unnecessary waste of money, a miscalculation in the architectural monstrous design, and a ruination of the Historical Beauty of the Symmetrical Design of the White House since its inception.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine A Lailas, Ph.D.

Name: Anna Liu

Date: March 2, 2026 10:16:38 pm

I strongly oppose the current plan for the East Wing Modernization. In the proposed plan, the East Wing looks to be almost three times larger than the main residence. It is completely out of scale and not at all in keeping with the character of the historical structure. Scale, proportion and symmetry are critical elements in Neoclassical architecture. The proposed plan defies all notions of historic preservation and fails to maintain the integrity of the White House, which stands as one of the most important and revered buildings in this country. I urge you to reject this eyesore and restore a sense of propriety to both the site itself and the process through which it may be altered.

Name: Stephen Jordan

Date: March 2, 2026 10:17:31 pm

This project should never have happened; it was started illegally and is a disgrace to our country.

Name: Anne Rankin

Date: March 2, 2026 10:18:26 pm

Love it! Solving a problem in a seamless way. Beautiful design that blends cohesively into the beauty of the White House. This should have been done a century ago so that the American President had a dignified venue in which to entertain heads of state & other dignitaries. It's a no-brainer IMO.

It is bring funded entirely w/o ANY taxpayer dollars - ALL private donations including by our generous President, Donald J Trump!

Stop trying to sabotage it! Can't help but think that the objection is because President Trump is behind it. He's a builder & is the perfect president to take this on! Embrace his expertise & work with (not against) him.

Name: Thomas Templeman

Date: March 2, 2026 10:18:44 pm

The East Wing was illegally demolished without permits, without consulting with the National Park, and needs to be restored to it's original state. Period.

Name: Phyllis Endicott

Date: March 2, 2026 10:19:47 pm

I am opposed to the destruction of the East Wing of the White House.' Mr. Trump should be required to restore the East Wing . He should be fined for not having a permit and forced to pay for the restoration of the People's house.

NO Ballroom! I am furious he destroyed our history. Please, someone hold him accountable for his crimes.

Name: Stephanie Hoagland

Date: March 2, 2026 10:28:20 pm

I am a historic preservation professional with over 20 years of experience. I do not support the east wing modernization project for the White House for multiple reasons. First, no studies or reports were done and no permission granted to demolish the east wing. The demolition proceeded without a review by the NCPC and the Commission of Fine Arts as required by federal law. No studies were completed to comply with the National Environmental Policy act, and congress was not informed, nor did the president have congressional approval. Secondly, I have reviewed the designs, and they are out of scale with the White House. At 90,000 square feet the proposed ballroom would dwarf the 55,000 square foot white house, which should be the main focus of this historic landmark. The design is not compatible in scale.

And finally, the White House does not belong to Trump. It is the people's house, and we deserve to have all designs and plans reviewed, commented upon, and approved by the people we have entrusted this job to. Just because Trump already demolished the East Wing does not give him permission to do to the site what he wants. The east wing should be reconstructed, at the contractor and Trump's personal expense to match the original in all aspects, designs, and materials. It is the only fair way to move forward.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Jeff Morgan

Date: March 2, 2026 10:29:37 pm

I am an architect in Charlotte, NC --- this is not the East Wing Modernization Project --- you need to title this what it is : "The Trump Ball Room" --- he is the only one that wants this --- tearing down the East Wing was a crime and a travesty -- - building this ball room is even worse than that.

How many times a year will this be used ? maybe once ? --- there are many spaces in DC that can (and has) accomodate any event that is desired --- do the Americcan citizens really want to see 1,000 of our elected officials and their guests in a space like this ? I know I do not

Just take a look at the plans and rendering of this project --- it is almost three times the size of the White House in plan --- it is almost as tall (if not taller) than the White House --- it is totally out of scale and proportion --- it will dwarf and over power the White House (the People's House)

it is BIG and UGLY --- The floor plate does not need to be this big and the building does not need to be this tall --- the architect for this building would get an "F" on this project for a college design project --- any architect, engineer or

contractor working on this project should have their licenses revoked

I am not a fan of Donald Trump or the Republican Party, but I can honestly tell you this --- even if a Democratic President would be doing this project, I would be saying the exact same thing --- but you know what, no one else would have even imagined this crazy idea of a Ball Room

this project must be stopped and just build back a new modern East Wing that is scaled appropriately (the new underground bunker and/or data center can still be accomplished) --- or hire a more prominent architectural firm that will provide a better and less obtrusive ball room design --- (I think a request for proposals is legally required but this was not even done) --- but that is another story

anyone working on this project is immoral + unethical + unprincipled --- and anyone on the National Capital Planning Commission that approves this project is the same

So I implore that the members of the NCPC to walk into the restroom before you vote on this and look in the mirror and ask yourself what you should really do --- if you are honest + moral + principled, then you will say : "Sorry President Trump, we cannot allow you to build this travesty of a Ball Room on the White House grounds"

Thanks
Jeff Morgan, AIA


Name: Michelle Roseburrough
Date: March 2, 2026 10:30:06 pm

February 23, 2026

Mr. William Scharf
Chair
National Capital Planning Commission
401 Ninth Street NW, Suite 500N
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Proposed Construction of White House Ballroom/East Wing Modernization Project

Dear Mr. Scharf:

I am writing to express my support of the comments and recommendations made for modifications regarding White House ballroom plans in the following documents:
National Trust Comments Submitted to NCPC (2/23/2026)
David Scott Parker, FAIA Comments to Commission of Fine Arts (2/18/2026)

I am personally familiar with the challenges presented by necessary modifications to historic properties, having been involved in a professional capacity as the Administrator of the Historical Society of Marshall County, Iowa with a widespread impact on a local National Register Historic District and other properties in the aftermath of a tornado in Marshalltown, Iowa in July 2018. Though I am no longer in this role, I understand and support the importance of retaining elements of scale and style regarding historic structures and districts.

I also appreciate the importance of modernizing public spaces, and believe that effort can be achieved in accord with preservation of historic elements.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments, and I look forward to an outcome that respects the dignity and historic significance of our White House.

Respectfully,
Michelle Roseburrough

Name: Marilyn Foster
Date: March 2, 2026 10:32:04 pm

I agree that the East Wing of the White House needs updating; however, the proposed ballroom addition is not appropriate in size or design. The ballroom does not take into consideration future presidents' gatherings that may not be as large as the current President. The ballroom does not need to be an attached to the White House grounds. It could be located elsewhere in Washinton DC.

I'm thinking of a site similar to the Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco - elegant, on a hill with a lovely view.

Name: Janet Ruhan

Date: March 2, 2026 10:37:02 pm

At nearly twice the size of the White House, the proposed 'ballroom' addition is simply too large. It is inappropriate to dwarf the White House with an addition.

Name: Tyler Wean

Date: March 2, 2026 10:39:50 pm

Hello, after reviewing the information provided in the webinar, I would like to say that I think the scale of the ballroom addition is too big for the space and compared to the existing facilities in the area. I do agree that a ballroom space is needed, but I think the size should be scaled back to be more appropriate. I also think a smaller space would mesh better with the overall vision for the White House and surrounding spaces.

Thank you.

Tyler

Name: Mary Conway

Date: March 2, 2026 10:41:47 pm

I am writing to register my vehement opposition to the building of a "ballroom" that will only serve the very wealthy minority, the oligarchs. It will NOT be for the American people. The proposed design is completely out of character with the historical architecture of the White House, and will be an unsightly, completely disproportionate addition. The East Wing should be completely restored, with modern enhancements that blend in perfectly with its design. Anything else will be a travesty if added to the most iconic American building there is.

Name: B H

Date: March 2, 2026 10:43:44 pm

I am writing in response to the White House ballroom design. From a design perspective, it shows absolutely no deference to surrounding historic buildings (including but not limited to the White House itself); the L'Enfant Plan for Washington D.C., commissioned by George Washington in 1791; nor the landscape design by America's preeminent landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted.

From a process perspective, the current design is not informed by any Congressional oversight, legally required design review, or public input.

May I please remind the NCPC that they have a solemn duty to preserve our built history for the posterity of the American people, and should not allow themselves to be intimidated by the whims of a single administration. Your oversight and preservation will leave a lasting mark, and encourage the planning commission to please follow the process and let your conscience guide you to do the right thing.

Name: David Fontanella

Date: March 2, 2026 10:45:10 pm

Submitted online to National Capital Planning Commission
<https://www.ncpc.gov/participate/guidelines/>
March 2, 2026

I am writing to oppose the major changes proposed for the White House East Wing and Ballroom as currently proposed. I support recommendations of the National Trust For Historic Preservation:

Reduce Overall Size and Visibility. The size, volume, and massing of the proposed new construction (90,000 square feet) should be reduced or disguised (such as by placing portions underground, as recommended in the 2000 Comprehensive Design Plan) so the new building appears smaller than the Executive Residence itself (55,000 square feet). Its height should also be substantially lower than the Executive Residence.

Reduce Footprint and Protect Key Views. The footprint of the proposed building should not extend past the existing south-facing façade of the historic Treasury Building, nor further interrupt the views of the Executive Residence from Pennsylvania Avenue.

Respect the Established Classical Composition of the White House Complex. The new addition should retain the carefully balanced classical design of the White House complex with its two smaller, lower, and substantially symmetrical East and West Wings.

Preserve the Historic East Façade of the Executive Residence. The connection of the colonnade to the Executive Residence should protect and preserve the original historic materials of the east façade of the Executive Residence and should not cover or demolish the existing fenestration and detailing of the east façade.

Ensure that the Proposed South-facing Portico Is Subordinate in Scale to the White House South Portico. The proposed portico on the south façade should be smaller and less grand in scale than the existing portico on the south façade of the Executive Residence.

Thank you for considering my comments.

David Fontanella
Trumansburg NY

Name: Victoria Connolly

Date: March 2, 2026 10:53:19 pm

I believe the scale of this project is absurd. Any project around the White House should preserve it as the focal point. It clearly is a monument to one man's ego. Fine if it has to be a ballroom, but proportion is everything. Please do not approve this as is.

Name: Victoria Nelson

Date: March 2, 2026 10:53:50 pm

The White House is a historic building, belonging to all Americans. It does not belong to Donald Trump. It was disrespectful to tear down the east wing. Just because Donald Trump wants a ballroom is not a good enough reason to build one.

The east wing needs to be rebuilt in a respectful manner, honoring the history of the White House A ballroom is not needed. Please rebuild the White House east wing, not a ballroom.

Name: Cathy Chappell

Date: March 2, 2026 10:56:15 pm

The grandiose design of this oversized ballroom overpowers the White House and diminishes its beauty and status as a National Landmark and one of the most recognizable residences in the world.

The ballroom rendering is not in keeping with the appropriate period style as it's far too baroque and gaudy. All the gold accents are vulgar (same for those gold additions in the Oval Office). Any modifications must blend seamlessly and be in correct proportion to the existing White House. NO to this ballroom plan

Name: Anne Biel

Date: March 2, 2026 10:58:01 pm

Hello. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. I am commenting on behalf of myself, as an American citizen. I realize that the CFA has approved this project, but I am hopeful that the NCPC's findings, as well as the ruling of any legal action, will be taken into account before the design of the project is truly finalized. I feel that the proposed size of the extension is far too large, and totally unnecessary. It is the People's House, and we are entitled to know what its anticipated usage will be, before construction is planned. Has it been determined exactly what events will be held in the building, and how often? Why is such a massive amount of space needed? Is it merely for entertainment purposes, or will portions of the building be used to replace spaces that were torn down? And how many of those proposed events will actually host the number of people it will be able to hold? Is it logistically possible to facilitate the quantity of expected guests, including - as "silly" as it may seem to say - parking (too often, an afterthought)? Also, the idea of it being paid for by private donations certainly invites political favoritism, and should not be permitted. Thank you.

Name: Holly Noel

Date: March 2, 2026 11:01:41 pm

Please do not allow the proposed ballroom addition to be built. The White House itself should be the focus of the property as "the People's house", it is never been or should it ever be referred to as "the People's Ballroom." The East Wing should have never been demolished. Thank you. Holly Noel

Name: Colleen Garrecht Connelly

Date: March 2, 2026 11:07:18 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Aenne Barchowsky

Date: March 2, 2026 11:12:08 pm

Hi,

I am a retired architect.

I write you to support the National Trust for Historic Preservation's suggestions to amend the current administration's plans for the East Wing Ballroom!

The size and massing of the proposed structure completely overwhelms the historic central White House building and obliterates the axial view along Pennsylvania Avenue. It also ruins the symmetry of Fredrick Law Olmstead's beautiful symmetrical drive. If we are to have a beautiful capital city, we must pay attention to beauty itself, not just size, to make an addition worthy of our capital city and L' Enfant's original plan.

Please follow the recommendations of the National Trust by lowering the height of the building, reducing the volume of the building, reducing the massing and paying attention to all classical 'rules' and detailing, for instance by using classical columns that match the type of the original (main) White house.

Please maintain the visual connection along Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and the Capitol, and please keep Olmstead's drive symmetrical!

I agree with the National Trust that the portico, whose floor is shown 15 feet below the ballroom floor, seems to have no functional purpose or connection to the ballroom. Please study this situation. If there is to be a portico, it needs to make sense.

Please carefully study the floor plan, sections and elevations and have architects look into adjusting the current proposal. Every design starts with an idea and then gets refined. THIS IDEA NEEDS A LOT OF REFINEMENT to be worthy of

our White House and L'Enfant's plan for our capital city.

Sincerely,
A very concerned architect.

Name: Warren Davison

Date: March 2, 2026 11:12:24 pm

I find this project repulsive and disgusting. I have been to the palace of Versailles and this is nothing more than a vain lavish personal display. It is not for a democracy. The 90,000 square feet is ridiculous. We have tents at the gem show that size. It is completely useless for a gathering of 500 which would just fill a corner. The only way to use it is to invite thousands and that is NOT the function of the White House. The handling of that many guests requires infrastructure that is not present. This project is simply the simplistic opulent display of an individual with little comprehension of the entirety of any endeavor. It will in the future be repurposed to a useful space.

Name: Betsy Cornwell

Date: March 2, 2026 11:13:22 pm

Yes, the White House and its wings were built for a much smaller nation. Destroying the East Wing and its basement amenities for a "ballroom" of extravagant scope, while ignoring what the larger basement will be used for is a concern for everyone, worried about the trajectory of the current administration. The lack of transparency, the deliberate evasion of scrutiny over the plans is infuriating, given the cavalier attitude toward responsibility by POTUS and his cabinet and coterie of insiders.

The White House and its classical symmetry seem likely to be replaced by a McMansion style monstrosity if any review of previous Trump extravaganzas is taken into account. Given his proven tendency to "cheapen" all essential safety protocols in favor of meretricious gilt; the Nation is right to be alarmed.

Since the President is ignoring any restraint on his gratuitous grandiloquence we can only expect the worst.

Name: Jean Morris

Date: March 2, 2026 11:14:35 pm

Should have never been torn down
Please don't "bling it up" for the orange ape

Name: Michael Gastaldo

Date: March 2, 2026 11:18:04 pm

President Trump tore down the East Wing without ANY notification, agreement, or authorization.

He DESTROYED an Historic National Treasure on his own whim.

His plans for a horrendous, behemoth Ballroom MUST be denied, if only to reinforce the concept that our Nation is run according to Laws, NOT compulsive urges of one man's personal gratification.

This Ballroom is an INSULT to honest Americans, and purely a monument to Trump's toxic, insatiable, and disordered Ego Needs.

His other plans for gilded, oversized, and vulgar monstrosities to celebrate himSELF must also be decisively denied for the same reasons.

This president doesn't seem to recognize that he is merely ONE temporary figure in a long succession of leaders, and NOT the All Powerful, All Important,

Delusional Demigod he thinks himself to be.

At some point, we, as a nation, need to simply tell him "NO."

"No ~ America is Greater and More Important than YOU are, and you have NO RIGHT to put images of yourself on our currency, place your shameful name on our public buildings, or to clutter our Capitol with vile and ostentatious monuments to yourself."

To approve his plans for this gross monstrosity is to champion his criminal misbehavior over the law-abiding citizenship and Constitutional Values that our nation has cherished for 250 years.

Shut this Personal Vanity Project DOWN with Extreme Prejudice!

Name: John Shields

Date: March 2, 2026 11:23:53 pm

I wish to protest the design of the East Wing Modernization Project as proposed.

Specifically, I think it violates the historical intent of L'Enfant's overall layout of the city. His design showed ONLY two key buildings, the White House and the Capitol. And it clearly shows that they should be at opposite ends on Pennsylvania Avenue and VISIBLE to each other. This was obviously a key design element, reflecting two of the three branches of the federal government. The thought that they should be "keeping an eye on each other" - the classic "separation of powers" as designed in the Constitution - is obviously a design intent. The size of the footprint of the proposed Ballroom extends too far south and totally blocks the view of either building from the other.

Secondly, I believe the height of the proposed addition violates the normal rules of good architectural design for a classic style structure in that the central structure is usually the tallest part of a building and any wings are balanced and less tall than the center. In this case, the Residence is the key center structure, so the East Wing should be appropriately shorter. The proposed new construction is also so much more massive that it actually dwarfs the "main" building. This would seem to be able to be accomplished by simply lowering the "first floor" into the ground as a typical basement since it appears to not be public space anyhow (kitchens and other support functions).

Thirdly, I think the footprint also violates Olmstead's layout of the White House grounds. As designed, virtually all elements of the South Lawn are symmetrical, especially the walkways. The overly large footprint, extending too far to the south (see first comment) causes this symmetry to be destroyed.

Finally, as I understand it, the columns on the new East Wing, at least on the stupidly non-functional South Poritco, do not match the existing structure. They appear to be Corinthian, which is too ornate. Any columns on this new structure should clearly replicate those of the main structure, an easy correction at this early stage of the project.

Thank you.

John Shields

Name: Nora Lewis

Date: March 2, 2026 11:24:28 pm

The East Wing was destroyed without legally required authorization, permits, or complying with hazardous waste regulations . This endangered not only the destruction workers but staff working in the White House. Apparently rules don't apply to Mr. Trump . He has already destroyed Mrs. Kennedys Rose Garden, defiled the Oval office with gold spray painted tacky Home Depot 'decorations', put labels on offices that look like hotel labels, will tear up the lawn for a wrestling contest, and now wants an 'Arc de Trump'. Enough is enough, he had no right to destroy the West Wing like he is destroying our country and our democracy , and should be working to keep his campaign 'promises ' instead .

Name: Guiseppe Hammer

Date: March 2, 2026 11:26:01 pm

As a concerned citizen, I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Harriet Garfinkle

Date: March 2, 2026 11:27:10 pm

What an abomination.

Name: Ann P.

Date: March 2, 2026 11:28:08 pm

Mr. Trump destroying the White House East was illegal and appalling. Choosing to build a "Ballroom Palace" is nothing more than self aggrandizement driven by a small insecure person. The Courts need to weigh in on this matter to assure the East Wing is appropriately rebuilt as a salvage effort. Restore the People's House and respect the sanctity of the White House grounds.

Name: Daniel Einstein

Date: March 2, 2026 11:36:26 pm

The proposed design for the East Wing ballroom violates the principles for historic preservation as stipulated under the Secretary of Interior's Standards. The NCPC should reject this design proposal and insist on revisions that respect the integrity of this historic landmark property.

The proposed construction disrespects the historic significance of the Executive Residence structure and symmetry of the Olmsted landscape design.

A redesigned plan should reduce the overall building footprint, scale back building height and volume, preserve historic sightlines to the Capitol, and maintain a balanced relationship with the West Wing and central Executive Residence structure.

The president does not have the authority to recklessly destroy the People's House. He is no king. We are ruled by standards and principles-not ego driven pet projects.

I urge you to stand strong and assert what you know to be consistent with historic preservation standards.

Name: Lisa Park

Date: March 2, 2026 11:36:30 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Lia Scott

Date: March 2, 2026 11:37:45 pm

Please see the attached PDF with my comments opposing the current proposal to replace the East Wing.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Michael Wing

Date: March 2, 2026 11:39:04 pm

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties was developed to protect our country's historic resources. These standards must be applied to the proposed project for the modernization of the White House's East Wing. The White House is one of our country's most significant and important historic resources and should be treated as such.

Name: Becky Maganuco

Date: March 2, 2026 11:39:37 pm

I vehemently oppose spending \$300 million on this project, which began without proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. It is grotesque and a stab in every American's back!

I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law. Permitting this project to proceed without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Astrid Fingerhut

Date: March 2, 2026 11:39:38 pm

The White House is the people's house, not the personal property of the current inhabitant! While each president leaves their mark, tearing down the entire East Wing is a horrible overreach of presidential power. The East Wing should be rebuilt to the original specifications at the president's expense.

Name: Michael Andolsek

Date: March 2, 2026 11:42:15 pm

I strongly oppose the proposed expansion of the White House ballroom in its current form. While the concept of expanding event space at the White House may have practical merit, the way it has been presented feels dismissive of public input and overly personal. The White House is not a private residence; it belongs to the American people and represents our shared history and values. The interior vision being described comes across less like a thoughtful, institutional improvement and more like a personal design project reflecting the tastes of a temporary occupant. Decisions affecting such an enduring national symbol should demonstrate humility, broad consultation, and respect for the public trust.

Name: Robert Raven

Date: March 2, 2026 11:46:59 pm

He's building a Throne Room! He doesn't dance~
No Kings, No Versailles! It's the People's House!!

Name: Beverly St Clair

Date: March 2, 2026 11:52:49 pm

The proposed ballroom is much too large in comparison to the White House. It would block the important sight line between the White House and the Capitol building and disrupt the symmetry of Olmsted's landscape design. Please consider alternative designs more consistent with classical architecture.

Public Comments for East Wing Modernization Project

Total comments: 921

March 3, 2026

Name: anthony aguiler

Date: March 3, 2026 12:07:34 am

I am in full support of the White House ballroom project. Previous administrations have long spoke of the need to develop a full sized ballroom. Hosting state dinners in rented tents is beneath the dignity of the office. Future administrations will appreciate this privately funded gift.

Name: Teresa Fleener

Date: March 3, 2026 12:11:33 am

To begin, I am an American citizen with a background that includes training in cultural resource management, including some experience with the National Historic Register.

Having seen the artist sketch of the East Wing ballroom, an extreme reaction is that it is a monstrosity. It is much bigger than the White House, which should be the focus of the view. Our White House is just that--it belongs to the American people. There are procedures and protocols to be sure that the will of the American people is acknowledged and followed. Evidently those have been eschewed.

Sadly, this design is garish. Again, the focus should be on the White House. This looks like an ego statement with poor taste. That may work in Nashville, but please, not in our nation's capital.

Name: Renuka Tyagi

Date: March 3, 2026 12:13:03 am

The plans for the ballroom addition to the White House are shocking and out of scale with the existing building. The White House is an iconic and historic building that belongs to the people of this nation. Modernization of course should happen as needs change over time. However, the lack of restraint in the addition design and the lack of comment/revision from the previous commission meeting makes your decision all the more important.

Please protect our peoples house and require a redesign and reduction in size of the ballroom addition. Also demand that the new structure be built in a way that enhances the existing structures not detract and damage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Renuka Tyagi, MD

Name: Lee Terzis

Date: March 3, 2026 12:20:17 am

The proposed East Wing addition is not appropriate in scale or mass—as designed, it would dwarf the White House structure itself. As a retired historic preservationist for the federal government, it is disheartening to see how little regard this administration has for the laws and standards that, for decades, have provided the guidance for the the careful planning of such large rehabilitation projects to historic properties,

I am tempted to say we are now closing the barn door after the horse has gotten away. But in truth, the barn has already been torn down.

Name: Michelle Thyer

Date: March 3, 2026 12:20:24 am

As the people's house we have the right to know what is happening to it. As a historical and iconic building, we owe it to future generations to let them see what this house means to us, the American people. I do believe that the president has the right to make certain changes to their living arrangements, but to totally destroy a wing without public, or historical input, is irresponsible, and in my opinion, criminal.

Name: John Maves

Date: March 3, 2026 12:20:56 am

The proposed White House ballroom is totally incongruous in scale and style to the White House. At the proposed 90,000 sq/ft (why so much larger than the East Room?) it is almost twice the size of the existing building. When seen from the west, it will dominate the view. The West Wing and the former East wing were low and "downhill" and not really seen, letting the White House dominate the center of the view. It will also block views of the White House from the east.

The ballroom's giant order Corinthian columns, more appropriate for a Roman temple, overpower the smaller two story Ionic columns and pilasters on the North Porch and the south side of the White House. The same is true of the huge arched windows in the ballroom itself. They overpower the scale of the two stories of windows around the White House.

The stylistic basis on the design is also incongruous. It seems to come out of the monarchial French Baroque, which was a style rejected by the young United States. Instead, it is based on the design of an Irish country house. Rather than looking to the grandeur Versailles, the architect looked to Neo-Palladianism with its simplified style of using minimal classical references and details, which also helped keep costs down. It was to be the home of a democratically elected president, not the palace of a king.

Putting 18th century politics aside, the proposed ballroom is too monumental and dominating, and stylistically it clashes with the White House rather than being harmonious and complimentary to it.

John Maves

Retired from the Department of Architecture, Iowa State University

Name: Debra Lennox

Date: March 3, 2026 12:22:47 am

Please consider denying the proposed project on the following grounds:

1. Scale- the project is oversized on the site & does not enhance the historical value of the White House campus. The building projects to the south too much, obscuring L'Enfant's axis between the White House and the Capitol Building. This is a crucial siteline for the plan for the entire city. Its symbolism is elegant and important and must be respected. The building can be downsized & pushed back to allow Pennsylvania Avenue's viewshed corridor to remain as intended.
 2. Use- the project has been enlarged to accommodate nearly 1500 people in the main ballroom. Access is not elegant. The difference in floor height from the main entrance of 20' doesn't make any sense. The oversized portico on the south is not even accessible! The classical design is not readily manageable, especially with the oversized ceilings, to accommodate any event except the largest ones, and how often will it be used? The cost of heating that space, the acoustics, and maintaining lighting are going to be a logistical nightmare.
 3. Classical design- the gestures toward using columns and porticos are superficial and do not relate to the true classical orders. The design is out of balance with the rest of the campus. Symbolically, this is a subordinate space, and should not overshadow the main White House. I love the iconic White House portico, and its presence will be damaged by the overpowering, bloated design of this proposed project.
 4. Landscape/grounds- Frederick Law Olmstead was a cherished American designer of the highest quality. His curving driveways & pathways, along with balanced gardens, make the experience of coming to Washington DC to visit very special. I have been to Italian villas, and Olmstead's design is uniquely American and pleasurable. The proposed project will impinge on the balance of the grounds, which is very obvious in plan as Olmstead's curves are pinched and disrupted. This kind of gesture would not even happen in a first year architect student's work.
- Please send the architect back to the drawing board. There is an opportunity to create something wonderful, but this is not it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Debra Lennox, AIA

Name: Lawrence Wisniewski
Date: March 3, 2026 12:23:40 am

To whom it may concern,
The White House is the People's House. It belongs to all Americans, and NOT the occupant of it. There are protocols in place for remodeling or renovations. None of which appear to have been followed prior to the destruction of the historic East Wing. The plans for this gaudy opulent ballroom do not square with the historic structure that it will dwarf. If there is such a disparate need for such an entertainment space, there needs to be another location found. Do not allow this disgraceful edifice to be built
Respectfully,
Lawrence Wisniewski

Name: Lisa Armento
Date: March 3, 2026 12:26:55 am

It is imperative that the east wing project honors the design legacy that we as Americans have inherited and that the design of the new edition protects the integrity of the entire White House property.

Please ensure and respect the historic structural planning, symbolism and landscape design that was done thoughtfully and carefully by the original architects and designers of the District of Columbia. The entire White House is a classical building which requires overall symmetry; an overly large ballroom will overshadow the executive residence portion, which should be the focal point of the complex.

Scale is critical - the new structure should not be too large and overwhelm the rest of the architecture. The current proposed east wing is simply excessively large and overpowering. Any new structure needs to be balanced within the historical context of the complex.

Please protect and maintain the carefully coherent classical design of the White House complex.

The White House is the People's House, not Trump's private property!

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Name: Lori Pitts
Date: March 3, 2026 12:29:28 am

Dear NCPC:

Please, please, please show respect to the historical planning of the White House (I.e. "The People's House"... not "the current administration's house") and the city overall when considering the current plan for the East Wing Modernization Project. Both the current structure and the surrounding capitol city have stood the test of time. Preserving the prominence and the relative importance of the iconic White House itself should take precedence over creating a new monolithic "wing" of that structure which will overwhelm the primary structure and, at the same time, destroy the symbolic linkage between that structure and the Capitol Building. Please think about not just today's needs, but also about how those needs can be met while maintaining the appropriate visual and symbolic balance between the current iconic White House structure and the secondary ballroom structure... I can't imagine going to Washington DC, the seat of our democracy, and having a ballroom appear to take precedence over "The People's House". That just doesn't seem right. I would think it a very short-sighted panning commission that could possibly approve the currently proposed East Wing Modernization Plan as it stands now (3/3/2026). Do better... Go back to the drawing board... literally... and scale back the overall size of the project... eliminate the huge eye-sore of a portico with the huge Corinthian columns and the steps that lead to fake doors. It serves no functional purpose... other than to say "Look at me! I'm the biggest thing around. Aren't I great?". Personally, I think a more classic (and classy) approach for the new East Wing would be to make it more aesthetically pleasing by making it fit better into the original plan and purpose for both the White House and the city overall. Please, please, please... Respect the past and look to making the "right mark" on the future rather than just "the biggest" mark.

Respectfully,

Lori Pitts
US Citizen

Name: Donna Dunn

Date: March 3, 2026 12:31:42 am

The White house is historical building that should not be changed without proper documentation filed and approval given. I am sickened by Mr. President doing what he pleases and thinking that he is above the law. If a member of the general public were to do such things, there would be repercussions, there should be for the President also. The cost of this project is outrageous and is being done with taxpayer's dollars. The White should be restored to its original condition with the President paying for it out of his own personal funds.

Name: Jenny Juang

Date: March 3, 2026 12:32:18 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history.

The White House is a National Historic Landmark and a National Park, owned by the American people and home to presidents since 1800. The current president at any given time is not the owner of the property or the structures thereon; the president is a temporary tenant whose interventions are limited by law and by respect for the people of the United States.

The demolition of the historic East Wing without review, without permits and without Congressional oversight is clearly a violation of the law. In addition, it is a violation of the trust of the American people who were given no opportunity to comment on what should have been presented as a proposal and not as a violent fait accompli.

I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to require reconstruction of the East Wing in keeping with its historic design and size. Anything constructed on the demolition site going forward must be compatible in form and subordinate in scale to the original structure of the Executive Mansion.

Name: Nancy Hopkins

Date: March 3, 2026 12:34:08 am

East Wing Modernization Project

NCPC File Number: 8733

Agency: Executive Residence at the White House

Installation: White House Grounds

Even the description of the project is dishonest. The East Wing is GONE, along with 200 year old trees, removed in violation of numerous laws, without anyone's approval by our out of control president. There is nothing left to modernize. Did you think that we wouldn't notice the addition of a monstrous tacky gold plated ballroom?

As a 13th generation American citizen, I object to Trump's proposed desecration of the Peoples House.

Name: Heather Wilcoxon

Date: March 3, 2026 12:37:25 am

Dear Commitee,

In my opinion this ballroom is absolutely appalling and an embarrassment to the integrity of this historic house. This is the people's house not Trumps play house that he can destroy. It is shameful that he destroyed the Rose Garden and now he wants to build this monstrous ugly structure that completely dominates the White House. Please do not allow this to happen. The East Wing should be restored to its original design. The White House is an historical museum and should be respected and treated as such.

Heather Wilcoxon

Name: Lyn Vaughn

Date: March 3, 2026 12:42:10 am

Please do what you can to halt the systematic destruction of the White House--the People's House--by the present occupants. For 250-years, forty-five previous presidents managed to entertain the most consequential people in the world without a one-thousand seat capacity ballroom. There's no need for this monstrous addition to join the list of a destroyed, paved-over Rose Garden, tchotchke-filled Oval Office and desecrated West Colonnade.

The White House has always been a source of immense pride for Americans. We, the people, cannot allow it to be further defined.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lyn Vaughn

Name: John Ripley

Date: March 3, 2026 12:47:24 am

I want to protest the current plans for the new ballroom and east wing. The size of the proposed buildings is much too large, destroying the classical scale, balance and symmetry of the White House group. The huge bulk of the ballroom would block the visual link between the White House and the capitol - a link that is important esthetically and symbolically.

The size of the ballroom exceeds reasonable needs - by high-end industry standards, it would seat 1500 diners. I needs to be reduced to 2/3 of the proposed size at the largest.

I believe the project needs detailed review by experts in classical architecture. It should be put on hold while a revised design is created to resolve the above major problems.

Name: Dale Rimkus

Date: March 3, 2026 12:51:18 am

Please build the ballroom as President Trump envisioned. The White House is long overdue for a grand balloon commensurate with the standing of our country in the world. I support President Trump's plan 100%.

Name: Gregory Fox

Date: March 3, 2026 12:53:14 am

I appreciate and respect the sensitivities that need to be brought to bear on significant matters such as the East Wing Modernization Project.

I believe the President's proposal represents a long overdue change. To think that tents must be added to White House Grounds to accommodate certain events is disrespectful to our nation.

Name: Dana Clement

Date: March 3, 2026 12:54:03 am

It is past time for the White House grounds to have a beautiful ballroom to host dignitaries from around the world. All former presidents have made changes to the grounds and structures that make up the White House property. The ballroom will be a symbol of pride for our country and will serve the current and future Presidents as they entertain and host White House events. This project should move forward as planned by President Trump. Political dissension should not prevent progress especially when it is being funded by private donations.

Name: Pam Forrester

Date: March 3, 2026 12:54:30 am

Trump has no right to change OUR WHITE HOUSE. As an American Citizen I completely disagree with any changes to our HOUSE, especially a huge gold ballroom. Please stop this narcissistic clown. PLEASE!!!!

Name: Evelyn Johnson Todd

Date: March 3, 2026 1:04:05 am

I am very disappointed about the East Wing being destroyed with very little notice. The fact that an elaborate ballroom was planned without the appropriate authorities being told or a chance to review the plans is unheard of. The White House belongs to the citizens of the United States.

I know that many events have been held at the White House without a ballroom. At this time with so many budgets being cut I don't want to see millions of dollars being spent on an unnecessary building. Not to mention that now the East Wing will have to be rebuilt.

I hope that cooler heads will prevail and that further landmarks in Washington DC will not fall to a wrecking ball without this Planning Commission's review.

Name: Benjamin Recchie

Date: March 3, 2026 1:05:56 am

The proposed replacement of the East Wing of the White House is ill-conceived and ill-designed. The process should have begun by requesting feedback from Congress, the local government of the District of Columbia, the National Park Service, and other bodies, and only then gone into a design stage. Instead, the design was dictated--and the existing East Wing was demolished--with virtually no public input.

This by itself would be a grievous enough error to halt even a well-thought-out project. However, the proposed design is not even that. The proposed addition would be grossly out of scale with the existing White House, dwarfing it in every dimension. It ruins the classical symmetry of the White House complex, blocks key views of other historic structures, and destroys the historic fabric of the east facade of the executive residence.

But even if these objections could be overcome, there is a philosophical problem with the proposed addition. A massive ballroom threatens to transform the White House from a mansion into something that it was never intended to be, is not now, and should never be: a palace. America has no king, and the White House--while an impressive and comfortable home--is deliberately intended to be more modest than the royal palaces of the Old World. To graft such a monarchical addition onto "the People's House" would be a betrayal of America's founding ideals, even in this semiquincentennial year.

I urge the NCPC as strongly as possible to do everything in its power to send this project back to the drawing board--literally.

Name: Derek Benedict

Date: March 3, 2026 1:14:26 am

MAGA-Idiot Trump needs to be stopped from desecrating the White House and destroying America's presidential history just to satisfy his personal kinky obsession with gold and grandeur.

Name: Becky McKeen

Date: March 3, 2026 1:15:02 am

The most egregious aspect of the new East Wing Modernization Project is that it does not accommodate people with disabilities. If this building is supposed to be the "people's" building, then I would think that accessibility to everyone would be of utmost importance.

The architectural integrity also does not fit the historical plans that create a connection between the White House and the Capitol, which is very important and symbolic. Additionally, the scale of the new East Wing is not in sync and looks ridiculous compared to the rest of the buildings in the complex. As a non-architect, I am surprised that this plan is being

considered as even I can tell that it looks out of place and does not conform to the existing buildings in both scale and style. I would hope that further revision of the plans are done so that the new east wing conforms with the other buildings in the complex.

Thank you for your consideration,

Becky

Name: Daniel Thompson

Date: March 3, 2026 1:15:24 am

I do not support the ballroom project. The East Wing should never have been torn down. Putting a giant ballroom next to the Capitol ruins the complex and the sanctity of the main building.

Name: Deborah Nybro-Cooney

Date: March 3, 2026 1:23:15 am

I find the scale of the proposed East Wing ballroom and porticos obscene and offensive. I feel the porticos should be more in scale with the Treasury's, the height of the pediment should never be taller than the rest of the White House and the ballroom should be scaled down to industry standard for seating 1,000 dinner guests. The kitchen should be below grade with lower ceilings (easier for staff to maintain a clean and comfortable working environment). The East Wing should not block the view of the president's residence from the Capitol Building. Last, but certainly not least, I demand that all newly-built parts of MY White House be ADA accessible.

Name: Rachel Gelderman

Date: March 3, 2026 1:23:20 am

I am very concerned about the East Wing Modernization Project at the White House, America's most iconic landmark. The size and scope of the project, particularly the massive 90,000 square foot ballroom, will change what has previously been a balanced classical design of this historic complex. This new event space will not add to the historic importance of this property and may indeed detract from it, as visible views of this special landmark will be permanently altered and will appear completely out of proportion with the remaining 55,000 square feet of the structure. It is absolutely heartbreaking and disheartening to think that more care and consideration has not been given to such a large scale change planned for "The People's House." I urge NCPC to heavily consider these critical concerns to preserve the historical significance of the White House and protect this iconic national landmark for future generations of Americans.

Name: Rebecca Reynolds

Date: March 3, 2026 1:23:42 am

I believe that what has been done to the People's House is disgraceful and never should have happened.

It is a little late to ask for public comments now. What has been done cannot be undone.

This is a historic building belonging to the people. I for one do not think that a ballroom is needed.

Again - very disgraceful and self-serving.

The money being spent should be used to better serve the American people.

Shame, shame, shame on whoever let this happen.

Name: Melanie Sokhey

Date: March 3, 2026 1:27:34 am

The design of Washington DC by Pierre L'Enfant is a paragon of classical design: proportioned, elegant, acclaimed as a world-treasure. The east wing ballroom, as currently proposed, will destroy the sight lines that exist between the significant monuments of our nation's capital. These connections are important symbolically as well as esthetically- they point us to the institutions that tie us together. This is our heritage, we are obligated to preserve it! Please advocate for a design with a smaller footprint and roof line that will not dwarf the existing building or block the views.

Name: Martha Hart

Date: March 3, 2026 1:31:29 am

The reckless destruction of the East Wing has been irresponsible from the first, leaving an incomplete and abandoned scar on the White House grounds. Historic structures that may need modernizing still have protocols and procedures set up to minimize missteps and maximize preservation. None of those have been followed in this case.

- Until now, there has been no attempt at proper planning, submission of viable building plans, timeline or legal budget (rather than private donations) for construction phases and completion.
- The so-called "need" for a massive ballroom was announced, rather than presented for review; and the initial design show that the architectural balance of the White House would be severely compromised.
- Mature trees were destroyed, seemingly without a plan to temporarily relocate them and/or replace later, contributing to the unsightliness of the construction zone.
- Reportedly, the East Wing had asbestos present that was summarily demolished without an abatement and control plan to contain the poison. Asbestos exposure is a principal cause of mesothelioma, a particularly painful and deadly cancer - construction workers, White House staff, and visitors were all at risk.

The White House is not a private residence, but a symbolic structure - albeit a place of work - that belongs to the country as a whole. It is crucial that the construction be halted, and the destruction reversed, until the procedures that ensure the maintenance of a historic site are followed.

Name: Wendy Frontiero

Date: March 3, 2026 1:32:29 am

I am an architect and a preservation consultant with more than 40 years of experience in the field. The East Wing project violates all protocols of thoughtful, comprehensive review, and the proposed design is extraordinarily incongruent with the existing building in scale, massing, and creativity. Bulldozing the historic east wing with no proper advice and consent and ramrodding through an ill-considered and ill-conceived replacement is an insult to America's heritage and to proven and respected planning processes. It would be an everlasting shame to proceed with the proposed project.

Name: Sarah Lohden

Date: March 3, 2026 1:39:30 am

I am vehemently opposed to the East Wing Ballroom proposal that is in violation of standards for the historic building. The East Wing should not have been destroyed but since that bridge has already been crossed, let's not allow this abomination to replace it. A new East Wing must be kept in scale and balance with the White House and its architectural style.

Name: Julian Christenberry

Date: March 3, 2026 1:41:24 am

The proposed ballroom addition is far too big for its location and would dwarf the White House. It should be scaled back significantly and hold far fewer guests. Thank you.

Name: Susan Gauthier

Date: March 3, 2026 1:45:13 am

The proposed ballroom is unamerican in its size and gilded decor. It destroys the White House and the modest, understated architecture that is who we are. We do not house our presidents in palaces. Please do not let this happen.

Name: TL Parker

Date: March 3, 2026 1:46:40 am

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,

The East Wing Modernization Project proposal counters the Department of Interior's historic property standards including its oversized scale, scope, balance and integrity. The proposed south portico has no access to interior including ADA accessibility, nor south elevation actual working doors, and exterior columns blocking views among its many issues. The ballroom structure's overpowering size also creates an interruption of axial connection since 1791 and its greater historic landscape, designed by Frederic Law Olmsted, including symmetrical approach with the White House and Capitol buildings.

Could it not reduce harmful impacts while preserving historic symbolic relationships at minimum by creating a better proportional and balanced building proposal within its historical space and context?

Respectfully submitted,

TL Parker

Name: Maia Daniel

Date: March 3, 2026 1:55:41 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Jessica Matei

Date: March 3, 2026 1:56:16 am

As an educator of history, I am appalled at the blatant lack of concern and respect for preserving historical structures and artifacts. Destroying the East Wing without due process and consultation with experts in preservation and Congressional approval, is unconscionable! The White House, and its properties belong to the people, not to the president! The POTUS is a steward not an owner!

Architecture is part of our living history, in that present day people can actually interact with. Such learning has greater impact than reading about it in a textbook. Walking into these hallowed spaces and learning why they were built and for what purposes, informs us, not only of our past but of our present, especially since these spaces were still being used. This president needs to rethink his legacy. Just putting one's name on something, without any serious thought for the people and our history, is just ego stroking. How about putting effort into improving the lives of people who are hungry and can't afford healthcare or adequate housing? How about cleaning the water and air from pollution, keeping pollution out of the soil so that the food we feed our children is not contaminated? That would probably decrease cancer rates. This would be an incredible legacy that would benefit generations now and for all those to come! Now that would be a legacy to be proud of, and would be in the history books!

Name: David Westerfield

Date: March 3, 2026 2:06:54 am

The history and aesthetics of our U.S. national buildings is important to the American people. Please do not let an unnecessary, unneeded ballroom diminish the look of our treasured White House. It shouldn't be there, especially as an oversized monstrosity.

Name: Gillian Lester-George

Date: March 3, 2026 2:06:55 am

The people did not ask for this. It is the people's house. No president should be permitted to make such radical changes, without Congressional approval, to a home that does not belong to them.

Name: Tom Kearney

Date: March 3, 2026 2:08:11 am

The ballroom as currently proposed is too large and out of scale with the main historic White House. It needs to be scaled back quite a bit and be more proportional to the west wing so the building looks balanced. There is no compelling urgency to getting something built. Careful assessment and vetting is needed and once there is consensus, then construction can commence

Name: Fiona John

Date: March 3, 2026 2:11:05 am

Ostentatious...

This is the People's House...

Show some respect...

All that glitters is not gold...

Name: Linda Hershenson

Date: March 3, 2026 2:12:25 am

This vanity project is unconscionable. Shame on all involved and shame on this administration for destroying history by tearing down the east wing of the White House. With so many social benefits having been cut and now what will no doubt be an incredibly expensive illegal war, spending tax payer money to build a ballroom is beyond absurd. Don't build it, end this unnecessary war, and restore lost social benefits to the American people.

Name: Eric Essix

Date: March 3, 2026 2:17:10 am

The proposed plan for the East Wing Ballroom is unacceptable. It is way too large and destroys the symmetry of the White House complex. It is grossly oversized and needs to be scaled back so that it is compatible with the the rest of the White House. There is also a question of whether it actually needs to be as large as is proposed. However, visually the proposed ballroom ruins the overall beauty of the total structure just by the sheer scale of it compared to the rest of the White House.

Name: Carol Ng

Date: March 3, 2026 2:17:41 am

Dear Commission Members,

I was appalled watching the President arbitrarily destroy the East Wing without any entity's permission or guidance. In doing so, he as destroyed the classical design of the White House. I have seen photos of the way he has "re-decorated" the White House, featuring gaudy "gold" designs on the walls of the Oval Office. He does not understand or appreciate the way the White House had been redecorated by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy who found historical items demonstrating the elements of past presidents.

I watched a webinar by the National Trust for Historic Preservation that addressed the improper plans for his unnecessary ballroom. It pointed out the enormity of the building which not only would eclipse the rest of the White House, but destroy the original layout of the streets of D.C. It pointed out that the street were designed to enable Pennsylvania Avenue to provide an open view from the White House to the Capitol. It will be three stories tall, the first one 14' tall, the second (containing the ballroom) will be 23' tall, and the third, whose purpose has not even been explained, will be 19' tall. Finally, one of the design elements will be the columns on the facade. the White House and Treasury Building across the street have simple Ionic columns. The ballroom will have Corinthian, probably to satisfy the president who can't help but ignore classic style and choose a frillier one.

So in reviewing all of the above, I hope the Commission will deny this out-sized, view-obstructing gaudy ballroom. It's too bad the president ignored his requirement to have the Commission review and approve any plans before tearing down

the existing building.. I implore you to bring the replacement structure back into sale of the original building so that we can enjoy a classic White House that belongs to the people. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Carol Hansen

Date: March 3, 2026 3:02:26 am

Please maintain the historic aesthetic and structural integrity of the White House. The gigantic ode to Trump and his donors is unnecessary, illegal and unwanted by a majority of Americans. Was it a facade to enhance the bunker before he starts more wars? Probably. So now the bunker is done he can cover it with the previous footprint and build a ballroom/convention center/Trump celebration building off site. The Ballroom is not needed next to the residence. Our historical and aesthetic integrity must be maintained.

Name: Donald Cruser

Date: March 3, 2026 3:21:21 am

I would like to record my opposition to President Rump's destruction of the White House. This is a historical building making it clear that major changes to the structure is dishonoring our history and is un-American. It has become obvious to me that President Rump is in the early stages of dementia and is not of sound mind in making decisions. I have had some experience with the symptoms of dementia since my father suffered from it late in his life. One of the characteristics is that the person falls back on successes they enjoyed early in life. So here we have a president trying to re-live his successes with Rump Tower and Mara Lago. Unfortunately, he is doing it with public money and on a historical public building. (Please note that he has more important situations to occupy himself with such as the war in Ukraine, the war in Iran, and of course. hiding his humping of young girls along with his buddy Jeff.) Please stop this ego-centered nonsense.

Thanks for any consideration given to my comment.

Don Cruser

Name: Abbie Bernstein

Date: March 3, 2026 3:28:49 am

This unauthorized destruction of governmental property should not be endorsed nor tampered with further, except to attempt to restore it.

Name: Amber Tedrow

Date: March 3, 2026 3:32:25 am

The proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House should be canceled and this very historically significant building should be returned to it's original form!

Name: William Perkins

Date: March 3, 2026 3:38:07 am

You can not rewrite history. The brave men and women of this country built a nation, not a monument to a traitor. It is only suitable that this travesty be destroyed even if it takes the White House with it.

The embaciles who are tearing our history and future apart will only be remembered for their false prophecies and golden idols.

May God have mercy on your souls!

Name: Denise Leitzel

Date: March 3, 2026 3:39:13 am

Please, do not let the desecration of our White House go any further. As an American citizen, Navy Brat and person with good taste and knowledge of architecture, I beg you to stop this project from continuing.

Please do not capitulate to this president and his administration. Thank you for your time and consideration. Integrity matters, especially now.

Name: Denim Cupid

Date: March 3, 2026 3:40:56 am

The unnecessary destruction also known as 'modernization' of the White House East Wing is trampling on the intent of the East Wing as the First Lady's space and as the presidential emergency operations. The decision was born out of ill intent and failure to acknowledge the first lady- her platform for bettering America. This travesty has been considered because America's house is not considered a temporary housing of the President, its failure to acknowledge the co-tenant power of the White House as the administration's 'first lady' has NEVER RESIDED nor has been respected in the White House. The only modernization of the East Wing is acknowledging its the First Spouse's office office OR a community space if the president is unmarried to launch citizens community initiatives. The East Wing levels the power platform for an important tenant such as the spouse or community. The money requested for this presidents ill intent for this space is wasteful, distasteful and demeaning to the first spouse and community initiatives undertaken by the First spouse. To allow private donors to determine the space opens the space to outside-non-American influence as the money trail is not known to the people for the long standing Peoples home and/or emergency space. While the 1902 origin was for a space it was modernized to use as the First Lady's space in 1977 with the citizen/community initiatives such as 'Say No to Drugs' and healthy eating as the president tended to the safety, growth of EACH citizen- all genders and community platforms. This erasure of the modernization of the First spouse for an event space is wasteful and does not balance the importance of the first couple and/or community if its an unmarried president.

Name: Rick Alfandre

Date: March 3, 2026 3:44:16 am

good day. As an architect in practice for over 34 years, with significant historic preservation experience, i am writing to oppose the "ballroom" project at the White House. The destruction the East Wing was an affront to the People.

The proposed addition is out of scale and should be rejected

Respectfully,

Rick Alfandre, AIA, LEED AP BD+C

President, Alfandre Architecture, PC

Name: Noreen Powell

Date: March 3, 2026 3:44:33 am

Please reduce the size of the new ballroom, while it is a needed addition the size of the structure is too long. The new structure overpowers the beautiful White House.

Name: Pat Gordon-Rice

Date: March 3, 2026 3:44:58 am

It's a shame the American people weren't consulted on the tear down and planned rebuild of the East Wing of the White House. I would wager Americans would have loudly said, "No". But since Trump decided to destroy it, we are now forced to look at the best options.

The White House is iconic. It is a symbol of America. Rebuild it back into what it used to look like! There is absolutely no need for a huge ballroom. We, the tax payers, should not be paying for huge parties. We don't need foreign leaders to be impressed by a ball room. We shouldn't need to pay for the pomp Trump finds attractive. The White House is a historic building that needs to reflect beauty, elegance and welcome to all people. It is The People's House! We don't want monstrosity! Bring back sanity!

Name: Bridgett Joseph

Date: March 3, 2026 3:45:40 am

As a taxpayer who believes the upholstery of laws and regulations is what keeps this republic from falling apart. The White House is not a personal brand extension. It is a public trust, a national symbol, and a living archive of the American

story. So when Donald Trump bulldozes tradition to build a \$400 million, 90,000-square-foot ballroom for 999 guests on the footprint of the demolished East Wing, it isn't progress. It's distasteful & disrespectful. You all should be ashamed, but apparently you have no capacity for shame.

Stop insulting the public by calling it free just because it's privately funded. The White House will still be protected, staffed, maintained, secured, and sustained by public systems. The costs, complications, and consequences will live with the American people long after the ribbon-cutting.

What makes this worse is the way it's being forced through, construction moved ahead amid accusations that normal review and transparency were treated as optional, with the Commission of Fine Arts approving and the National Capital Planning Commission only reviewing further after demolition and backlash. This is exactly the kind of backwards process that fuels public distrust.

Yes, the White House enjoys unique legal carveouts including a clear statutory exemption from major portions of federal historic-preservation law.

But "exempt" does not mean accountable to no one. It does not mean above standards. It does not mean the President gets to treat America's most famous civic space like some cheap private club renovation.

The private-donor funding model is its own ethical rot. Federal legal guidance has long recognized that certain gifts connected to the White House can be accepted through government authorities, but it also warns about conditions, favoritism, and the appearance of impropriety, and it emphasizes that conditional gifts generally require express congressional approval.

When major corporations and powerful interests can bankroll a gift on this scale, the public has every right to ask: What did they want? What did they get? What doors opened? Watchdogs have already raised concerns that many donations may warrant disclosure under lobbying rules because sunshine isn't optional when influence is on the table.

A federal judge allowing construction to continue for now on procedural grounds is not a moral greenlight and it's not a cultural pardon.

This is my bottom line:

If you want a ballroom, build it on your property, with your name on the deed, under your legacy. Don't carve up the people's house, then tell the people to be grateful for the "donations."

The White House should never be redesigned to flatter one man's ego or to normalize a government where access is purchased and history is disposable. If you continue with this project, the next administration had better dig it up from the root.

Name: Christie Brockett

Date: March 3, 2026 3:50:53 am

To whom it may concern,

I am devastated and sickened by what is being done to our White House. The East Wing was a historical and beautiful building that belonged to The People, not to any temporary resident of the White House.

The destruction that has occurred was done so illegally and without permission. Trump had absolutely no right to tear down the East Wing.

The United States of America is a young country compared to the rest of the world. The White House is a major piece of our history. Americans take pride in it, at least the majority of us do. The destruction of our history, whether it be the removal of plaques in our National Parks or an entire wing of the White House should not be allowed to come at the whim of a man that just desires to be the center of attention.

Please do not let this happen!!!

Thank you

Name: Lisa Weber

Date: March 3, 2026 3:54:08 am

These are MY tax dollars and it is unconscionable that this travesty has not been prevented. I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Melinda Lynch

Date: March 3, 2026 4:14:59 am

Concerning the updates, changes to the White house. I am in total disagreement with these changes. The actions are being done without the approval of the consult of the american people our representatives went unnotified, and do not think it is good to have any one presidents name presented on or attached to the White House.

Name: Holly Jennings

Date: March 3, 2026 4:21:01 am

Lainocol, Gainroeg, Raldeef: That's Colonial, Georgian, Federal, when made right. Words that conjure the built environment of the Founding Fathers—from their earliest memories to the nascent days of their bold experiment: The United States of America. The hallmarks of these architectural styles? Symmetry, balance, and a simplicity that was extreme at the start, evolving eventually to a restrained elegance, reflecting the status of the builder. But no matter the wealth or prestige, restraint was always present, to avoid overt references to kingly status and royal courts. As the nation's first president, George Washionton purposely chose a modest suit for his inauguration, for this very reason. In the 1920s, the Rockefellers understood and valued our heritage of beautiful simplicity when the preserved and founded Colonial Williamsburg. With the 250th anniversary of our nation's birth approaching, I would prefer to see a return to the architectural principles in vogue in 1776, rather than a rejection of them.

Name: Olma O'Neill

Date: March 3, 2026 4:23:15 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans. Please do not let this happen.

Name: Robert Levin

Date: March 3, 2026 4:24:05 am

This project has already resulted in an impermissible defacement of The People's House by Presidential edict and trampling of legal processes. Step One, it must be suspended immediately and left in its defaced state. Stage Two, create a genuine historical review commission that is not manipulated by Presidential appointees. De-politicize this process. Until then, the only appropriate interim disposition of this project is to halt it, period. Not scale it back, not tweak it, not even clean it up. Leave it in exactly the condition this defacement created.

Name: Brenda Kluemper

Date: March 3, 2026 4:27:28 am

Please stop this project, reassess the size and make it more proportional to the White House. Use restraint in decorating. Preserve the dignity of what was lost during the destruction of the east wing.

Name: Anne Schmidt

Date: March 3, 2026 4:28:04 am

This renovation is a gross bastardization of our historic White House. It's sole purpose is to fluff the vanity of the narcissist currently occupying the Oval Office. Even IF the construction is paid for with bribes, I mean donations by billionaires seeking favors - U.S taxpayers will STILL be left footing the bill to heat/cool/staff/maintain this 90,000 sq ft monstrosity. Considering that we are over \$38 trillion in DEBT and are currently at war (undeclared) with IRAN I am ADAMANTLY OPPOSED to this project moving forward at this time.

Name: Jane Cox

Date: March 3, 2026 4:34:51 am

This is the people's house not the resort of a would-be tyrant. History proves these things are ugly & seldom outlive the man involved. Look at Hussain's hideous palace---

Name: Autumn Bear

Date: March 3, 2026 4:36:29 am

The new ballroom should not be bigger than the White House, and the proposal is garish. This is the people's house not the current residents'. Considering that public services are being cut it is especially disappointing that this is moving forward with what are essentially bribes.

Name: Maureen Tarr

Date: March 3, 2026 4:40:03 am

Good Morning,

As a citizen I am very concerned about the East Wing modernization project and how this administration has destroyed history without consulting the Historical society, Congress or the American people. The White House belongs to the people. I feel the ballroom is oversized and takes away from the White House. This administration should have gone through the proper channels if they felt this was needed and not pretend they own the White House.

Regards,
Maureen Tarr

Name: Rory O'Donnell

Date: March 3, 2026 4:50:55 am

I write from UKGB& NI on the projection affecting a site of world, Federal and National Park importance.

The tripartite massing and layout of the White House reflects the norms of Renaissance Classical architecture, a shared heritage of Western culture. As a Palladian design it emphasises the centre while restricting the wings: this scheme destroys that balance, harmony and symmetry thus breaking every rule of Classical architecture. The faux Classical detail of the proposal underlines this wilful ignorance even more.

By its layout and massing it overwhelms the White House, negating the hierarchies of the site.

It interrupts the White House-Pennsylvania-Capitol axis.

It disrupts the Olmstead planned garden layout, specifically the south carriage circle.

The scheme must be modified so as to respect these inherited cultural assets.

Dr Roderick O'Donnell FSA
London

Name: Marye Larme

Date: March 3, 2026 5:11:16 am

Hi, as a US citizen, I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review.

It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history.

I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design.

No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

It is absolutely ridiculous, further, to be authorising this in a time when money is better spent elsewhere. We need to have the courage to say no to Trump. It feels like it's only about his ego and extreme anxiety about not having a legacy rather than an actual modernisation. No one else would be able to do this but Trump, and we need to stand up to him. Thank you.

Name: Carolyn Walker

Date: March 3, 2026 5:20:06 am

The proposed ballroom project would look hideous, overshadowing the rest of the White House. This is not a hotel, it is the people's house. I was horrified to see the East Wing demolished without any oversight, consultation, or forethought. Trump has no right to act as he did. It is a pattern of his massive ego trying to demolish, rebuild, plan new monuments, and rename buildings after himself. He should be stopped and no new construction should occur without careful planning from the proper authorities and the consent of those in charge. Please don't let this happen!

Name: Bethany Granger

Date: March 3, 2026 5:21:37 am

Please see attached PDF file. I will add that I do not agree that the current location of the U.S. Treasury Building has already destroyed the Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, linear viewshed from the U.S. Capitol to the White House grounds, and refer to the Urban Design technical addendum overview of that viewshed.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Margaret Busard

Date: March 3, 2026 5:33:32 am

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in firm opposition to the "East Wing Modernization" project. While I am not opposed to the construction of an appropriately sized ballroom adjacent to the White House, the size, scope, budget, architectural design, and method of funding for the proposed "modernization" project are grievously inappropriate. Clearly, those promoting the project are unaware of the architectural and city planning history of Washington. The strength of our federal government and our people are represented by the L'Enfant city plan as well as the neoclassical and Beaux Arts style public buildings. The immense size of the proposed ballroom is completely out of scale with the White House and nearby structures. The entire project, including the unapproved demolition of the East Wing, is not representative of the American people nor is it in our best interest, especially during a time of war.

I respectfully request that a vote to move forward with the project be tabled until such time as appropriate alternatives to the current proposal can be presented to the American people for comment. I request that alternative proposals include the reconstruction of the East Wing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Name: Dianne Thompson

Date: March 3, 2026 5:53:11 am

I am writing with my concern about the massive ballroom trump wants to build. What gave him the right to destroy our historic and beautiful Right Wing? All of that history bulldozed with no authority to do so. We do not have a king in this country. This country belongs to "We The People" and so does the White House. Do not give him the power he thinks he deserves for he deserves none of that. I trust our leaders to do the right thing.

I also believe he should have to pay for a new Right Wing restored to its previous historic nature.

Thank you for devoting time to this matter.

Dianne Thompson

Name: Margarete Ball

Date: March 3, 2026 5:54:12 am

Please stop this way to big ballroom from being built ! Nothing should make our beautiful White House look small and insignificant.

Name: Angela Hughes Davidson

Date: March 3, 2026 5:55:50 am

I just want to note my personal feelings the morning I saw the destructions taking place at the White House. I could not believe just how little effort was made to respect the history of the place. I felt no different with the removal and covering up of the Rose Garden. Is it jealousy that moves someone to take such action? Modernization is possible without disregard of history. This is sad for my generation who remember the way things were but even sadder for the young people and generations who will know of these places in history. Please try to salvage what we can. Did archeologists play a role in the days before destruction? If not, why not?

So many questions all should ask?

Name: Laura McDonald

Date: March 3, 2026 5:59:53 am

No elected official, including presidents, should have the ability to alter national landmarks without oversight from predetermined historical and/or archeological groups. The scope of the current project is ridiculous and that it was done without any input or guidance is unacceptable. Additionally this is setting a precedent for future presidents to tear down and destroy any part of the White House or other landmark at their will.

Name: Susan Oyer

Date: March 3, 2026 6:05:16 am

This is appalling that the destruction of the East Wing of the White House, the peoples' house, has happened. How did you allow that? An abysmal misuse of public monies. And it needs to be restored to its original glory. Not made to look like Mar A Lago junior with gilded everything. That isn't what the White House is supposed to be.

Make Trump pay to rebuild it exactly as it was. Oh, that's right, he is essentially broke, only rich on paper, so whoever allegedly gave him money for the destruction can also help him pay to rebuild as it was, albeit with modernized electrical and plumbing.

Stop the destruction of the White House for Trump's pleasure. Stop wasting public funds. Restore our heritage.

Name: Colleen Kahl

Date: March 3, 2026 6:15:21 am

I have visited DC ten times. Each time, I have marveled at the simplicity yet grandeur of the classical design of the buildings. I have also gotten to visit several similar architectural structures throughout Europe. The asymmetry this renovation will produce is upsetting and off-putting - both conceptually and visually. It is also not practical. As a history lover and educator, this renovation causes me distress. I can still clearly remember the day I was able to walk through the East Wing with students in tow in 2010. The students and I had talked about the purposefulness of the White House blending in rather than standing out; how in Europe these residences were about the ostentatious nature of leadership. Not so for our democratic republic - the President is one of us, somebody who still adheres to the law and represents all of America. As a taxpayer, I am bothered by the expense of the upkeep, particularly for something that will not likely be used often (and should not be in our humble democracy). I have been humbled and inspired by the lack of gaudiness and pretentiousness of the structures in DC. They represent a government of the common man while inspiring leadership that listens and is responsive. I would prefer to keep it that way. Thank you.

Name: Chris Law

Date: March 3, 2026 6:25:31 am

Stop tearing down the Whitehouse! Stop this absurd desecration of our history. You have no right. It is a stain on our democracy.

Name: Peyton Barclay

Date: March 3, 2026 6:26:48 am

I oppose creation of a ballroom as part of the White House. The function of our government is to govern, not throw elegant parties for the powerful, rich, famous, or politically connected. Our national buildings and symbols should focus on function, practicality and be fiscally responsible. Features such as "style" or "architecture" should be considerations only when appropriate, without adding massive costs to the project. The planned ballroom focuses on opulence and grandeur, as if somehow our elected officials deserve the trappings of wealth as part of the perks of their public service. They do not. It is clear that the current President is more concerned about things like an oversize, opulent ballroom being part of the White House than he is about making life better or easier for the American people who will NEVER be invited to this garish monstrosity. I wish to have the East Wing of the White House to be restored to its condition prior to the unauthorized demolition activities.

Name: Nancy Alkire

Date: March 3, 2026 6:34:25 am

Harmonizing the White House East Wing ballroom addition with Latrobe's elements and the street plan is a worthy goal. Proportions and use of classical elements can be respectfully accomplished while providing a venue larger than the commercial DC convening spaces currently available. Please make sure the kitchen and servicing areas are adequate and modifiable, too. Thank you for your time.

Name: Ruth Putnam

Date: March 3, 2026 6:37:27 am

The proposed ballroom is grossly oversized. The eye should be pulled to our historic and beautiful White House residence, not that cheap-looking ballroom that looks like a modular function room tacked on to a mid-grade golf club. Please take this building back to the architects for modification.

Name: Elizabeth Randall

Date: March 3, 2026 6:38:35 am

The White House and its surrounding area should be treated with the respect it deserves. President Trump should be setting a good example for others to follow by going through the proper stages of approvals. The ballroom is grossly oversized. It is also shameful that money is being spent on such an extravagant pile rather than on what really matters in this country.

Name: Ed Komacka

Date: March 3, 2026 6:49:25 am

Dear Sirs:

I will be brief.

First, the scale or size of the proposed ballroom is entirely too large. It will diminish the visual impact of the White House, which is one of this country's preeminent historical buildings.

The proposal also violates another historic presence, that being Pierre L'Enfant's design of the capital. As embraced by George Washington.

Sincerely,

Ed Komacka
St Petersburg, FL

Name: Jared Carter

Date: March 3, 2026 6:53:18 am

It's such a shame that this hasn't happened sooner.

Name: David Schlembach

Date: March 3, 2026 7:03:37 am

1. This is not a moderation project, it is a demolition and replacement project.
2. This project is the wish of one temporary occupant of the the White House.
3. This project was hidden from the public, financed by parties unknown, designed without historical thought.
4. This project is a demonstration of an over sized ego trying to be shown in 3 dimensions.
5. This project is totally disrespectful of the White House. Discussions about cornice and balustrade heights are side show distractions. Look at the project as a total. Massing, sizing and location are forgotten factors.
6. This project is not worthy of a sophomore architectural student design project. Both the student and the teacher would get a failing grade and ridicule.
7. WE THE PEOPLE DESERVE BETTER THAN THIS PROJECT.

David L. Schlembach
Architect (ret.)

Name: Linda Chappell

Date: March 3, 2026 7:09:25 am

I do not support the administration's current plan for the "ballroom". The East wing replacement needs to be in scale so as not to overshadow the White House and should follow architectural design guideline principles.

Name: Pam Schaner

Date: March 3, 2026 7:13:04 am

I would like to encourage the consideration of the following in the 'Modernization of the East Wing', (Enlarged Ballroom). These comments are from the National Trust and I support their scholarship and opinion regarding the historic structure of The People's House. In short, the project as proposed is intrusive and takes away the historically designed sight lines when Washington D.C. was planned.

Reduce Overall Size and Visibility. The size of the proposed new construction (90,000 square feet) should be reduced or disguised (such as by placing portions underground, as recommended in the 2000 Comprehensive Design Plan) so the

new building appears smaller than the Executive Residence itself (55,000 square feet). Its height should also be substantially lower than the Executive Residence.

Reduce Footprint and Protect Key Views. The footprint of the proposed building should not extend past the existing south-facing façade of the historic Treasury Building, nor further interrupt the views of the Executive Residence from Pennsylvania Avenue.

Respect the Established Classical Composition of the White House Complex. The new addition should retain the carefully balanced classical design of the White House complex with its two smaller, lower, and substantially symmetrical East and West Wings.

Preserve the Historic East Façade of the Executive Residence. The connection of the colonnade to the Executive Residence should protect and preserve the original historic materials of the east façade of the Executive Residence and should not cover or demolish the existing fenestration and detailing of the east façade.

Ensure that the Proposed South-facing Portico Is Subordinate in Scale to the White House South Portico. The proposed portico on the south façade should be smaller and less grand in scale than the existing portico on the south façade of the Executive Residence.

Name: Joanna Beres

Date: March 3, 2026 7:13:49 am

This project must stop. The people's house deserves better, as do the American people. The size, scale, and design are inappropriate. They do not meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. It is an exercise in hubris that nobody asked for. Quit placating the emperor with no clothes.

Name: Cindy Lasser

Date: March 3, 2026 7:15:58 am

I have been saddened by the self aggrandizement and the garish changes to the White House. It is the people house! Not the current president's house. As a nation we count on seeing rooms, the Rose Garden as is. I will never unsee the bulldozers tearing off the East Wing.

Please ensure that plans go through a proper vetting process.

Name: Melanie Powderly

Date: March 3, 2026 7:16:51 am

I am in favor of the East Wing Modernization project. This is needed and is being completed with no or minimal tax payer dollars. The White House has changed over the years as the country has grown and needs have evolved - this is no different. Please allow the project to be completed as designed and on time. Thank you.

Name: Joy Lazore

Date: March 3, 2026 7:22:28 am

I speak today as a citizen who values the preservation of the historical vision established by our nation's Founding Fathers, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison.

The principles of balance, proportion, and civic dignity reflected in their era should continue to guide decisions affecting historically significant spaces.

As plans move forward for the East Wing ballroom, I respectfully urge that its size align with recognized industry standards for safety, occupancy, and functionality, while remaining consistent with the scale and character of the existing structure. Thoughtful design can meet modern needs without compromising historical integrity.

Name: Joanne Burtner

Date: March 3, 2026 7:27:08 am

The proposed East Wing Ballroom redesign should be submitted to the proper authorities for review. It does not fit the historical guidelines that display the grace and beauty of the White House. The East Wing was demolished illegally by our megalomaniac President who has no limits to his absurdities.

Name: Barbara Beck

Date: March 3, 2026 7:32:35 am

[Attachment](#)

Name: Dodd Dixon

Date: March 3, 2026 7:33:54 am

Any ballroom or addition to the Whitehouse should be in proportion to the original structure. The project should not become a ballroom with an insignificant Whitehouse but instead a Whitehouse with a tastefully scaled Ballroom.

Name: Amanda Sharp

Date: March 3, 2026 7:34:09 am

I find this a disgusting display. Shame on the whole Epstein Administration for Destroying the East wing to build a bunker/ grotesque ballroom while citizens die from lack of healthcare and wages that haven't changed from the 90's. It absolutely revolts me the idea that some scumbag company demolished a historical site at the behest of a convicted felon, pedophile, and rapist. The epstein administration as well as the contracting company and builders should be forced to replace and rebuild the entire East Wing JUST AS IT WAS on their dime, not with our tax dollars. Shame on all of you. Shame on you for allowing this and not stopping these psychopaths.

Name: James Pavlock

Date: March 3, 2026 7:38:34 am

The construction of a new, enormous ballroom at the White House should not be allowed to occur. It draws the size of the White House is serves as nothing more than to reinforce the grand designs of a narcissist president.

Name: Elizabeth Hamill

Date: March 3, 2026 7:46:48 am

First, I'd like to thank whoever is responsible for putting a stop to the unauthorized "renovation" of the East Wing of the White House, our house. I, along with many other Americans, was heartbroken at the destruction of the East Wing. I was born in Washington DC and raised in Northern Virginia. The White House has always been a highlight for visiting friends and family. I can't bring myself to cross the bridge into DC right now. The design proposed by Donald Trump for the East Wing's replacement is atrocious for all the reasons mentioned in the National Trust's very informative architectural review.

The alternatives proposed, while not perfect solutions, are far better than the monstrosity proposed by Trump. This matter transcends politics. It is a matter of taste, of history, and the very foundation of our country. Please proceed while also honoring the founders' selections for the peoples' house at its inception.

Name: Marjorie Hinson

Date: March 3, 2026 7:49:47 am

I am writing in opposition to the demolition of the east wing and the erection of a too large and out of scale ballroom. No one should be able to demolish the People's House or make significant structural changes without going through the

proper channels and without multiple public comment sessions and through Congress. I think the plan should be downsized considerably and another wing built in place of the east wing to complete the symmetry of the building. I'd be in favor of demolishing the entire ballroom but realize there's already been too much building. I am angry that this happened...just like a crazy developer who has been turned down by the local preservation commission and in the middle of the night destroys it all. They should never be able to do that and never get a building permit again. Disgusted!

Marjorie Hinson

Name: Sarita Kouyoumjian

Date: March 3, 2026 7:51:21 am

To the commission,

I'm writing to oppose the building of a giant ballroom where the East Wing used to be. The current plans will create a space that will not be consistent with the look of the White House, will obstruct views, was not needed, and is very nearly money laundering bribes from donors who want access to the president by their providing private money to build. This project will also likely go over budget, requiring public funds, needed elsewhere. Please deny this project moving forward.

Name: Debbie Deland

Date: March 3, 2026 7:52:40 am

I hate the new ballroom. It is unnecessary. The current plan is for a ballroom that is much too big. We need the beloved East Wing restored. This design has not had enough time for wide evaluation. The scale of the ballroom is 166% larger than the White House itself. That is unacceptable. It disrupts the look and feel of the people's house. The amount allocated per person for the ballroom is much too high at 47% larger than the industry standard. Classicism is predicated on balance and symmetry. The central main structure should always be the largest. The volume comparison is outrageous. Proposed South Portico doesn't serve a purpose and is not ADA compliant.. Ballroom blocks full White House viewing!

I condemn those that planned and approved the demolition of the East Wing. Please reduce the size A LOT, take into account the classical structure, the views of the people's house, etc. No gold.

Name: Sarah Fletcher

Date: March 3, 2026 7:53:33 am

This commission and the White House should have asked for public comments prior to demolishing the historic East Wing. Changes in decor are one thing, completely demolishing one third of the building is another. I cannot imagine the amount of historic pieces now lost. This administration should have to replace it board by board to its original look.

The balance of this new construction plan should not be allowed to overshadow the rest of the White House. Part of what makes the US great is that we are a democracy and not a monarchy. The literal and figurative representation the White House has of our nation will scream monarchy like the palaces across Europe who too host massive ballrooms and many now sit empty as history reminds us what happens when the government is no longer for the people. What makes and made US great is how we are different and noticeably and humbly set apart from the rest of the world and their palaces. We don't need a ballroom, we need something you'll only find in the US.

Name: Steven Gabris

Date: March 3, 2026 8:00:14 am

This proposed project is too bid, and ill conceived. The addition overshadows the Whitehouse and creates a building that focuses view and attention away from the core purpose of the facility. All working and support functions should be below ground level. The height and facade should not detract from the Whitehouse. The Whitehouse (presidents house.and operations) is a focal point of our nation's Capitol. This addition would supplant the whitehouse as the focal point making a ballroom be the ocal point of the nation's Capitol. Does the US want to be know for an gaudy ballroom or a stately leaders house? I choose the latter. Please block this addition and send the plans back to the architects to make something worthy of our capitol.

Name: Anne Lewellen

Date: March 3, 2026 8:02:55 am

I do NOT agree with a plan for a ballroom that dwarfs the current White House. It should be a similar size and design to the previous East Wing. There is no need for a ballroom to handle 1,000 people. As a taxpayer, I do not want to pay for multiple 1,000 person dinners and banquets per year (or have influential donors pay for such dinners).

I am very disappointed that the East Wing was destroyed in the manner it was, after assurances from President Trump that it would not be touched. Please design the new East Wing to look like the previous one, be symmetrical, and in proportion (smaller) to the White House.

Thank you,
Anne Lewellen

Name: Jacquie Tinker

Date: March 3, 2026 8:06:17 am

I think that because the demolition of the Historic East Wing of the White House was done illegally President Trump should rebuild an exact replica of the East Wing with the money, that he has enriched himself (and his family) with while performing as a President, and with the billionaires that have been and are being enriched by his administration.

At this time of hardship caused to the ninety nine percent of the American people now a war against Iran we the average taxpayers should not have to pay for a Trump ballroom.

President Trump and Republicans continued the one percent, the ultra-rich Americans and corporations the tax cuts with the big, beautiful bill act. The billionaires can pay for the rebuilding of the East Wing of The White House, an exact replica.

Then, if in the future after discussion, it is determined that there is a need for a ball room. an appropriate location is found, without tearing down historic buildings and or destroying green space such as parks and monuments, then a legal ballroom can be planned and built.

Thank you for your time

Respectfully,

Jacquie Tinker

Name: Michael Brinster

Date: March 3, 2026 8:06:20 am

The destruction of the east wing without permits, planning, or agreement from the American people represents an obscene and careless destruction of our nation's historical treasures, to make room for an abomination meant only for the self-glorification of the current POTUS. All activity on the gaudy and inappropriate ballroom must cease immediately, and Donald J. Trump must be held accountable for his irresponsible actions and pay out-of-pocket to restore the east wing and all of the special surrounding historical markers.

Name: Suzanne Botts

Date: March 3, 2026 8:06:27 am

The size and scale of this project being planned disregards the historical architectural plans and connections by Pennsylvania Avenue by views and connection to the Capitol for the White House by L'Efant and commissioned by George Washington. Secondly, the beautiful historic landscape planning and entrance to the main White House portico is disrupted and harmed aesthetically by violating classical rules respecting symmetry and scale as well. It is a travesty of wasted space and less than ideal design with both beauty and functionality ignored. The huge portico is not functional at

all and the false windows are heartbreaking. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this impact of this project on our beloved people's house.

Name: Melina Hammer

Date: March 3, 2026 8:12:40 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Scott Ellett

Date: March 3, 2026 8:12:46 am

I don't recall this commission discussing the addition of a swimming pool or basketball court or press briefing room or any other presidential projects that change the White House or East Wing. A ballroom for public events is a much better idea, one which serves a purpose for Americans and foreign dignitaries. No one should have to use a porta john at a White House events.

Name: Megan Boyes

Date: March 3, 2026 8:15:38 am

To Whom this may concern,

I am writing to share my horror as to the demolition that of the East Wing of people house of The Whit House. Along with the development of a grandiose ballroom to satisfy a self centered President, who would like his name on every Federal Building, that belongs to the American People.

First and foremost I am saddened that the East Wing was taken down without any hearings, committee participation and historical researchers participating in this event. It was a shock by the American People as a way to distract from the current administration's woes.

Living on Nantucket Island and knowing how valuable preservation is I was greatly offended by this administration's action. If I wanted to change my house color or the type of fence I want to put up, I would have to present my desires to the Historical Ditric Commission for approval. Why the hell we didn't need anything like that to tear down part of the People's house. It's was already a crime when the Rose Garden was obliterated for a patio.....@&!\$, that was awful considering how and why it was developed by one of our greatest historic First Lady's, Jacqueline Kennedy.

Besides the financial illegal money gains this administration is tearing down, not only the White House, but our democracy and it must be stopped a along with this obnoxious ballroom dedicated to one of the worst presidents we have ever had.

In my humble opinion and respectfully submitted, Megan Boyes

Name: Gail Parker

Date: March 3, 2026 8:16:42 am

Our identity as American citizens is inextricably bound to our history as a fledgling nation some 250 years ago. The influence of The Enlightenment is ever present in that history as we hold most dear the wisdom and ambition of our first president, George Washington. The careful, deliberate, and gracious outline, embedded in the classical style of our nation's capital, speaks proudly of those highest of ambitions for a democratic state of the people. To deface, rather to all but obliterate, Washington's careful and deliberate wisdom - our very identity as represented by the careful design of our White House and its surround, would be horrendous. This careful design marks the focus of our fundamental beliefs and aspirations. Therefore, to eviscerate its elegant and foundational design amounts to a sacrilege and a scourge. Such a mistake, a mistake of tragic consequence should current plans proceed for an gaudy, ill- and misconceived behemoth of a so called ballroom, would effectively and symbolically obliterate the pride and historical heritage of the American people. We must revisit the plan or face forever remorse and embarrassments.

Name: John Grohol

Date: March 3, 2026 8:22:24 am

Please see the attached letter for my written comments regarding the East Wing Modernization Project (#8733) for your review. Thank you.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Marilyn Muller

Date: March 3, 2026 8:23:04 am

I recommend that the renovations follow the classic and restrained design that have been used in federal architecture for decades

Name: Ian DeWaal

Date: March 3, 2026 8:35:44 am

The Commission should reject the plans for the ballroom. They are far too large and significantly belittle from the historical and visual primacy of the White House as the symbolic representation of the executive branch. Adding a grossly oversized ballroom would convert this symbol into an entertainment venue, far from the vision of our founders.

Name: Sandy Streit

Date: March 3, 2026 8:36:32 am

I oppose the spending any money on Trump's "big beautiful" ballroom, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. Based upon the drawings I've seen, the ballroom will be much too large, out of scale with the remaining White House.

I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Jane Loescher

Date: March 3, 2026 8:37:13 am

After hearing the presentation, I have these concerns about the project:

--the proposed wing is too large for the site--please consider lowering the profile by putting more of it underground, and reducing the size

--I see no indication that the building will be ADA compliant; the few ramps seem to be an afterthought. Where is the elevator inside the "Grand Entrance"?

--what provisions have been made for the "Grand Entrance" that make it better than the current practices--security, parking, motor vehicle approach?

--the "Grand Entrance" also seems disproportionate to the site

--in terms of a grand design, this seems to be a piecemeal project. Where is the final concept?

--I find the relegation of the offices of the First Lady/Gentleman to the basement of the addition, across from the kitchen, to be an insult to the person, and to the work they do for the President and the country. Surely they should not be treated with such little respect.

Name: Robert Rudd

Date: March 3, 2026 8:43:37 am

This train wreck is an abomination and an insult to the American people. A pure vanity project, it is ugly, garish, and vulgar. It must be stopped.

Name: Steve DePalma

Date: March 3, 2026 8:44:42 am

I think the new ballroom will be a great addition to the white house. How does the richest country in the world entertain international guest in a tent. It's long overdue to have a place to stage these important events that reflect the USA as a world leader.

Name: Nathaniel Walker

Date: March 3, 2026 8:44:59 am

The way that this renovation has occurred has been antidemocratic. All other major White House renovations have occurred with congressional oversight, and have not been bankrolled by major oligarchs. As a citizen, I want all construction or renovation on the White House to cease and desist until there is proper congressional oversight. I don't care if the building looks shoddy in the meantime. Democracy does not look pretty but to paraphrase Winston Churchill, it is clearly better than all its alternatives.

Name: Jay Setty

Date: March 3, 2026 8:46:14 am

The ballroom design is beautiful BUT it is just too overwhelming in size for our historic White House.

Name: Nadine Bosley

Date: March 3, 2026 8:47:13 am

The Trump action of destroying the East Wing is unlawful due to:

- *a lack of required federal reviews
- *no congressional approval
- *violates laws protecting historic sites
- *bypassed mandatory, public, and official oversight

Trump destroyed the East Wing in an unauthorized demolition. This must be declared unlawful. He must cease and desist the ballroom as well as restoring the historic East Wing.

Name: Neal Tasch

Date: March 3, 2026 8:48:31 am

Please restore the East Wing to its pre-bulldozer look and function. Also, please restore the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden outside.

Name: Sandra Allen

Date: March 3, 2026 8:52:50 am

Appalled that desecration of "The People's House" has been permitted to occur at all. Total dereliction of your duty. Horrifying betrayal of our history.

Name: Pamela Marean

Date: March 3, 2026 9:02:45 am

I oppose the spending of over \$300 million on this project, which has demolished our building's heritage at the whim of one man. He had no authorization, or permits to do so. Anything that replaces the White House space, if not a historic restoration, needs to be approved by more than the whims and taste of one man. President Trump does not own the White

House. He is a temporary resident borrowing the space. If our nation decides to allow an enormous ballroom, that new alteration to the structure and the land must reflect our nation's tastes through a proper or design review. I want this project canceled, or at least managed for our entire country's future. Stop backing down before the immature egocentric and bullying actions of our current leadership. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans. It only encourages more outrageous actions. A ballroom may seem less urgent than some matters, but will be a permanent reminder of one man's influence for all government workers and global visitors. Do something about this relatively straightforward issue.

Name: George Hasapidis

Date: March 3, 2026 9:06:58 am

The proposed ballroom is disproportionate in scale to the existing buildings, most importantly the White House itself--a building of obviously incredible importance historically and symbolically. The oversized scale and planned opulence of the proposed ballroom is also an affront to centuries of tradition which holds our nation as a democracy in which even those in charge, including the President, are just ordinary citizens, not royalty. The White House was designed and scaled accordingly, but this proposed ballroom flies in the face of that, threatening to communicate a change in the character of our nation, from government for and by ordinary people, to government for and by the ultra-wealthy, on the backs of ordinary people. This ballroom sends entirely the wrong message and should not be permitted.

Name: Marie Sanders

Date: March 3, 2026 9:08:23 am

I am very disappointed in the change to the east wing.

It was horrible to see it totally disappear and to see the proposed "ballroom" makes it worse. It will be an eyesore and a blot on a historic area.

People go to Washington to see historic buildings and museums. Not someone's overinflated ego and lack of understanding about how this eye sore will ruin the property.

We didn't ask for it and we don't want it.

Name: Elizabeth Kelley

Date: March 3, 2026 9:09:44 am

Since Trump destroyed the storied history and magnificence of the East Wing, the National Capital Planning Commission, assisted by the White House Historical Society, should be the ONLY ones to design, approve and build a new East Wing (at Donald Trump's expense). It should not be a garish edifice, towering above the White House, but a place where the continuing history of our country can be made. Shame on our Congress for not intervening in the destruction of a part of our history.

Name: Emily Baker

Date: March 3, 2026 9:10:31 am

Dear Sirs, Madams et al.:

Thank you for the chance to comment. Laying aside any questions about the necessity of a large venue in the White House East Wing, I would like to suggest ways to economize, and preserve the integrity of significant historical layouts. I will primarily cite a presentation on February 25th from David Scott Parker and Bill Bates of the American Institute of Architects, facilitated by National Trust for Historic Preservation Chief Legal Officer Tom Mayes [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTqhH_X02DA].

The architects point out the original plan for the capitol city, which Washington commissioned from L'Enfant [15:04], which was meant to have a straight, non-obstructed view between the capitol building and the White House. If built to its planned scale, the ballroom would obstruct that view completely. This is not only about the view; it symbolizes connection between the President and the duties of government, which should never be broken.

Another significant feature is Olmstead's grounds design [17:53], including a circular front pavement, which, if the larger ballroom is built as intended, would bend out of shape on one side to accommodate it. Classicist architecture values symmetry, evidenced in not only the above, but also James Hoban's original design for the house itself [30:21]. Ideally,

the ballroom should be half its planned length to come properly close to respecting that symmetry.

One might wonder how to halve the planned space. Parker and Bates suggest relocating the planned first-floor kitchen in the north and east side, which will have solid windows and does not need outdoor lighting, into the ground/basement level [25:37-28:03]. This would allow for the space, which would not then impede with that axial connection and the symmetry of the road on the grounds.

Some small atmospheric details about the ballroom itself would be crucial to making it welcoming. One is the planned South Portico [12:00]. Not only are the door-like features on it superfluous, granting no real access from that direction, the columns would obstruct the outdoor view from the windows. Ideally, the staircases anywhere also ought to have ramps as well, to grant access to those with mobility aids or other difficulties. What's more, the maximum space per guest ought to be 15 square feet, including vertically, and the ceiling spaces far exceed that [e.g. 19:40, 40:43].

In conclusion, if the ballroom absolutely must be built, let it be in a way that respects the architecture's original foundational symmetry and connection to the other significant buildings in Washington, DC as much as possible, as well as the needs of guests, however many or few there be. I would also like to add, if a new garden is planned for the area, I hope enough of the original roses would be saved for it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily

Name: John Walsh

Date: March 3, 2026 9:10:38 am

When we see pictures or videos of formal events at the White House, it seems majestic. When you go and take the tour, it is amazing how small the rooms are. In the 1700s, small rooms with fireplaces were the norm. Now, we live in larger spaces with open concept designs. Many private homes are now larger than the executive mansion. My City Hall has a larger meeting room than anything in the 'Mansion.' Our County has a larger meeting room. When our hospital district meets, they use the ballroom of a local hotel. Yet, a formal event at the White House has to be held in a circus tent, with porta-potties; it is a national embarrassment. Likewise, President Truman's bomb shelter under the old East Wing is probably inadequate for modern threats. It has been 75 years since the last major rebuilding of the Executive Mansion. Let's do this now.

Name: Susan hoague

Date: March 3, 2026 9:19:26 am

The plans are horrible, please, please, please, don't. America needs time to stop and consider this disaster and all the implications of its destruction. The "replacement" needs "healing", and a "return to our country's democratic ideals" component.

We can't have the replacement remind us of this period or of the man who would be king.

Thank you for caring,

susan

Name: Sarah Baldwin

Date: March 3, 2026 9:19:31 am

The East Wing Modernization Project as currently proposed would be disproportionate and out of character with the existing White House as well as other area public buildings. The south portico as currently proposed is outsized and non-functional with only fake doors included - it should be eliminated from the proposal. Raising the elevation as proposed would create great imbalance and should be reduced. The proposed building is outsized - two suggestions to achieve a more reasonable result: The non-public service spaces should be moved to the lower level; and ceiling heights should be reduced to industry standards. Overall, the project should better respect the legacy of historic structures in the area including maintaining balance with the U.S. Capitol building.

Name: Audry Sanders

Date: March 3, 2026 9:20:23 am

To build a giant ballroom that dwarfs the actual white house is lunacy. Thus is nothing more then an egotistical stunt by the current administration to build a thinly veiled temple or place to one man's ego. Don't let this happen. Don't obstruct the White house, the people's house from the view of the people. They dont travel to see the side of a ballroom, they travel to see the white house.

Thank you for this chance for me to write a comment.

Name: Joan Borzilleri

Date: March 3, 2026 9:23:45 am

The proposed ballroom vanity project shows a total disregard and disrespect for the normative process of development in our Federalist/Greek Revival capital. The ballroom size is unnecessary: it is out of scale, lacks classical symmetry, balance, and is disruptive to viewsheds. It fractures Olmstead's landscape plan and the 'etoile' design of major DC streets and buildings. Details spray-painted gold are antithetical to our democratic republic: they harken back to a past filled with prince-bishops and the sovereign right of kings. What has been done to the White House already is cheesy, tacky, and sends the wrong message to taxpayers. The preservation process has been developed over centuries to have voices heard until consensus is reached leading to intelligent outcomes. Stop the slash and burn! House the homeless and feed the children - where are our values? Please do the right thing in the right way.

Name: peter LADD

Date: March 3, 2026 9:24:13 am

I STRONGLY urge the administration to follow NHTP advise

Name: Victor Roberts

Date: March 3, 2026 9:37:57 am

The ballroom, as proposed, is far too large for the intended use and also in relation to the size of the White House. The ballroom, as proposed, would also destroy the balance in the design of the White House grounds and the city of Washington, DC as well. Parts of the building that take up considerable land, such as the South Portico, appear to be non-functional and added only for appearance. A substantially smaller and lower elevation structure would serve as a ballroom for 1000 people, even if a ballroom of that size is necessary.

I also have concerns about the funding for the ballroom project. No funds have been allocated by Congress, which, under the Constitution, has the sole authority for authorizing all expenditures. The use of private funds, as claimed, is open to corruption in that the people & companies making contributions may expect some favors in return from the administration. In addition, there has been no independent review of the funds received that demonstrates sufficient money to complete the project without the requirement of public funds, which as has been previously stated, have not been approved.

Name: Kathy Beyrau

Date: March 3, 2026 9:40:39 am

The White House had an iconic footprint in Washington, DC. I was dismayed to see the President, without asking if he should or could, destroyed the historic East Wing. I see that Judge Leon has allowed the President to continue with White House renovations despite never consulting with historic preservation teams. As a taxpayer I want to register my disdain for the project. I was not against the idea of expanding for a ballroom, but we know President Trump has to have the biggest and the best and that is not in keeping with the Peoples' House. While taxpayers will supposedly not be on the hook for completion of this project, we know who will be paying to entertain the rich and powerful. To say I'm against it would be an understatement. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to say so.

Name: Philip Burdick

Date: March 3, 2026 9:41:22 am

Whether or not one supports the idea of a national "ballroom" space it is clear that the area formally occupied by the East

Wing of the White House is wholly inappropriate for such a massive, structure historically and architecturally as the White House from it's inception has been the Executive residence will be dwarfed by an essentially non-residential function. Functions of the proposed nature, similar to the Kennedy Center, are more appropriately located separately where they will not compete with or detract from the historic icons of the National Capital.

Name: Lois DeArmond

Date: March 3, 2026 9:47:47 am

The proposed design for this project is preposterous.

The scale is out of all proportion to the surrounding buildings, and, to say it is not in keeping with the original intent of the design of Washington D.C., is to massively understate the matter.

It is grotesque.

It should not be allowed to go forward; to allow this would be an abdication of duty to the American people, to whom this property belongs. We are counting on you.

Thank you.

Lois DeArmond

Name: Doris Verkamp

Date: March 3, 2026 9:48:44 am

I strongly oppose the destruction of the East Wing of the White House to build a proposed grandiose ballroom. The American people, myself included, have no interest in vanity projects such this. It is an insult to hard working Americans and construction should cease.

Name: Sharon West

Date: March 3, 2026 9:49:11 am

Dear Sir:

Thank you for accepting comments about the proposed White House East Wing addition.

The East Wing of the White House should have never been destroyed without input from the public and established review, approval processes were followed.

I acknowledge Presidential frustration with a lack of sufficient inside space that would accommodate large numbers of guests to the White House. I agree that such a space is needed, but the current proposed design ignores significant design, symbolism, architectural cohesiveness that is Washington, DC.

My comments are below:

1. The proposed addition is too large both in terms of scale, height, excessive space.
2. The proposed addition size creates a very unpleasing appearance, dwarfing the White House, The People's House.
3. The proposed addition's size would impact original and extremely important landscape architect design of Olmsted for the White House grounds, requiring rerouting of traffic and altering the symmetry of his original plans.
4. The proposed addition size would also interfere with the the line of sight along Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House to the Congress building, symbolic and important imagery.
5. The proposed addition columns are Corinthian, not Ionic, thus not matching the White House columns and would block view from inside the ballroom grand windows to the outside.
6. The proposed addition front is non functional with grand steps that do not lead into the building.

In conclusion, as we approach the 250th birthday of the United States of America please give citizens the gift of honoring the legacy of thoughtful, classical, architectural design of the White House, the surrounding grounds, and the symbolism of avenues, streets leading to the White House. I urge you to require additional design work to honor this legacy while fulfilling the need for a ballroom space.

Thank you, Sharon West

Name: Melissa Tidwell

Date: March 3, 2026 9:49:47 am

To Whom It May Concern,

I am respectfully asking you to reconsider the proposed plans for the White House's East Wing addition. I believe it is in gross disproportion to the existing structures, does not hold the integrity of the original purposes and plans, and will obstruct historical views. The replacement wing can be smaller and in proportion, while maintaining the original integrity and balance of the building design and meeting the needs for future uses. Another option may be to build on another sight.

The White House was designed as the "People's House," purposefully avoiding the appearance of a grand palace. Its beauty and quiet power is found in the simplicity of design. Please, do not allow the proposed project to proceed as planned.

Best regards,

Melissa C. Tidwell

Name: Sandra Cooper

Date: March 3, 2026 9:50:53 am

The plans should be reviewed by an impartial bipartisan group. The addition should be in keeping with the rest of the White House and should be a size to not dominate the rest of the building. It should be able to perform multiple functions that are necessary and helpful for a variety of governmental uses.

Name: Debra Mazloff

Date: March 3, 2026 9:51:30 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Baxanna McClure

Date: March 3, 2026 9:51:50 am

I feel the design proposed is gaudy and does not match the grandeur of the White House. It should be reduced in size to complement the White House, not overshadow it.

Name: Erin Dempsey

Date: March 3, 2026 9:53:23 am

Please do not allow the plans for the demolished East Wing of the White House to move forward. Not only was the East Wing demolished without prior notice to the proper legal entities, but it was done so without the input of the citizens of the United States of America. The White House is the people's house and it is a symbol of Democracy in our country and all over the world. History was destroyed without any thought about how the people of this country would feel about it, and to move forward with the plans for a ballroom that would dwarf the White House in size would be the equivalent of pouring salt into our wounds. Forever. We have many issues to be addressed in this country and spending money and expending valuable resources on an extremely gaudy, over-sized, and ostentatious ballroom should not be our priorities. Please consider the will of the people and do not allow the plans for this ballroom to move forward. It would be yet another sign that our country is moving away from Democracy and sliding towards authoritarianism. We are a country of the people and for the people. We do not exist to cater to the wills and desires of one particular person.

Name: Jean-Luc Duvall

Date: March 3, 2026 9:57:01 am

This is one of the worst uses of public funds, on par with the unconstitutional war in Iran

Name: Sharon Tabor

Date: March 3, 2026 9:58:14 am

My perspective on this project is shaped by both personal and professional viewpoints.

The White House holds deep significance for me. My grandmother's brother, 1st Lt. Ruel Everette Centers of Allen County, Kentucky, served as the construction supervisor for the East Wing and the wartime renovation of the White House during World War II. In addition, a close friend—now passed—was a descendant of Frederick Law Olmsted, whose work in Louisville, KY, and Asheville, NC, has been part of my residential history. Because of these connections, the loss of the East Wing was profoundly difficult to witness.

Professionally, I previously managed a 24,000-square-foot convention center in Cave City, KY. Its 10,000-square-foot ballroom seated 450 guests for a plated dinner, supported by a full commercial kitchen, four meeting rooms, storage, and office space. Based on that experience, there is no operational justification for a facility of the size currently proposed. A functional event space of no more than 20,000 square feet with 12–14-foot ceilings would be more than adequate. A kitchen could be located below grade, with dumbwaiters providing efficient service to the event level.

Every other building in the United States is required to adhere to ADA compliance and fire-code safety, and this new structure should be no exception. The White House should remain the focal point of the complex, not a rarely used ballroom.

I am also concerned about the proposal to eliminate interior access. It is difficult to imagine any scenario in which the President of the United States and his guests would be expected to walk outside to enter his own event in the next room.

Washington, D.C. already has more than six venues that are fully capable of hosting state dinners. These facilities are accustomed to security protocols and the logistical demands of high-level diplomatic events. Given that reality, the return on investment for constructing a new building of this scale is negative and a waste of taxpayer money.

For these reasons, if the current concepts remain unchanged, I believe the space would serve the public far better as a garden than as a structure that exceeds practical needs and responsible stewardship.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Patricia Willis

Date: March 3, 2026 9:59:03 am

I object to the Trump Administration's decisions and actions to destroy and rebuild the East Wing and to create a ballroom without the review and agreement of experts in history, preservation, architecture and community purpose. The East Wing of the People's House is sacred as part of the temporary home of the president elected by the people at any point in history. We decide who should occupy the White House and our expert representatives should be responsible for deciding the design and function of the home and support buildings that support the president and his/her family.

Name: Maureen Becker

Date: March 3, 2026 9:59:19 am

To the members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

While constructing a permanent structure to host state functions seems necessary and appropriate (as recognized in the 2000 National Park Service's Comprehensive Design Plan for the White House), the process thus far and the design are flawed. The proposed "ballroom" should be scaled back to a "banquet space" that adheres to the industry standard in terms of square footage per person for the projected uses. The proposed structure far exceeds those standards and is excessively large relative to the White House.

The proposed structure (which appears to be a deliberate attempt to dwarf the White House by the current occupant, who will likely endow it with his name) will have the following deleterious effects: a) block the view of the White House from the Capitol, symbolically preventing Congress from exercising oversight of the Executive Branch; b) violate numerous principles of classical architecture (scale, symmetry, style, and functionality); and c) disrupt the harmonious layout of the White House grounds designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.

Any alterations to the "People's House" must respect the legacy and intent of the James Hoban design of the building as well as the Pierre L'Enfant design for our nation's capital, both of which were directed by George Washington and are rich with symbolism. Modernization can be achieved without abandoning these important aspects of the heritage of the United States of America.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Kathleen Dunn-Raynoha
Date: March 3, 2026 9:59:32 am

Good Afternoon,

The massing of the proposed east wing ballroom structure is far too overwhelming for the historic White House structure. The proposed pitched roof on the south side of the ballroom structure is actually taller than the White House. It was stated at a prior meeting that the ballroom ceiling would be 40 feet high. There is no need for such a high ceiling and reducing that height would lower the roof of the structure so the building would have a much more acceptable massing.

In addition, the height of the east wing connecting corridor should also be reduced by the elimination of the proposed upper floor. To hear that the proposed east corridor height would cause an asymmetry that would require an upper floor addition to the west wing connecting corridor in the future will most certainly lead to the demolition and replacement of the west wing, ANOTHER UNNECESSARY PROJECT.

Thank you!

Name: Angela C Stimpert
Date: March 3, 2026 10:00:37 am

I am extremely concerned about the proposed construction of a ballroom on the site of the now-demolished historic East Wing of the White House. As a native of Washington, DC, born in Georgetown, and a lifelong student of our country's history, I find the proposal for the ballroom being pushed by the current administration to be devoid of respect for 1) the architectural balance with the existing Palladian design of the White House by Hoban, 2) the symbolism of the original design by L'Enfant for the city and for the relationship between public structures (i.e., the White House and the Capitol), and 3) the historic symmetry of the landscape design put in place by Olmsted. It is extremely troubling that this proposed "addition" to the White House campus will alter and negatively impact all of the three aspects of the original design plans implemented in the 18th and 19th centuries. The proposed ballroom is not something that any previous administration has determined as being a critical need and its design clearly shows that no thought is being given to its impact on the very building it is being touted as "improving." The so-called ballroom is reminding me too much of what Benito Mussolini did to Rome back in the 1930s. In his quest to glorify his regime and Italy's image, he ordered the massive destruction of block after block of medieval and Renaissance buildings and structures so as to "liberate" the underlying ancient Roman buildings and architectural structures. But in so doing, a huge amount of Rome's architectural patrimony was irretrievably lost. My hope is that we do not repeat this sort of rampant destruction here in Washington, DC without further study of the impacts and other options. If a ballroom must replace the demolished East Wing, it should complement the White House, not overshadow it or alter the symbolism of the campus or its visual relationship with the Capitol. I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to slow this project down so that the proposed structure goes through the rigorous process that any other public building or monument in our capital city must undergo in order to proceed.

Name: Lawrence & Claudia Crawford
Date: March 3, 2026 10:01:44 am

NCPC commissioners:

We ask you to deny permissions for further East Wing project activity.

The reasons include: the East Wing demolition was not done with appropriate Congressional and public comment consensus, and the project process to date therefore violates law and precedent; no Congressional funding appropriation for an East Wing project has been approved, by way of valid project procedures for White House renovation, therefore the project should not proceed; and that the proposed ballroom design is grossly and inappropriately out of scale with the White House and its site, and therefore the project's proposed design is unacceptable and damaging to the tradition and setting of the White House.

We ask that the NCPC deny approvals, and instead refer the White House to seek necessary Congressional review and appropriation of public funds for White House renovation, through established and legal process.

Larry & Claudia Crawford

Name: Angela Liptack

Date: March 3, 2026 10:01:48 am

I write to encourage the National Capital Planning Commission to reconsider the proposed design for an addition to the People's House, the U.S. White House at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC (NCPC File Number 8733).

In 1777, British troops fired at a tavern in Ridgefield, CT, where it was suspected that colonists were making ammunition; a cannonball is buried in the building's north wall to this day. Renowned architect Cass Gilbert, who designed the U.S. Supreme Court building, purchased the home as a summer residence for his family in 1907. He did so in part because of the building's historic significance. But he also realized that its location and grounds, if suitably reconfigured, could accommodate the frequent social gatherings that he and his wife planned.

Cass Gilbert designed an addition for the Keeler Tavern that extended behind the main structure but was of lower profile and similar scale; it included a gracious dining room and kitchen, with bedrooms and bathrooms above, all under a roof that mimicked that of the original colonial building. He designed a separate Garden House, set back from the main structure, for entertaining on a larger scale; nestled in the sloping terrain, it does not obscure the view from the street of the tavern's impressive north-facing main entrance.

Keeler Tavern is an historic site on the National Register of Historic Places. I have been in its spaces both humble and grand. It appears to me that the proposed plans for the White House have departed tragically from the principles that Cass Gilbert followed well before the term "historic preservation" was commonplace. He knew not to not overwhelm the original Keeler Tavern with additions that would be stylistically, structurally and functionally be out of keeping not only with its history but with its location in a small town. He knew that his modifications to Keeler Tavern would outlast him, that his imprint on the site would affect how its history would be interpreted during his family's residence there and for many generations that followed.

Washington, D.C., is not a small town. It is our nation's capital. The White House is not a tavern, however emblematic it might be of our nation's early history. The White House is the residence of the person who, with the Congress elected by the people of this nation, took an oath to uphold the U.S. Constitution. If he could speak today, Cass Gilbert would likely look at the proposed plans and send his staff back to the drawing board so that the People's House would not be forever distorted by an addition three times the size of the original building, with a ballroom and kitchen several times the space needed for the anticipated 1,000 guests, that features an inaccessible, functionless portico, and that obstructs the White House's clear view to the Capitol Building and disrupts Frederick Olmstead's classical landscape design.

Name: James Jason Phillips

Date: March 3, 2026 10:02:27 am

Process adherence is not a bureaucratic constraint; it is an architectural safeguard. The East Wing is not an isolated structure but a component of a historically layered composition whose proportions, materials, alignments, and spatial hierarchies contribute to the White House's architectural coherence and symbolic authority. Deviations from established review and preservation processes risk incremental decisions that, while individually minor, cumulatively erode this integrity.

The White House and its surrounding capital context operate as a unified civic ensemble defined by neoclassical language, axial planning, calibrated scale, and material restraint. Established preservation protocols, design review standards, and federal oversight mechanisms exist to ensure that renovations respect these governing principles—maintaining proportional harmony, façade rhythm, material continuity, and sightline preservation. Adhering to process ensures that interventions remain subordinate to the original architectural intent rather than competing with it.

Moreover, procedural rigor introduces multidisciplinary scrutiny—architectural historians, preservation specialists, structural engineers, and planning authorities—whose collective evaluation protects against short-term functional decisions that could compromise long-term heritage value. In a building of national and global symbolic significance, design discipline is inseparable from institutional credibility.

Therefore, strict adherence to established renovation processes is essential not only for regulatory compliance, but to preserve architectural continuity, civic symbolism, and the enduring integrity of the White House within the broader capital framework.

We owe this to ourselves as Americans and stewards of the built environment that is our founders' legacy.

Name: Cindy Cseri

Date: March 3, 2026 10:05:22 am

This plan is anti American! The demolition of the east wing went ahead without approval and now this monstrosity of a gold gilded playroom is being shoved down our throats.

I don't believe he has the private money to do this and I refuse to pay for this crap.

Name: Beth Turner

Date: March 3, 2026 10:09:19 am

I appreciate all the efforts going into making the ballroom more architecturally in line with the White House. It was painful to see the original structure torn down. Seemingly without care or consideration to its historic meaning. These meetings and hopefully the impact they will have on the new structure will go along way in healing the effects of the original structure being torn down. The impressive architecture is Washington DC as in many of American cities had the ability to move people and make a lasting impression. I'm happy to be apart of the process even if it's just to listen in on the meeting. It's nice to know someone else cares as much as I do about the meaning of building a new structure.

Thanks again from a concern citizen.

Name: Cheryl Hall

Date: March 3, 2026 10:14:16 am

As a concerned citizen and advocate of historic preservation, I am writing to express my concern regarding the "East Wing Modernization Project." My concerns are as follows:

1. The proposed structure destroys the classical symmetry of the White House.
2. The proposed structure's size is excessive and dwarfs the current White House.
3. The proposed structure has extremely limited use and would be expected to be utilized infrequently.

While changes to historic structures are needed on occasion, it is important that those changes be made thoughtfully and with consideration for function, aesthetics, and maintenance and preservation of history. The proposed design does not consider any of these elements.

Since the East Wing has already been demolished without the appropriate review, I believe it is vital that the construction process be halted, a thorough review of the plans be done, and appropriate revisions made to the proposed project so that all concerns regarding the scope and design of the project be addressed. Only then should approvals be given to proceed with a revised project.

Thank you.

Name: Jane E Reagan

Date: March 3, 2026 10:15:47 am

3-3-26

Dear Commissioners:

I strongly oppose this entire project and like the rest of the world, was shocked when the entire East Wing was demolished without following procedures, including soliciting public comment, review by you and all the other steps.

While expanded event space may be needed, additions must respect the historic scale and design of the White House. At 90,000 square feet, the proposed ballroom is insane: it would exceed the size of the 55,000-square-foot Executive Residence. Additions to historic properties should be compatible in scale and subordinate to the original structure.

Please heed the comments you receive, which will, I bet, be strongly against the current design proposed. Thank you for listening to us and giving us this opportunity to provide comments and shape the project. It's "the people's house" and we don't like the monstrosity that's proposed.

Thanks,

Name: Timothy Jones

Date: March 3, 2026 10:16:03 am

I have viewed the webinar posted on the NCPC website and I understand the comments provided. The proposal is grossly out of proportion to the existing White House structure. I work in public community planning with an architectural education background and one of the basic premises to development is not to dwarf a structure or portion of a structure that is to remain the primary importance. The structure is out of proportion to the site from an above plan view and in height and massing. Any update on the site should "bow" in respect to the central White House structure.

Aside from the priority of importance and proportions, the relationships already established by L'Enfant's city plan and Olmsted's White House site/landscaping plan should provide parameters in which to design new improvements. There are so many other elements but the current design of the ballroom needs significant work or it will have such a negative legacy in what should be our best, shining example and reflection of the United States.

Thank you,
Timothy Jones

Name: Drew OBrien

Date: March 3, 2026 10:17:34 am

So much for the Peoples House! I'm angry about what this administration is doing, without input from anyone on destroying beautiful architecture, eliminating any type of history that doesn't suit trumps and only trumps vision of America.

This has to stop and stop now! Otherwise, in 4 years no one will recognize Washington DC. New arches where arches don't belong. His face and name on every building. He treats the nations capital like they're his buildings. They are NOT! If he destroys the Cohen Building and the others that are in his sights, he should be arrested. Please stop this madman!

Name: Karen Blakeley

Date: March 3, 2026 10:18:07 am

Dear Commissioners,

I write today to express my concern with the current Presidential administrations actions with regard to the White House and specifically the demolition of the East Wing for a ballroom. The lack of the administration's adherence to the process that exists to ensure oversight of any desired alterations to the People's House is unprecedented and poses one of many threats to the rules that have governed our country for nearly 250 years.

I strongly urge the Commission to ensure that any and all plans for the East Wing be rigorously enforced to ensure that the development meets the Commission's guidelines to the extent possible.

I appreciate your attention to this situation.

Kind regards,

Karen S. Blakeley

Name: Tristan Teller

Date: March 3, 2026 10:18:44 am

Dear Commission, Chairman Scharf, Members,

In submitting an overwhelmingly positive note in support and in favour of an inspired and worthwhile project, I propose consideration of the following regarding America's unique, powerful and recognisable identity.

The iconic White House Executive Mansion stands tall as an instantly recognisable symbol of American virtue. The form style and key details of this building serve not only to transmit much about the meaning of America's history and promise, these key details also work like a logo - always identifiable even with minor alterations over time.

To contrast: Taxation offices, high street banks, libraries, art galleries, many schools and hotels the world over can be hard to tell apart from one another. Many people know that however beautiful they may be, it is a stubborn fact that very few buildings built in the classical style from Ancient Rome to the present day can easily distinguish themselves in the mind's eye.

Yet the iconic White House Executive Mansion is striking, distinct and identifiable.

Awareness distinguishes it from all the rest, even if we can not identify the cause.

May it be seen how the buildings that most collapse and blur together into one, very often boast the particular feature of fluted Corinthian columns.

Strikingly, The White House - thanks to capable, competently restrained yet totemic and powerfully self-confident smooth edged Ionic columns - is immediately recognisable the entire world over.

If the ballroom design showing in presently available renderings - that features fluted Corinthian columns on the East and South of the new East wing - wishes to succeed in looking like the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square, or any routine municipal bureau in Southern Europe, then may this note serve only as congratulations.

To successfully relate to, harmonize with, emblazon and transmit the brand of 'The White House' on this new magnificent structure, new Ionic pillars that closely echo and resemble those visible on both the North Portico and the awe-inspiring South Portico curve of the Executive Mansion will proudly serve.

Such a simple thing may strike a harmonic chord the tones of which may beckon fortune and win favour for the future.

Not to be mistaken for any other peoples, presidential mansion, palace or political place, - we speak of the future of the most miraculous and life giving Republic History has ever held, as befits a fortunate destiny buoyed by echoes of a most fortunate founding.

God speed and may wisdom prevail in all your proceedings,

Tristan Teller

Name: Lisa Matsumoto

Date: March 3, 2026 10:22:03 am

I absolutely oppose the East Wing Modernization Project/Trump's Ballroom in its current form. I would have opposed destruction of the East Wing if given the opportunity. The current plan for the ballroom project is completely out of scale with the residence, which should be the architectural focus of the federal presidential property. And although this project is allegedly being funded by private donors, which I feel is wholly inappropriate, it will certainly cost the taxpayers millions if not billions in the long run for upkeep and maintenance. The larger the building, the more it will cost to maintain. This is the President's ego project and he has already destroyed the historical integrity of what was beautiful presidential home and the wing that honored many of our First Ladies. I know it is hardly worth my time to provide these comments because nobody seems willing to stop this madness or hold the President accountable. This will be a project that Americans will look on with distaste and regret for generations to come.

Name: Lynn Morrison

Date: March 3, 2026 10:25:02 am

I understand the need for a WH ballroom, but I strongly object to the current plans for such a ballroom. The scale and size of current plans are not in keeping with key architectural principles as well as the original historic plans of L'Enfant and Frederick Law Olmstead. With some modifications to scale, volume, and balance, it could still meet the need of serving a function of 1000 people, while respecting the history and architecture of the building it is designed to complement-- the White House itself (AKA the People's House). It should not dominate or outstrip that building.

Among the most serious problems which could be remedied by a redesign:

1. Blocking the original historical design of L'Enfant's plan for DC . The large size of the ballroom blocks the view down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol. This view is one of the most important views and relationships in L'Enfant's original 1791 design for Washington DC. This must be corrected.
2. Proposed 90,000 square-foot construction will overwhelm the 55,000 square foot WH structure and disrupt its classical design which is predicated on balance and symmetry.
3. Ballroom itself is much bigger than it needs to be. The architectural standard space for ballrooms is 10-15 sq. ft. per person. Even at the highest level of that standard (15 sq. ft per person), the ballroom should be 15,000 sq. ft. Currently it is proposed at 22,000 sq ft-- 47% higher than the industry high standard.
4. Proposed south portico is designed only for show and is too large compared to main WH structure. It does not serve a purpose (no usable doors) and is not ADA accessible. The large number of columns block the view from the interior.
5. Whole building is higher than it needs to be. Ceilings are usually high and the lower floor is designed to be above ground when it could be placed below ground.

I firmly believe that a redesign is needed before the ballroom can be constructed.

Name: Marilyn Payton

Date: March 3, 2026 10:26:57 am

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed design for the East Wing of the White House. I believe that this proposed design will have negative impacts on the historic character of the original White House building and the White House grounds.

The proposed addition will block the visual and symbolic axis between the U.S. Capitol and the White House. This axis was a key feature of the historic Plan for Washington D.C., which was laid out by Pierre L'Enfant and commissioned by George Washington. The only two buildings located on L'Enfant's plan, the U.S. Capitol and the President's House, were symbolic of the legislative and the executive branches of the government.

The proposed design of the East Wing will permanently alter the symmetry and balance of the historic White House, designed by James Hoban, with the later additions of two supporting wings. The five-part Classical design has been respected up until this point. According to Classical design, the end elements should be subordinated to the central main element (the mansion). The proposed East Wing will overpower the original mansion in a detrimental way.

The proposed addition will necessitate an alteration to the layout of the drive on the South Lawn leading to the White House South Entrance. This will permanently alter the symmetrical design laid out by Frederick Law Olmsted.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties states that new work [additions, exterior alterations] must be compatible with the size, scale and proportion, and massing [of the original structure] to protect the integrity of the [historic] property and its environment. The proposed East Wing addition will exceed the size, scale and proportion, and massing of the White House structure by a significant amount.

The proposed design of the East Wing is overblown. Primary spaces such as the ballroom and the kitchen greatly exceed design industry planning standards, such as programming 15 square feet per person for a ballroom. The proposed ceiling heights for the ground and third floors seem excessive for their use as support spaces.

The design of the proposed South Portico is particularly problematic. This portico exceeds the size of the historic South Portico on the White House. The excessive number of columns on the proposed South Portico with their Corinthian capitals illustrate the grandiosity of the design approach. The White House is not a palace. The proposed grand stair, which is non-compliant for accessibility, does not serve as an entrance into the Ballroom. The entrance doors illustrated are fake. Since this South Portico serves no use, it should be eliminated.

In conclusion, the design of an East Wing addition to the White House must respect the size, scale and proportion, and massing of the historic White House and grounds.

Name: Stephanie Houston

Date: March 3, 2026 10:27:02 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans

Name: Linda Harper

Date: March 3, 2026 10:29:45 am

in the first place you can't modernize something that is no longer there....the East Wing!

Re: the Ballroom. I have 2 thoughts.

1) I believe there is a need for some sort of permanent structure; however, the size and scale of the proposed structure is way beyond what may be required. It would diminish the importance of the White House as a symbol of our country and obstruct viewsheds that are important for placing the White House into a concept of "the people's house". The proposed scale would take prominence and the concept would then become one of entertainment and "social" impact. Not sure that is the image the country wants to project to the world.

2) We have a process for both building on Federal property and for compliance with Historic Preservations guidelines and legal obligations. If these obligations are not met at the highest level than the need to meet and respect them will certainly trickle down to the smallest rural community and historic project. We might as well wipe them off the books for good. America cannot afford to lose more of its history ..it is what grounds us for the future. No one or no organization should be above the legislation and its processes.

Name: Constantine Garas

Date: March 3, 2026 10:30:53 am

As a proud American, we should and need a ballroom to host the various events. As the USA, it is embarrassing to host state dinners and such for American events and foreign dignitaries in a tent. We are a young country in comparison to the rest of the world but a tent no mater how elaborate it is, is a tent. We as a nation have our problems but let's not look like we have problems and take some pride when we have and host official events. It represents our Nation and the office of the President of the United States.....not who is in that position at the time.

Name: Jane Dorchester

Date: March 3, 2026 10:31:42 am

First of all, the East Wing of the White House should NEVER have been torn down. Period.

Second, having been torn down without following any of the written legal procedures, it needs to be rebuilt IN LIKE KIND, using exactly the same materials or exactly the same kinds of materials - EXACTLY.

Third, once that is done, then an INDEPENDENT team of experts, including, but not limited to, a REPUTABLE planner with experience in historic preservation, a REPUTABLE architectural historian, a REPUTABLE historic preservationist, and a REPUTABLE restoration architect, should be appointed by the National Capital Planning Commission to evaluate whether or not there is a real need for an enlarged ballroom. If their finding is that there is a need, then they should determine the following:

A) exactly how big it needs to be,

B) whether changes can be made to the existing restored East Wing to accommodate an enlarged ballroom or an addition to the restored White House needs to be made,

C) depending on their decision in B), how best to either make the necessary changes to the existing restored East Wing to accommodate an enlarged ballroom or add an enlarged ballroom to the restored White House.

Fourth, once their findings are completed, then the legal procedures for making changes and/or an addition to a National Icon owned by THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, NOT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, should be followed to the letter of the law.

Name: Eleanor Carlyon

Date: March 3, 2026 10:36:38 am

This ballroom must not be built. Trump had no right to destroy the East Wing and we have no report on whether the contents were also destroyed in his haste to tear it down. The White House belongs to the American people. Trump is a temporary tenant, despite his fantasies of moving in for good. While a sitting president might make small changes, redecorate, etc. a major change should have been approved, permits should have been issued for the project. (Why are the contractors who destroyed the East Wing without permits not being prosecuted?) .

The ballroom is gigantic compared to the White House and will deface it and sully the grounds around it. It will destroy the American concept of The People's House and suggest an imperial image instead. And once Trump is gone I believe the American people will demand that this overgrown fantasy of "King Trump" be torn down. It will be a staggering waste!

Please do not let this happen.

Name: Melinda Croft

Date: March 3, 2026 10:37:17 am

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

A ballroom may be considered a useful addition to the White House, however its size and style should not gluttonously overshadow the symbolism and purpose of the White House. Nor should a ballroom's existence completely destroy the visual significance of the White House' seat within our city's plan in relationship to the Capitol Building.

Maintaining history, proportion, and respect for the White House is possible by reducing the scale of the ballroom plan without compromising existing needs.

The grand portico is artifice, with its false doors. It serves only to visually dwarf the White House rather than compliment it. The columns are presented as corinthian, which is also at odds with the ionic columns of the White House.

The excessive ceiling height of the lower level and upper level are impractical and unnecessary to their purpose. Again serving only to increase the height of the building and therefore enhancing the building's dominance on the White House campus.

The seating requirement of the ballroom can be met with 10sq foot per person as per industry standards.

Please preserve the historic L'Enfant District of Columbia City Plan sight lines between the White House and the Capitol, and the classic proportions that preserve the Residence as the central and dominant feature of the Peoples House.

Name: Ashley Pendergrass

Date: March 3, 2026 10:43:19 am

Let's be absolutely clear: tearing down and rebuilding a ballroom that nobody asked for while Americans are rationing meals and dying because they can't afford insulin is not just tone-deaf — it is a moral failure.

Families are skipping groceries. People are choosing between medication and rent. And yet, taxpayer dollars are being funneled into a vanity renovation that serves exactly one person — the President of the United States.

This isn't governance. This is self-indulgence on the public's dime.

Every dollar spent on unnecessary luxury renovations is a dollar stolen from the hungry, the sick, and the struggling.

Americans didn't go to work, pay their taxes, and play by the rules so that their hard-earned money could be wasted on a ballroom no one requested.

Fiscal responsibility isn't optional. It's an obligation. And right now, that obligation is being completely ignored in favor of opulence for one while millions suffer.

Enough is enough.

Name: Mark Johnson

Date: March 3, 2026 10:43:30 am

I do not agree with the premise that we need a new ballroom next to the White House. There are many options currently available to accommodate this need. In addition, the destruction of the People's House has only occurred due to one man's need for fulfillment.

I am concerned that the current plans to add a ballroom dwarfs the historic White House. Please reconsider the size of this if, indeed it is built.

Name: Carey Pickard

Date: March 3, 2026 10:45:32 am

I understand the need for additional space for events at the White House, however, the building proposed is appalling and must be reduced in size. The south portico is particularly problematic and should not be built. The scale of the entire project is horrifying. I urge the Commission to reconsider the plans before construction begins. If they do not, future administrations will have to undo the damage being done to the White House.

Name: Soheila Comninos

Date: March 3, 2026 10:49:46 am

I am writing to share my strong opposition to the East Wing Modernization Project.

The demolition of the East Wing occurred without the transparency or public review required for a national historic landmark. Bypassing statutory safeguards to fast-track a project based on executive whim sets a dangerous, undemocratic precedent. The proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom is a massive, unharmonious building that dwarfs the White House and violates its symbolic identity. The White House is supposed to be the "People's House," not a private estate. Treating it as a personal playground for a single leader's "poor taste" is a betrayal of the American public and the office of the presidency.

I urge the Commission to deny final approval and uphold the rule of law over the unchecked power of a single individual.

Name: Joe Knight

Date: March 3, 2026 10:49:55 am

As a landscape architect I object to the ill-conceived planning of this project.

Name: Carolyn Niederer

Date: March 3, 2026 10:49:59 am

I am commenting on the plans for a ballroom to replace what was the East Wing of the White House.

NCPC File Number: 8733

Applicant: Executive Residence at the White House

Applicant Project Website: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/07/the-white-house-announces-white-house-ballroom-construction-to-begin/>

NCPC Role: Review site and building plans in accordance with the National Capital Planning Act.

Project Officer: NCPC Staff

Review Type: Approval

NEPA: Required

NHPA/Section 106: Not Required

Address: 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

The thought that a huge ballroom is needed is first of all a fallacy. Trump's action to destroy the East Wing of the White House on his whim, without first reaching out and following the National Capital Planning Act was wrong. The plans for

this huge addition is not in keeping with the historic integrity and symbolism of the White House. The White House is the people's house, a place for the president to live temporarily, while they serve in that position.

It would be better to restore the East Wing as it was, with looking to it be a place for the business of the country and a place for the people to visit and learn about our nation's history.

Thank you for letting me share my thoughts.

Carolyn Niederer

Name: Rebecca Kravetz

Date: March 3, 2026 10:50:11 am

The Ballroom as proposed is an absolute disaster. It does not serve the American people or contribute to the aesthetic landscape of our capital city. No consideration for the vast majority of the American public and the People's House. I hope that the public comments are able to alter the design of the project. Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment,

Name: Maureen Elenga

Date: March 3, 2026 10:51:20 am

It is extremely unfortunate that this project has thus far been undertaken without public consultation or adherence to the law regarding the People's House, arguably the most significant historic property in the country. But we now have an opportunity to ensure that the reconstructed East Wing/Ballroom is in keeping with the principles of Classical architecture and with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The scale of the East Wing must not make diminutive the primary, central building. Likewise, the porticoes flanking the White House should be in balance. This is far from the case with the proposed design. The proposed design also blocks the viewsheds that were intentionally designed as symbols of the balance of the three branches of power. This symbolic balance is now threatened due to the administration's effective abandonment of the balance of powers in all matters. Please do not approve any design for a ballroom that destroys the Classical symmetry of the White House. It must be smaller in scale than the primary building to preserve the historic balance and symbolic alignment of views and paths that are character defining features of our nation's capital.

Name: Roberta Tisdale

Date: March 3, 2026 10:53:13 am

While expanded event space may be desirable this addition is solely about President Trump attempting to "put his mark" on the White House. At 90,000 square feet, the proposed ballroom would exceed the size of any other part of the White House. Additions to historic properties —especially the People's House — should be compatible in scale and subordinate to the original structure. Commissioners need to hear directly from the public. The American people deserve "an opportunity to provide comments and shape the project."

Name: nancy smith

Date: March 3, 2026 10:53:55 am

The East Wing was taken down without asking the American people how they felt about the East Wing Demolition and proposed overly large rebuild of the East Wing. The rebuilding should replicate the original structure. And the destruction of Jacklyn Kennedys Beautiful Rose Garden is to destroy history. None of this should have happened without the American people having a say. This property belongs to the people of the USA.

Name: Scarlet Ross

Date: March 3, 2026 10:53:56 am

It's appalling that this administration was willing to knock down the historic East Wing for Trump's vanity project.

Please cancel the Ballroom and use that 300 million to rebuild the East Wing.

Name: Brad White

Date: March 3, 2026 10:55:33 am

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I am opposed to the current plans for the East Wing construction project. The project, as currently designed, overwhelms the existing White House and West Wing. I advocate undertaking a new design process that takes into consideration the overall massing of the new construction in the context of the existing building. In addition, the program for the East Wing needs to be examined to ensure that it is not duplicating functions that are logically already available elsewhere.

Name: GAIL HAMER

Date: March 3, 2026 10:56:29 am

I am unequivocally opposed to the building of an ostentatious, out-sized, tasteless ballroom where the beautiful East Wing once stood. This is nothing more than a paean to Donald Trump's ego. It is NOT needed, it will dwarf the White House - the Peoples' House - and shout to the world that, in America, frivolity is far more important than the solemn responsibility of actually governing. The president failed to follow the protocol required to make changes to the White House; he believes that he is exempt from following laws or rules. If this structure is built, it will forever stand as an insult to the American people and as a 'monument' to an evil megalomaniac. Rebuild the East Wing.

Name: Lois Fishman

Date: March 3, 2026 10:58:11 am

Please see my letter attached here in connection with the East Wing Modernization Project hearing.

Lois R Fishman

[Attachment](#)

Name: Lowell Kirkman

Date: March 3, 2026 10:58:16 am

As an architect who has executed several historic preservation projects working closely with the U S Department of the Interior, Historic Preservation Division, I am unalterably opposed to the current plan for a ballroom addition to the White House.

As designed, the proposal has a significant negative effect on the historic character of the White House. Its balance, scale, proportions and massing are all inappropriate and incompatible with the White House. Louis Sullivan taught us that "form follows function". The very idea of a false unusable portico with fake doors along with false windows is laughable. In addition to the fact that the proposed addition visually overwhelms the White House, the White House's setting is severely compromised. Pierre Charles L'Enfant gave us the master plan for the capital city over 200 years ago with its many axes, one of which is the visual connection of the Capital and White House. That would be destroyed with this plan. Frederick Law Olmsted, nearly 100 years ago designed the White House grounds. The balance and symmetry of this masterpiece would be lost if the proposed plan were to be implemented.

I'm confident there is a creative and workable solution which would allow this project to go forward. I ask that the National Capital Planning Commission insist on a restart following the prescribed review and approval procedures. Perhaps this is the opportunity for a national design competition.

Thank you for your consideration and bold response.

Name: Denise Moloney

Date: March 3, 2026 11:03:56 am

Joining many other ordinary American citizens who cherish our White House for its symbolism and its architecture, I voice my horror at the plans currently in place for the "East wing modernization". I have researched the history of the

White House on my own and listened to the presentations provided on both sides of this issue. The scope of this project is definitely not in keeping with the scale of the main building nor is the purpose in keeping with the heart of the American people. In addition , this proportion interferes with the original plan of the view from the Capital building to the White House laid out by L'anfante at George Washington's request!!

The insult to "the people's house" and the patriotic sensibilities of ordinary Americans when the wrecking balls and heavy demolition machinery suddenly appeared at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue was palpable on many levels. Please consider the classical architecture rules when assessing this project as well as the feelings of the American citizenry.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

Name: Thomas D'Ovidio

Date: March 3, 2026 11:05:02 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. The plans presented for the East Wing are out of proportion to the White House and Treasury Building plus over shadows the two. The East Wing design is not inline with standards for additions to historic buildings. I recommend the East Wing concept be rethought and redesigned with greater input from professionals who in the past have shown sensitivity when designing additions to historic buildings .

Name: Doris Boudens

Date: March 3, 2026 11:05:05 am

I write as a concerned citizen hoping to protect and preserve the White House as the People's House. I seek to bring attention that Americans do in fact care about preserving this historic structure, while also allowing appropriate modernization. It would be a long term mistake to allow this classic structure to be overwhelmed by a palace like ballroom. It is imperative that our national resources of academic and professional excellence be combined for this important update.

I attended GW long ago while my stepfather visited me while attended AIA meetings. I was lucky to take an extensive tour of the WH with him from an architectural perspective during these years. Most people may not realize what we may lose with an outsized addition, but I do.

Name: Bonnie MacKinnon

Date: March 3, 2026 11:09:49 am

Make sure you approve plans for the from the Trust, and not from Trump. Nobody wants his gaudy designs. He shouldn't have control of this in the first place.

Name: Kathy Codianne

Date: March 3, 2026 11:11:11 am

I oppose this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. Furthermore, the costs for the demolition and reconstruction should be paid by Donald Trump and not a penny should come from the American people.

The White House is the peoples' house. Donald Trump needs to be held accountable for his affront to our history our laws and the American People. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Barbara Schuessler

Date: March 3, 2026 11:13:28 am

I believe that the east wing modernization project should've been presented to the public for comment. It should remain historically preserved. Thank you.

Name: Cindy Martinez

Date: March 3, 2026 11:14:48 am

Rebuild the East Wing before he destroyed it. There is no need for a ballroom. Restore the Rose Garden with that money. We do not want a ballroom. Thank you.

Name: Laura Steinberg

Date: March 3, 2026 11:15:59 am

This project is an abomination and affront to the legacy and history of the “people’s house”, otherwise known as The White House. The scale, design and scope is totally inconsistent with the historic nature of the White House and surrounding grounds.

I strongly urge you to reject this application and to restore confidence in the objectivity and rationality of the review process. Please do not cave to political pressure.

Laura Steinberg

Name: Cora LAPLANTE

Date: March 3, 2026 11:17:57 am

I believe the current plans do not take into account the historic significance of the White House and are drastically out of proportion to the existing buildings and grounds. The plans only reflect the egotistical ideas of one person with no input from others who could represent a more professional and balanced perspective.

Name: Sue King

Date: March 3, 2026 11:18:45 am

As an American citizen, former historic preservation staff, history buff, and frequent visitor to Washington, DC, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on and request changes to the East Wing Modernization Project. While it is on occasion necessary to modernize public facilities, including the White House, to accommodate new needs and technologies, in the case of this project it is important to respect our history and the unparalleled viewsheds within our nation's capital city. This project as it is now, is completely out of scale and inappropriate to the needs of the executive branch and the American public. To that end, I request that this project be scaled back in these ways:

- Reduce Overall Size and Visibility.

The size, volume, and massing of the proposed new construction should be reduced or disguised, so the new building appears smaller than the Executive Residence.

- Protect Historic Views by Reducing Ballroom Footprint.

The proposed building should not extend past the existing south-facing façade of the Treasury Building, nor block views of the White House from Pennsylvania Avenue.

- Respect the Established Classical Composition of the White House Complex.

The new addition should retain the carefully balanced classical design of the White House complex with its two smaller, lower, and substantially symmetrical East and West Wings. Support buildings should be subordinate in size and height to the Executive Residence.

- The proposed South-facing Portico should be decreased in size or eliminated.

The proposed South Portico should be smaller and less grand in scale than the existing portico of the Executive Residence or the adjacent Treasury Building.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration of this request.

Name: Susan SHANKLE

Date: March 3, 2026 11:21:14 am

I understand that past presidents have made alterations to the White House. But in the face of current overhauls, we need

to make a stand about the limits any president can make. The White House belongs to the American people, not to any individual. Changes should be limited to maintenance and upkeep, and necessary upgrades (plumbing, electricity, wifi, etc.). Frivolous personal demolitions and additions (ballroom) should go through a strict series of reviews and authorizations to determine if the change is necessary, or would alter the National Building too much. The rules should be made clearly, in written form, exactly how much the White House can be changed, and would the change be necessary or not. At the bottom of all this is the idea that it's not the president's property: it is Ours, and therefore should reflect the tone of what our Lincoln stated: Of the People, By the People, and For the People.

Name: Julie Balza

Date: March 3, 2026 11:23:16 am

Hello,

I wholeheartedly object to the fact that a historic building was torn down without proper permission or planning. However, that is water under the bridge.

With respect to the plan, where are the emergency exits? Having no access to the south portico is foolish.

Additionally, I am not sure if this is the correct forum to raise this concern, but my question is this: Supposedly the cost of the project is covered by donors, but once there is the capacity to seat 1,000 or more people, who pays the cost of the many large functions that are expected to be held there? I assume we will be told all the functions are "official" and we taxpayers will foot the large inflated bills.

Name: Jeffrey Nix

Date: March 3, 2026 11:25:07 am

Dear members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

Thank you for your service and for your important consideration of the White House East Wing Renovation Project. I oppose the project as it is proposed. This project should transcend partisan politics and provide the American public with a practical solution to hosting presidential events, while respecting the historic view corridors and scale and scope in relation to the current White House configuration. Please reduce the massing by about 40% to maintain these architectural elements as recommended by the National Trust experts and consider their prudent recommendations that will make the interior space more usable and efficient. I do oppose the ornate columns and window details and believe these should be revised in concert with the neoclassical elements of the White House. Also, I believe the driveway symmetry should be maintained.

Thank you,

Jeffrey Nix

Burlingame, Ca

Name: andrea falzone

Date: March 3, 2026 11:27:28 am

I believe it is totally outrageous that this president tore down the East Wing without going through the established protocol that has existed for projects of this magnitude. He recklessly and impulsively acts on his own dark desires rejecting existing rules as if he is above the law. He should NOT be above the law. The country needs to rein him in before he destroys every shred of the fabric of this country.

Name: Trilby Busch

Date: March 3, 2026 11:30:48 am

The proposed project is way out of scale with the historic White House building. The East Wing Project plan does not relate to the architectural style of the residence and the siting creates an inharmonious jumble. The footprint of the project should be accordingly reduced. The new addition should retain the balanced classical design of the White House with its two smaller, lower, and substantially symmetrical East and West Wings. The proposed portico on the new south façade should be smaller in scale than the existing portico on the south façade of the existing residence. It's important to make this modernization in keeping with American architectural traditions as we approach on 250th anniversary of the nation's founding..

Name: Judy-Rae Karlsen

Date: March 3, 2026 11:36:19 am

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a written comment.

I attended and participated in the February workshop by NCPC. My comment from that presentation was, "Why is the NCPC reviewing, commenting, and providing modification recommendations on RENDERINGS? My question for this meeting is the same!

The WH administration did NOT provide NCPC AIA professionals with ACTUAL blueprints and construction plans for the TRUMP Ballroom developed by Project Architects, Civil Engineers, Structural Engineers.

President Trump stated yesterday at a White House press conference the construction crews are working and deep pilings are being installed. He also mentioned the Project is now under budget @ \$400 million and ahead of schedule.

I am asking the WH Administration to provide NCPC and the public with the set of blue prints and project documents that the current contractor is working from. (The signed, stamped, dated version.) Post it on the WH website.

The NCPC stated it did not receive professional construction documents from the White House. The NCPC received nothing but pictures, hopes, and dreams. This is a Federal Construction project on Federal Property... release the files!

Name: Leila Gough

Date: March 3, 2026 11:36:56 am

Please do not let this massive building be constructed. It dwarfs the people's house. Please constrain the size to fit in with the current White House for the people. While I understand that a ballroom is needed, reducing the proposed size to something more in tune with the style of the White House is important for the legacy of the building.

Name: Hillary Segl

Date: March 3, 2026 11:40:15 am

The White House is not only a historic structure, but a property that belongs NOT to the current resident but to the people of America.

The proposed monstrosity of an addition is unnecessary, unsightly, and should be blocked. Dwarfing the current structure and further defacing it are travesties. Given the exhibited tastes of the current occupant, He-Who-Should-Not-Be-President, it will be abhorrently out of context with the federal period of the historic home. Stop this at any cost.

Name: Roberta Catizone

Date: March 3, 2026 11:40:36 am

My greatest concern is the ballroom's mammoth projected height of more than 50 ft. I fear this will have the optical effect of making the White House look miniature and inferior. Surely, the main building should be the most prominent part of the final overall structure. Is there a reason the ballroom has to be 2 stories rather than 1? Given the bottom floor is only projected offices, it seems unnecessary. If absolutely necessary why not extend the footprint of the ballroom 1 story structure? A one story structure would be visually integrated with the White House so much better.

Name: Margaret Meeker

Date: March 3, 2026 11:41:26 am

The White House is the people's house and should reflect that. It is not a PALACE for any one single president to defile on a whim.

The White House itself, as it appears now, should be the major aesthetic for the building. A ballroom, regardless of how frequently or infrequently used, should NOT overshadow the home section of the US President.

A bi-partisan board should design, oversee, and implement any needed changes to the White House, its surrounding land, landscape, buildings or features. IF and only IF a new ballroom is needed, should one be built and then it should be in keeping with the scale, color, style, decor, and functionality of the rest of the public rooms of the White House complex. The board should include at least 1/3 of its members chosen from the general public at large -- not politicians or their cronies, not architects or landscape architects, but ordinary citizens whose house it ostensibly is!

No current president should have any say in renovations, demolitions, installations at the White House as he or she is only a temporary occupant of the White House. Former presidents and first ladies can be solicited for opinions as they will have had sufficient experience in utilizing the house on a day-to-day basis to offer useful insights into the functionality of proposed changes.

Name: Janis Arquette

Date: March 3, 2026 11:43:44 am

I agree with all the points brought forth in the presentation by David Scott Parker and Bill Bates. My initial thoughts on the events of October 2025 were: it's too big, too flashy and unnecessary. The information presented by the two architects (Parker and Bates) proves that the common man (woman) has common sense.

The initial proposal is a too large and too monstrous an addition- a monstrosity. It is lopsided, imbalanced, irrelevant, irreverent, unnecessary. The initial plan is pompous and so far from classy that it is an embarrassment for every American of sound mind. My comments so far have come from an emotional and visceral response. The presentation by architects Parker and Bates addresses my initial thoughts and then presents the practical aspects as well.

The South Portico of the ballroom is unusable and showy. Above grade services, unusually tall ceilings, cavernous dimensions, fake windows, non ADA accessible areas-ridiculous isn't a strong enough word. Moving ahead with the original plan would be shameful and threatening to American ideals that we hold dear.

Name: Jill Walton

Date: March 3, 2026 11:45:49 am

I oppose the demolition of the historic East Wing of the White House and am disheartened at the violation of preservation laws. This was a historic site that is now gone.

The plans for the oversized ballroom is not in scale or character of the White House. The White House should be the focus, not the ballroom. The rebuilding of this historical site should be done to restore the historical character of the building. There needs to be a transparent historical preservation review of the design, along with all funding for the project made public.

The East Wing and the White House is the People's House and should not be altered to satisfy personal or political purposes.

Thank you,
Jill Walton

Name: L. Calvin

Date: March 3, 2026 11:46:28 am

The White House, aka "The People's House" should never have been altered without the people's consent sine we will be paying for this destruction of part of a historic site. No one is above the law of the land. Current plans to this destruction of federal property can and should still be denied, shut down and prohibited in perpetuity. The People's House is a nationally recognized historic structure which has protections under the U.S. Department of the Interior. Thank you for allowing citizen input and we want common sense to prevail.

Name: Polly Dinkel

Date: March 3, 2026 11:49:45 am

I am a citizen concerned about the existing proposal for the East Wing Modernization Project. my main concerns are as follows:

1. Size of the proposed East Wing and colonnade in comparison to the rest of the White House complex, which distorts the classical proportions of the site to an extreme degree.
2. Elimination of the axial connection between the White House residence and the U.S. Capitol along Pennsylvania Avenue, as designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant at the direction of George Washington, ignoring the visual and symbolic importance of this feature and dismissing its historic nature.
3. Rerouting of the historic Frederick Law Olmstead circular drive on the South lawn of the White House, again dismissing the historic and important nature of this feature created by a famed American landscape architect.

All of these concerns could be addressed by a scaled-down and more thoughtfully designed project that would still achieve the purported purpose of the project, which is a ballroom that seats 1,000 guests. I urge the Commission to take these concerns into consideration in reviewing this project.

Thank you.

Name: Chip Goldstein

Date: March 3, 2026 11:50:20 am

It is already an abomination that the East Wing was torn down without NCPC involvement. Now, at least, work to ensure that the replacement building does not overshadow the White House residence section. Protect the "People's House"; do not allow a "king's ballroom" to detract from it.

Name: Victoria reynolds

Date: March 3, 2026 11:56:20 am

I am vehemently against the plans for this project. The wing was destroyed without historical preservation input nor support-costing hundreds of thousands and making our secret service vulunerable. And the new gaudy, immense plans during a current war, historic budget cuts across the entire federal government, families going deeper into poverty, historically large federal and contractor lay offs and lack of programs Americans and Congress voted for and paid into. AND these new "plans" were not created with historical preservation input or support along the construction process. The White House is the PEOPLE's house-not one President's house. We should always have a say. Thank you.

Name: Maureen O'Connor Leach

Date: March 3, 2026 11:56:34 am

I am greatly distressed by the blatant disregard for the preservation of the Peoples House by the Trump Administration. The historic East Wing of the White House was demolished without prior congressional approval or standard, long-term review by preservation agencies. This massive (2.36 cubic feet) structure will overshadow the White House and violates historic preservation laws and even the stated "need" as it is nearly 50% larger than what would be needed for the alleged need to accommodate 1,000 people. Furthermore, this monstrosity will defeat L'Enfant's layout of the capitol which allowed for vistas to/from the White House.

Damage has already been done to the landscape. The Jacqueline Kennedy Garden was uprooted and destroyed to make way for the project. At least two magnolia trees, planted in the 1940s to commemorate Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Warren G. Harding, were removed. The project is destroying the historic landscaping layout; gone will be the vistas and the green spaces designed with the 20th-century landscape plans of the Olmsted firm. Oversight is demanded to prevent such a questionable project being done in secret with provide funding and questionable motives.

Name: Megan Brown

Date: March 3, 2026 11:57:55 am

I would like to submit my opposition to the ballroom project. This project should not have been undertaken. Any changes

to the property going forth should be taken to disturb as little land as possible. Any further developments should prioritize energy efficiency and low impact construction.

Name: Susan Moses

Date: March 3, 2026 11:57:58 am

Hello,

I live in an historic district in Tn & have followed the guidelines here. It's not easy sometimes, but it's for our neighborhood common goal & what we sign up for when moving into a neighborhood with this distinction.

The travesty that Mr Trump has done to "the Peoples' House" is so wrong on every level!. Tearing down- without authorization or permission- our historic symbol of government and power is beyond belief. We CANNOT let this ill-begotten idea - if it is even that- proceed.

What Mr Trump has done to the American White House is how kings and dictators act, not Presidents whether R or D. The White House belongs to Americans. It is not any one President to decide. Ever.

We are Americans! We CANNOT have our laws and rights bulldozed by acquiescing to a bully who shoots first & does t even ask questions.

The East Wing must be put back, exactly as it was before he hastily razed it, and Mr Trump must pay every cent of it out of his own pocket. He must pay for every nail- just as any other person in D.C. who destroyed an historical building without proper permits...Just like you or I would.

Honoring our history is crucial. My relatives fought in WW11, my own late brother, a colonel & Dr at Walter Reed for 30 years, and so many others would be incredulous at what's happened to our White House. And at the thought of America rolling over to any man- President or not- who shows no respect for our constitution & our laws.

Mr Trump once said he could shoot somebody on 5th Avenue & get away with it. Let's not let him get away with this. Its the heart of our capitol, it is People's House!

Name: Emelia Lehmann

Date: March 3, 2026 11:58:24 am

I am submitting this comment to express concern for the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition as part of the East Wing Modernization Project at the White House.

The White House is not merely a functional residence or event venue—it is a cornerstone of the historic urban plan of Washington, D.C. and a symbol of our national identity. The proposed ballroom design appears to disregard the carefully conceived urban framework established by Pierre Charles L'Enfant, whose plan emphasized axial views, proportionality, and the primacy of monumental sightlines, as well as the landscape designs by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. Introducing a structure of this scale into the White House grounds risks undermining that historic framework and eroding the integrity of one of the most carefully planned capital cities in the world.

Of particular concern is the impact on public views. The White House grounds have long preserved open sightlines that allow Americans and visitors alike to experience an unobstructed visual connection to the President's House. A ballroom of this magnitude would compromise these views, effectively blocking or diminishing public vantage points that are central to the symbolic openness of our democracy. Any addition that interrupts or competes with this iconic silhouette diminishes the public's relationship to a site that belongs to the American people.

The proposed size—90,000 square feet—is plainly disproportionate to the White House (approximately 55,000 square feet), the West Wing (40,000 square feet), and the historic landscape. Such an oversized structure would dominate the complex rather than complement it. Historic preservation principles call for additions and dependencies to be subordinate and compatible in scale, massing, and character. This proposal appears inconsistent with those standards. Additionally, the proposed size of the ballroom is significantly larger than industry standard square footage for accommodating the White House's stated goal of 650 seated guests, meaning that this space would feel cavernous and empty even during a large event. The administration has yet to provide a justification for such a large event space.

Moreover, the ballroom's massive portico, which appears to have no clearly defined public function, introduces

Corinthian columns into a setting where other White House structures rely primarily on Doric and Ionic orders. These are not trivial details. The architectural vocabulary of the grounds has been carefully composed, with classical orders used deliberately to convey hierarchy and significance. Departing from that established language undermines the coherence of the site and conflicts with the symbolic integrity of the White House as a whole.

Additionally, it is troubling that the plans reportedly include non-public spaces whose purpose has not been clearly articulated. Expanding the complex with substantial square footage that is neither publicly accessible nor transparently justified raises serious questions about necessity, stewardship, and long-term impact—not to mention questions of energy usage and sustainability at a time of surging energy costs and widespread environmental change. Public land and nationally significant historic resources should not be altered to accommodate ambiguous or undefined uses.

Several alternative proposals have been put forward for a ballroom structure that would be more compatible with the White House, its grounds, and the historic plan of Washington, D.C. Given these options, it would be prudent to carefully evaluate reasonable alternatives before moving forward. Doing so would help minimize potential adverse effects and ensure that any changes protect the integrity of the White House complex.

The White House is a National Historic Landmark owned by the American people and stewarded by the National Park Service. Any permanent alteration of this magnitude demands the highest level of scrutiny, transparency, and public engagement. I urge the reviewing bodies—including the National Capital Planning Commissions—to carefully consider the long-term consequences of this proposal and to reject any design that compromises the historic plan of Washington, blocks public views, or overwhelms the scale and character of the White House grounds.

This is a rare and consequential decision. The integrity of one of our nation's most significant historic places must be preserved for future generations. That the East Wing was demolished without any public notice and its building materials discarded rather than preserved or repurposed is appalling--the structure that replaces such a renowned building should undergo a thorough review to ensure that it meets the needs of its owners, the American people.

Name: Theresa Hall

Date: March 3, 2026 12:01:12 pm

First, the sneaky and unlawful way the East Wing of the Whitehouse was suddenly demolished is unacceptable and unlawful. An icon of our great country was completely destroyed. I have viewed the webinar about the two sets of plans for this monstrosity of a ballroom and am totally against either one. The larger plan with the fake doors, windows, and monstrous columns are in-line with all of the "vanity" projects this President has developed or wants to develop around our nation. A serious issue with this project is that neither are ADA compliant. That alone is unlawful. Why do these plans include such an incredible amount of WASTED space such as overly high ceiling, a kitchen that takes up more room than the event space and footprint that engulfs everything around it? For these and so many other reasons, as a disabled veteran and U.S. citizen, I am adamantly against this ballroom project completely.

Name: Caroline SooHoo

Date: March 3, 2026 12:02:00 pm

In my opinion, it would be more appropriate if the massing, scale, and siting of the proposed ballroom project would respect the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines for significant historic buildings and sites. In my opinion, the proposed project is located too close in proximity to the White House; and the massing and scale of the proposed project overwhelms the existing site plan of the White House.

Name: Karen Knight

Date: March 3, 2026 12:02:23 pm

I am writing to express my opinion regarding the "White House ballroom project" presently being reviewed by the NCPC. I have volunteered and served on an Historic Preservation Commission in my hometown for many years. I have deep appreciation for preservation and believe that our White House is the premier embodiment of our history.

The present design plans for the creation of this ballroom are unacceptable for numerous reasons:

- 1.) The proposed scale of the extension is entirely too large. From a purely aesthetic point of view it dominates the White House and its surrounding campus. It is asymmetrical and unbalanced.
- 2.) The proposed square footage substantially exceeds the industry standards of 10 square feet per person.

3.) The proposed building will severely compromise the view from the White House to Capital which was designed by Lafant when Washington D.C. was originally plotted.

4.) Holmsted's landscape design will need to be modified to accommodate the size of the extension. It would be aesthetically unbalanced.

5.) This present design enlists "fake" proponents: the portico which serves absolutely no purpose; windows; doors. This is not in keeping with our historic standards.

6.) A building of this size will be needed for use on only few occasions. It is entirely too big and will require a large amount of our taxpayer dollars to maintain.

7.) Where would the needed parking be located when this ballroom would be in use?

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Knight

Name: Alison Frazee

Date: March 3, 2026 12:02:25 pm

Please find a comment letter attached from Greater Portland Landmarks, a nonprofit in Portland, Maine.

Thank you

[Attachment](#)

Name: Nancy Pontone

Date: March 3, 2026 12:07:52 pm

Trump is trying to wipe out history with his design for a huge new ballroom.

The new ballroom is so large it becomes the main feature as opposed to the White House itself. The scale of the ballroom is larger than industry standards for 1,000 seated guests. The ceiling height of the proposed ballroom is 23' higher than any ceiling in the White House.

The proposed ballroom totally blocks the axial view to the Capitol building from the White House that was designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant who was commissioned to plan the city layout by George Washington in 1791.

The east portico with the entrance to the proposed ballroom is 170% larger than the White House north portico and 35% larger than the Treasury building north portico across the street. Additions to historic properties should be scaled smaller than original buildings.

The symmetrical drive on the grounds of the White House designed by Frederick Law Olmsted is detoured in the proposed plan because of the large scale.

Corinthian columns are used on the ballroom porticos. Ionic columns are used on the White House and Treasury building. Corinthian design is more decorative and out of place in context of the White House campus.

The south portico of the proposed ballroom has stairways but no entrance. It could be eliminated and substantially reduce the proposed size of the ballroom. The third floor of the proposed ballroom could be lowered from 19' to reduce size. No plans have been disclosed for this space.

Please don't build as proposed.

Name: Richard Jones

Date: March 3, 2026 12:10:39 pm

It is notable that to the best of my knowledge few individuals have indicated their support for a new White House ballroom on the scale proposed by the President. It is plainly obvious that this addition to the White House is too big. It is unfortunate that the Fine Arts Commission rubber-stamped the request. I hope that the NCPC will show its courage and independence and reject this request.

Name: Todd Timmcke

Date: March 3, 2026 12:10:52 pm

Overscale and completely unnecessary. There are many other federal building options to serve for such an event space. A waste of money. Will detract from the classicism that is the White House grounds.. Illegal

Name: Candice Keith

Date: March 3, 2026 12:11:39 pm

I am very much opposed to a ballroom being added to the White House and the demolition that has already taken place illegally. This is the people's house, not the President's. If it's possible to restore what was already there and not have a ballroom, that would be the best option. If there is no way to stop putting a ballroom in, at least it should comply with whatever the historic register calls for in terms of size. I don't agree with the plans for such a massive project just because the president wants it.

Name: Kay Weisman

Date: March 3, 2026 12:12:00 pm

[Attachment](#)

Name: Laure Seynhaeve

Date: March 3, 2026 12:14:38 pm

If the ballroom is necessary it would be appropriate to have it sized in comparison to the White House main building so that it doesn't dwarf it

Name: Katherine Brokaw

Date: March 3, 2026 12:16:35 pm

To whom it may concern: I am opposed to the proposed structure to replace the demolished East Wing. First, it is not any single President's right to unilaterally destroy and alter major parts of the White House. Second, the proposed design dwarfs the White House. It is wholly out of scale and proportion. It should be lower than the White House itself. Third, I object to the process by which this administration claims it can proceed. The White House and its grounds are protected by specific laws, rules, and public input. The demolition of the East Wing was unprecedented and unjustified, and it destroyed precious historic locations. Enough!

Name: victoria keller

Date: March 3, 2026 12:16:45 pm

The ballroom should be smaller and the same height as the White House. And they shouldn't have torn down the East Wing

Name: Carol Aten

Date: March 3, 2026 12:16:56 pm

The ballroom design is a bastardized neo-classical monstrosity. Its elements are out of proportion, and its scale is disrespectful of the White House.

Referring to the White House as "the Central Pavillion" diminishes its place as the main structure and the historic home of the President, now subjugating it to the ballroom. The double-story East Wing connection, formerly a light filled colonnaded structure would be a solid, two-story blank wall competing with the White House in its ungainly size and scale. Even the columns are wrong—too tall and fat and not matching those of the White House—new columns to be Corinthian; White House columns are slender and Ionic.

On a more technical note, an architect friend of mine noted that the ballroom intended to host 1,000 people for a formal

seated event has no apparent service side for deliveries, trash collection, etc. Is the current White House kitchen equipped to prepare and serve 1,000 meals? Is the access for security screenings adequate to manage such a large volume of people for a single event.

The entire design is “the tail wagging the dog”, and at the very least, NCPC should tell the architects to go back to the drawing board and come up with a more appropriate and functional design.

Carol Aten

Washington, DC

Name: Duncan Burt

Date: March 3, 2026 12:17:01 pm

I am writing to submit comments regarding the proposed White House Ballroom project.

I have had the opportunity to review the presentation prepared by David Parker and Bill Bates, as assembled by Tom Mays of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. I found their analysis thoughtful and their recommendations well-grounded in the principles of historic preservation and contextual design.

While I recognize the functional need for an expanded event space and appreciate the planning effort invested to date, I believe it is imperative that the size, scale, and architectural character of any proposed ballroom be fully responsive to the recommendations put forward in their presentation. The White House and its immediate surroundings represent one of the most historically and symbolically significant sites in the United States, and any addition or alteration must respect that context in the most rigorous way possible.

I would strongly urge that additional review be conducted — including consultation with preservation specialists, urban design professionals, and the broader public — before this project advances further. Particular attention should be given to ensuring that the proposed structure is compatible with the historic fabric, the visual environment, and the architectural character of the surrounding cityscape.

Name: John Ryan

Date: March 3, 2026 12:22:54 pm

The country I love needs important things. Health care. Lower corruption. Building this ballroom is like building the grand palace at Versailles when most of France was hungry. A sneering "let them eat cake". And it indicates a cold disregard to the needs of those in the country who feel the government has gone from not caring enough to actively trying to hurt them.

Name: Jen Tucker

Date: March 3, 2026 12:23:53 pm

Please reconsider this large scale ballroom. It is not necessary. The scale doesn't make sense, as compared to the actual executive mansion of the White House. History will not look kindly on this process. It is well known that the commission is stacked with Trump's handpicked people.

It makes no sense that the ballroom keeps getting bigger. It is not necessary. Please reconsider!

Name: Barbara Wright

Date: March 3, 2026 12:26:23 pm

[Attachment](#)

Name: Aidan Race

Date: March 3, 2026 12:26:56 pm

"It won't interfere with the current building. It'll be near it but not touching it, and pays total respect to the existing building, which I'm the biggest fan of". This was a quote from President Trump in July of 2025. Since then he has torn down the East Wing of the White House with seemingly no asbestos protection for the employees, and has had issues procuring an architect willing to design his gaudy pet project. It is my personal belief that maybe President Trump could take a step back from his interior design and decorating projects and worry more about issues the American people actually care about like the rising cost of healthcare, groceries, and childcare. No one asked for a ballroom, they have been asking for him to deliver on his promises. Seeing as the President is more worried about his legacy and putting an irreversible mark on the Capitol and country, I don't expect anything to change.

Name: Anne Kabel

Date: March 3, 2026 12:27:40 pm

While I am appalled at the size and overall design plan Trump has proposed, I am not opposed to change.

I do believe that if a ballroom is to be built, it should not overshadow the White House in size. It needs to blend in with the overall architectural style.

Strict guidance needs to be applied to this project in order to make sure rules are followed.

The blatant disrespect this administration has shown towards the proper steps that needed to be taken is beyond belief.

I do hope this commission has the courage to stand up to them.

Name: Leah Greenwald

Date: March 3, 2026 12:32:16 pm

Classicism in architecture is about balance, proportion, and their symbolic (as well as visual) meaning.

The proposed design for the East Wing completely violates the historic classical design of the nation's capital by grossly overshadowing the direct view of the White House— arguably the most symbolic building in the United States—from the Capitol building. Having destroyed what was a symmetric, proportional wing of the central main residence, long known as The People's House, the goal of the current design is grandiosity. Its size vastly exceeds its functional needs by all criteria of rational design and classical aesthetics. It does not comply with requirements of accessibility law. Its decorative choices (e.g., Corinthian rather than Ionic columns, window "indications" on the outside which are blank on the inside) are anti-classical and conflict with the historic building of which it is supposed to be only a wing.

Irony for an administration which wants to impose classical design for all federal buildings.

Name: Susan Brown

Date: March 3, 2026 12:32:32 pm

My basic objection to the proposed design is that it is way too big, ostentatious, overshadowing the White House, blocking the view of the White House from Pennsylvania Avenue and distorting the beautiful symmetry and classical design of the White House. Also I object to the ballroom's portico for two reasons. It is 170% larger than the porticos of the White House and the Treasury Building. It is also "faux" with no doors giving access to the interior and fake "windows" of solid concrete along the side. This looks bad (distasteful) to visitors and is a waste of money. The oversized proposed East wing would also mean distorting the circular or oval drive to the White House, obvious and disturbing to any car driving on it. A classical Palladian window would be lost or disrupted. A ballroom, no matter how important, should not look so much grander than the White House or the Treasury.

Also, the White House is the American people's house, so any renovation that so extremely distorts the design should be subject to traditional architectural review and probably consent by Congress after public comment.

Name: Diane Sheridan

Date: March 3, 2026 12:33:15 pm

I respectfully submit my concerns regarding the proposed ballroom addition to the White House.

The White House is a nationally significant historic property and a contributing feature of the federally protected core of Washington, D.C. It is a National Park and a national treasure that belongs to the American people and needs to be protected. Any substantial addition must be evaluated not only for proven functional need, but for its compliance with established preservation principles and federal design oversight standards.

1. Consistency with the L'Enfant Plan and Federal City Framework

The original plan for Washington, designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant in 1791, established a system of grand avenues, axial alignments, and carefully composed vistas linking the nation's principal institutions. The visual and symbolic relationship between the White House and the United States Capitol is central to that plan and to the function of the Federal Government.

If the proposed ballroom addition interrupts this sightline from the Capitol toward the White House, it would not only alter a significant urban design element but also weaken an enduring symbolic connection embedded in the city's original plan. The city's historic urban design is subject to federal preservation oversight. The proposed ballroom destroys sight lines and traffic flow.

2. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties

Under widely accepted federal preservation standards, new additions to historic properties should:

- Be differentiated yet compatible
- Be subordinate in scale and massing
- Avoid destroying historic materials, features, or spatial relationships
- Preserve significant views and character-defining features

The current proposed ballroom introduces disproportionate massing, alters key sightlines, and overwhelms the Executive Residence, all conflicting with these established standards.

3. Impact on Character-Defining Features and National Symbolism

The White House's defining qualities include its restrained neoclassical proportions, axial symmetry, and visual prominence within a carefully protected landscape setting. An addition of inappropriate scale compromises both the architectural integrity of the building and its role within the broader monumental core.

The White House functions not only as a residence but as a symbol embedded in a nationally protected historic framework and modifications should be approached with the highest level of review and adherence to preservation law and precedent.

Given the national significance of this site, I urge that any proposed addition:

- Preserve the Capitol–White House axis and associated vistas
- Remain CLEARLY SUBORDINATE in height, massing, and architectural expression with the removal of any unnecessary porticos, porches, and ceiling height.
- Undergo rigorous review consistent with federal preservation standards
- Demonstrate full compatibility with the L'Enfant Plan and the historic urban design of Washington, D.C.
-

The architectural integrity of the people's White House and the historic plan of the nation's capital are IRREPLACABLE public assets. They warrant the highest level of protection.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Sheridan
Spring Lake, Michigan

Name: Andrea Pearson

Date: March 3, 2026 12:33:29 pm

Dear NCPC,

I write to ask that you halt construction of the East Wing Ballroom. At 90,000 square feet, it is almost double the 55,000 square feet of the existing White House building. The new structure will far outstrip the residence of its physical and symbolic stature. Only a significant reduction in scale will stop this effect. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation in fact prohibits a design of this type: additions to historic structures must be subordinate in scale and size, distinct from the historic building (not replicating it), and compatible with its materials, features, and massing.

Please consider reconstructing the previous East Wing, which clearly met the Standards while conveying American values of historical continuity, presidential representation of the nation, and political patriotism in ways the new ballroom will not.

Thank you,
Andrea Pearson

Name: David Cassidy

Date: March 3, 2026 12:39:35 pm

At a time when our country is in the middle of an affordability crisis, waging war overseas, and failing to deliver healthcare and food to its own people, the United States does not need the expenditure or spectacle of building an East Wing Ballroom.

The design itself is gaudy and uninspiring, and it is unfit to sit alongside and to dominate the People's House in size and expenditures. America does not need or want a palace to house its elected leader.

The destruction of the former East Wing was itself a travesty. To erect this monstrosity would double that horror. No amount of brick, cement, and gold leaf can feed our children, ensure our people are healthy, secure peace domestically and overseas, or satisfy the ego of the person responsible for this endeavor. This project must be ceased forthwith.

Further, it is abhorrent that the project is sponsored by private donors without sufficient oversight from the public, represented by members of Congress and their designees. America is a republic. This project's goals and operations are affronts to our constitution and the very idea of a government for and by the people.

Do not approve these plans. Ensure the project is stopped until proper governance can assure the public that our money will be invested in a project worthy of its location as part to the People's House.

Name: Kate Lee

Date: March 3, 2026 12:41:00 pm

This proposal is an abomination and insult to the American people.

The proposal should be rejected. The only acceptable construction is to return the East Wing to the prior configuration. Any "Ballroom" should be worked into the existing footprint of the former East Wing.

Name: Melissa Olsen

Date: March 3, 2026 12:41:02 pm

The White House is a historic and honored site. The demolition of the East Wing, and the proposed construction of a ballroom are a travesty. All progress on that project should cease and restoration to the previous footprint should begin immediately. This is a national treasure, no a party scene for the President's cronies. This is akin to tearing do the Louvre or Westminster Abbey. It is an outrage on the American public, our history and our future.

Name: Harlan K Groves

Date: March 3, 2026 12:44:03 pm

Lock Him Up! Charge him with destruction of government property and put him in prison where he belongs.

Name: Tina Cover-Heitzman

Date: March 3, 2026 12:45:43 pm

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,

I understand that past presidents have made alterations to the White House. But in the face of current overhauls, we need

to make a stand about the limits any president can make. The White House belongs to the American people, not to any individual. Changes should be limited to maintenance and upkeep, and necessary upgrades (plumbing, electricity, wifi, etc.). Frivolous personal demolitions and additions (ballroom) should go through a strict series of reviews and authorizations to determine if the change is necessary, or would alter the National Building too much. The rules should be clear, in written form, stating exactly how much the White House can be altered. At the bottom of all this is the idea that it's not the president's property: it is Ours, and therefore should reflect the tone of what President Lincoln stated: Of the People, By the People, and For the People.

Thank you,
Tina Cover-Heitzman

Name: Susan Allen Kline
Date: March 3, 2026 12:45:44 pm

I am voicing my opposition to the proposed ballroom/east wing addition to the White House, the "People's House."

I oppose it as a response to the unauthorized demolition of the East Wing.

I oppose it because the proposed design of the new wing is out of scale to the remainder of the building which is a National Historic Landmark.

I oppose it for the financial burden it will place on the country. Although its construction may be financed by donors, are those donors providing an endowment for its continued operation and maintenance?

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Roger Heitzman
Date: March 3, 2026 12:46:21 pm

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,

I understand that past presidents have made alterations to the White House. But in the face of current overhauls, we need to make a stand about the limits any president can make. The White House belongs to the American people, not to any individual. Changes should be limited to maintenance and upkeep, and necessary upgrades (plumbing, electricity, wifi, etc.). Frivolous personal demolitions and additions (ballroom) should go through a strict series of reviews and authorizations to determine if the change is necessary, or would alter the National Building too much. The rules should be clear, in written form, stating exactly how much the White House can be altered. At the bottom of all this is the idea that it's not the president's property: it is Ours, and therefore should reflect the tone of what President Lincoln stated: Of the People, By the People, and For the People.

Thank you,
Roger Heitzman

Name: Ed Holler
Date: March 3, 2026 12:46:36 pm

I am opposed to this "ballroom" project for many reasons. Trump does not have the authority to drastically modify OUR national buildings and structures. He has shown no interest in respecting procedures to make changes, in this domain and in most other areas such as individual liberties, institutional protocols, and long standing international relations. For this specific project, he finds little support from the agencies who should approve this, nor does he have the support of the American people. Who did he ask for permission to tear down the East Wing? Trump must be forced to follow procedures. He is not a king.

I urge you to reject this project and provide guidance so that nothing else will be demeaned by a thoughtless, rogue idiot who does not follow protocols and feeds his ego with unnecessary projects.

This individual project was not requested by gaining the needed approvals under normal operating procedures and should not be permitted to progress.

Name: Alicia Pini
Date: March 3, 2026 12:47:37 pm

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,

I understand that past presidents have made alterations to the White House. But in the face of current overhauls, we need to make a stand about the limits any president can make. The White House belongs to the American people, not to any individual. Changes should be limited to maintenance and upkeep, and necessary upgrades (plumbing, electricity, wifi, etc.). Frivolous personal demolitions and additions (ballroom) should go through a strict series of reviews and authorizations to determine if the change is necessary, or would alter the National Building too much. The rules should be clear, in written form, stating exactly how much the White House can be altered. At the bottom of all this is the idea that it's not the president's property: it is Ours, and therefore should reflect the tone of what President Lincoln stated: Of the People, By the People, and For the People.

Thank you,
Alicia Pini

Name: Anne Swenson
Date: March 3, 2026 12:49:36 pm

The proposed ballroom structure disrupts the axial relationship between THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE and the U.S. Capitol. The axial relationship is a relationship approved by George Washington that will forever be interrupted by the proposed ballroom structure.

In addition to disrupting the axial relationship (the visual symbolism linking two branches of our government -- the White House and the U.S. Capitol), the proposed structure of the ballroom disrupts the legacy of the Frederick Law Olmsted circular drive.

Moreover, the proposed ballroom structure is at odds with the White House's (and U.S. Treasury's) Classical Architecture. For example, the proposed ballroom structure lacks the utility so prized by Classical Architecture. There is no access to the interior from the proposed ballroom portico, and it is not ADA accessible. The enormity of proposed ballroom structure is also out of balance and at odds with Classical Architecture symmetry in its scale and volume.

(The proposed ballroom structure is nearly THREE TIMES the original White House in volume.)

In sum, the design should not be approved.

The proposed ballroom structure disrespects The People's House.

It is not only out of step with the pillars of Classical Architecture but is out of keeping with our nation's history and our core foundational principles.

Thank You.

Name: Jay Seay
Date: March 3, 2026 12:51:15 pm

Oh boy!!! A palatial ballroom fit for American oligarchs. A super-sized design that makes a mockery of long-standing historic preservation law and standards, the extraordinary historical and architectural significance of the White House and its 18 acre site, and of course, the American people. The proposed 90,000 square foot behemoth will overwhelm the classic 19th century People's House and site. Such an obvious display of domination and contempt. "The White House belongs to the American people."

Name: Margaret O'Meara
Date: March 3, 2026 12:51:49 pm

I understand that past presidents have made alterations to the White House. But in the face of current overhauls, we need to make a stand about the limits any president can make. The White House belongs to the American people, not to any individual. Changes should be limited to maintenance and upkeep, and necessary upgrades (plumbing, electricity, wifi, etc.). Frivolous personal demolitions and additions (ballroom) should go through a strict series of reviews and authorizations to determine if the change is necessary, or would alter the National Building too much. The rules should be clear, in written form, stating exactly how much the White House can be altered. At the bottom of all this is the idea that

it's not the president's property: it is Ours, and therefore should reflect the tone of what President Lincoln stated: Of the People, By the People, and For the People.

Name: Andra Eglitis, AIA

Date: March 3, 2026 12:54:19 pm

This proposed design is grossly out of proportion and wholly inappropriate for an addition to this historic building. The lack of symmetry and the gross scale go against all the principles of classical architecture. The irregular addition is so enormously out of scale that it affect the walking paths and drives of the lawn and destroys the original symmetry, ideal scale and proportion of the South Lawn. The placement of the windows on the elevation is also all wrong. The proposed East Wing dwarfs the central building section and throws the entire White House out of proportion. This cannot be allowed to be constructed without critical revisions, such as lowering the total height, pulling back the length of the addition, and making it more narrow so it doesn't negatively impact the lawn. The addition should not feel shoehorned into the existing site but should be harmonious and the overall effect that it always belong. This is not that. This is the People's house and shall not be a monument to a tiny man who needs to feed his sad ego.

Name: Erin Barron

Date: March 3, 2026 12:54:46 pm

Bigger is not better.

The Whitehouse belongs to citizens in the general population of the United States. The President is a temporary occupant whom we allow to reside during their term. Just as any other real estate, the owners of the property have final determination of changes to said property. The classical, symmetrical design of the Whitehouse itself and the grounds designed by Olmsted, as well as the well-thought, meaningful La Font layout of the city are our valuable heritage. The temporary occupant has no right to destroy these.

The executive branch's proposed design for the East Wing ballroom is outsized for the requested purpose of seating 1000 people. The kitchens below are also twice the size required to serve 1000. The east portico is non-functional and designed with Corinthian columns which overpower the Whitehouse's more discrete Ionic. The vast size is alarming, minimizes the elegant historic Whitehouse and blocks LaFont's design connecting the Capitol and Whitehouse. Please use a new, efficient design which will respect the historic significance and reflect the classic, elegant architecture of our house. The current plan is gaudy and nonsensical. It lays to ruin the city plan and the delicate balance and scale of the Whitehouse grounds. It is the antithesis of ergonomic and environmental considerations. The seldom-used ballroom will be heated and air conditioned year round, with other maintenance costs as well. Americans have never wanted a ballroom in which we will never step foot. We want honest, decent government officials with integrity.

Name: Claire Hempel

Date: March 3, 2026 12:55:50 pm

I am writing to express my unequivocal and vehement opposition to the proposed East Wing project at the White House—an undertaking that threatens to permanently undermine the historic fabric, cultural integrity, and national symbolism of our country's most iconic residence.

For more than two centuries, the White House has stood not only as the home of the presidency but as a powerful testament to our shared democratic heritage. Its architectural character is woven into the national consciousness. Every alteration carries profound responsibility. Each generation acts not as owner but as caretaker—entrusted with preserving, not redefining, the legacy of this irreplaceable landmark.

The East Wing project, as described, represents a dramatic departure from this duty of stewardship. Its scale and intervention would irrevocably distort the architectural harmony painstakingly preserved through wars, expansions, and restorations. Such a drastic reconfiguration places convenience and contemporary preference above history, continuity, and national identity. Once this historic balance is disrupted, it cannot be restored.

I implore all decision-makers to reconsider this course before inflicting permanent damage on a site that belongs to every American, present and future. Any modification to the White House must meet the highest possible threshold of necessity—and this project demonstrably does not. The potential consequences far outweigh any asserted benefits.

We owe a profound obligation to preserve the White House as it has long stood: dignified, balanced, and emblematic of our democratic ideals. I urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to halt the East Wing project and pursue alternatives that respect both the historical context and the American public's rightful expectation of preservation.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. Our nation's heritage deserves nothing less than the utmost care.

Name: Dana Supplee

Date: March 3, 2026 12:57:10 pm

This is an abhorrent and disgusting waste of our tax payer dollars. We are in a very un[popular and hideous war because of an incompetent President who cares more about curtains and statues than he does about the citizens of this country. This needs to stop. This is not his house it is the people's house and we do not want or need a renovation. The only renovation we need is in the seat of the presidency.

Name: Peter Fridrich

Date: March 3, 2026 1:00:29 pm

Looks Great! A project that should have been done long ago. Thank you for moving foward.

Name: Linda Avakian

Date: March 3, 2026 1:04:48 pm

Destroying the East Wing of the White House was a criminal act in my opinion, considering no reviews and comments were considered before this action.

Now the ballroom is a hideous oversized monstrosity that takes away from the People's House. This project should never have been considered or allowed.

Trump should be required to replace the original East Wing structure!

Please make this right!

Name: Kara Lieman

Date: March 3, 2026 1:05:54 pm

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to share my thoughts regarding the construction of a new White House Ballroom and the East Wing Modernization Project.

The demolition of the East Wing last October was deeply upsetting. I have been fortunate enough to visit the White House several times during the holiday season, and the East Wing was always one of the most memorable parts of the experience. I remember the warmth felt and welcoming smell of the East Wing visitor's entrance, the wood paneling, and the portraits of our First Ladies lining the walls. I recall seeing the Gold Star Tree in the East Garden room, looking out the window toward the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden, and walking through the East Colonnade. The East Colonnade, in particular, was a favorite of mine. Each time I walked through it, I thought about the First Ladies who used that hallway daily, the Presidents, dignitaries, celebrities and guests who had passed through, and the privilege of stepping on the same herringbone bricks that First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy walked during her televised 1962 tour. It is difficult to accept that so many historic spaces were demolished and reduced to rubble without any public input.

For nearly two centuries, the East Room has served as the primary venue for hosting galas, state receptions, concerts and balls. The Entrance Hall has also provided additional space when needed. It brings to mind the iconic Pete Souza photograph of John Travolta dancing with Princess Diana in the Entrance Hall.

I understand that the White House must evolve to meet modern needs and to support the work of the Presidency and the American people. However, I am concerned that a new ballroom may unintentionally limit the experience of guests attending events there.

Visitors might enter only the new addition of the ballroom, rather than the historic residence itself. They may miss the opportunity to see the Green, Blue and Red Rooms, or the Library, Vermeil Room and China Room – spaces rich with history that make a visit to the White House truly meaningful.

The loss of the East Wing's historic spaces is irreversible, and that makes thoughtful planning for any new structure even more important. Any new structure should remain smaller in scale than the residence itself and should not detract from its historic profile or view from the street.

If a ballroom is built, it could certainly serve as a valuable indoor venue. The key is to ensure that it is used regularly and does not sit idle except for state dinners or large receptions. This raises an important question: what role will the East Room play once a ballroom exists? The residence itself risks being overshadowed, with the new ballroom taking center stage. Any new structure should complement – not overshadow – the historic White House residence.

There are several functional needs that I believe could be addressed as part of this project:

- Public restrooms for visitors attending events or tours.
- A permanent coat room or storage area for coats and bags, recognizing that the current no-bag policy can be challenging for some guests.
- Accessibility features that fully meet ADA requirements, including wheelchair-accessible ramps, elevators, wider doorways and accessible restrooms.
- Dedicated office space for the First Lady and her staff, whose work is essential to each administration and deserves a stable, uninterrupted workspace.

While a ballroom may reduce the need for tents or temporary facilities, it will also require long-term maintenance and staffing. Long-term cost savings of this project may be limited. A larger event space could also lead to larger guest lists, increasing security demands and hospitality needs. Washington, D.C. already has many large event spaces nearby that could be considered if an event were to warrant a larger space - including the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium and the ballroom at the Waldorf Astoria.

I want to emphasize that I am not entirely opposed to the idea of a new ballroom or to thoughtful updates that help the White House function more effectively. My concern is simply that any new construction should enhance the experience of visiting the White House – not overshadow the historic residence or diminish the spaces that hold such deep meaning for the American people.

Thank you for considering these thoughts as planning continues. I share them out of deep respect for the history of the White House and the experience it provides to all who are fortunate enough to visit. The White House is a living symbol of our nation's history and any additions should honor that legacy while preserving the character, scale and spirit. The White House does not belong to any one President – it belongs to the American people. It is, and should always remain "The People's House".

Respectfully,
Kara Lieman

Name: Ellen Alward

Date: March 3, 2026 1:06:13 pm

I think that the East Wing should be rebuilt and modernized. I am absolutely opposed to a ballroom of any size, regardless of whether it is publicly or privately funded. A ballroom would diminish the White House and its historical significance.

Everyone who participate in the unauthorized demolition of there East Wing should e held to account.

Name: Sarah F. Scarlett

Date: March 3, 2026 1:11:16 pm

I am writing as an architectural historian and cultural resources professional to urge the NCPC to adhere to the standing laws and traditions regarding physical alterations in and around the President's House. I understand that section 107 of the National Historic Preservation Act exempts the White House from the law's standard protections and requirements, but protocols and traditions are in place to ensure that our nation's most important places are not sacrificed to the whims of a single person or small group. President Trump has disrespected your commission, the Fine Arts Commission, and all American citizens by razing the East Wing without following these established protocols. His brash actions made it impossible for professional historians and conservationists to even document, record, examine, or preserve any of the important physical fabric from the East Wing, a part of the White House that shaped almost a century of civic and cultural activity. He has denied Americans our right to learn from our own built heritage. This damage he has already done does not need to be worsened by continued disregard for law and tradition. I urge you, the NCPC, to stand up for the importance of protocols and standards. Please insist that any new addition or modernization of the White House be developed with due regard for the NHPA laws (especially section 106) and traditions established for DC, including due regard for public comment, design principles that do not overshadow the historic White House and its surroundings, and a

sense of national collectivity. What you decide now will have a legacy lasting hundreds of years. I urge you to respect the public good and hold Pres. Trump and his administration accountable to the people of the United States. Thank you.

Name: Judith Aita

Date: March 3, 2026 1:11:47 pm

The proposed plan for the replacement of the demolished East Wing of the White House represents the destruction of both the architecture and history of what is the iconic symbol of the United States -- the White House -- and the historic urban planning that reflects the relationship of America's democracy and its capital city. The plans give no indication that there is either understanding or respect for the legacy and inheritance that the founding fathers and succeeding national leaders left to the American people -- all Americans, not just a chosen few.

This project, above all capital projects in the District, must respect the legacy we the American people fought for and inherited 250 years ago.

Symbolism is a key factor in governing. The need for a grand ballroom for 1,000 and the beauty of gold décor is most often cited as the need for this project, not structural concerns, office space, security or a better experience for the visitors and Americans to visit what is used to be called "the People's House."

The first major concern for me, therefore, is the symbolism projected in this plan and the history it destroys. This plan shows total disregard for L'Enfant's original design for Washington, DC commissioned by President Washington in 1791. The most important of the major vistas and axis between major parks and landmarks created by L'Enfant -- the visual between the President's House and the Capitol via Pennsylvania Avenue -- will be broken. The link between the Executive and Legislative branches of our government will be gone. That urban, human link will be historically and symbolically lost forever.

I am not an architectural historian or architect, but I appreciate, value, and have visited historical sites and structures throughout the world as well as those here in my own country. I give what time and money I can spare to preserving the history of my community which was settled before Independence. I feel strongly that before nationally significant places are permanently altered, the American public deserves an opportunity to be heard and to help shape decisions that affect our shared national heritage, not just those who can afford to donate.

It is my understanding that The White House is owned by the American People. James Hoban's winning design demonstrates Georgian and neoclassical architectural principles and emphasizes the prominence of the main residence in contrast to the smaller, lower East and West Wings.

My second major concern is that there is no, I repeat, no attempt to adhere to that design or those accepted architectural principles. An overwhelming scale that is three times the size of the White house, introducing architectural elements not already used in the existing structures, rejecting industry standards for formal events, grand staircases, useless and inaccessible balconies do not consider the original plan or subsequent alterations. Respect the historic plan.

The recommendations submitted by AIA fellows David Scott Parker and Bill Bates are a reasonable and reasoned starting point and I encourage you to take them to heart:

Reduce Overall Size and Visibility - The size, volume, and massing of the proposed new construction should be reduced or disguised (such as by placing portions underground, as recommended in the 2000 Comprehensive Design Plan) so the new building appears smaller than the Executive Residence itself (55,000 square feet). Its height should also be substantially lower than the Executive Residence.

Reduce Footprint and Protect Key Views - The footprint of the proposed building should not extend past the existing south-facing façade of the historic Treasury Building, nor further interrupt the views of the Executive Residence from Pennsylvania Avenue.

Respect the Established Classical Composition of the White House Complex - The new addition should retain the carefully balanced classical design of the White House complex with its two smaller, lower, and substantially symmetrical East and West Wings.

Preserve the Historic East Façade of the Executive Residence - The connection of the colonnade to the Executive Residence should protect and preserve the original historic materials of the east façade of the Executive Residence and should not cover or demolish the existing fenestration and detailing of the east façade.

Ensure that the Proposed South-facing Portico Is Subordinate in Scale to the White House South Portico - The proposed portico on the south façade should be smaller and less grand in scale than the existing portico on the south façade of the Executive Residence.

Name: Anne Calico

Date: March 3, 2026 1:13:05 pm

This planned ballroom is a perverse destruction of an American historical site. It should be stopped immediately and everything done to restore it to its original condition. I'm sick my tax dollars are being used for Mr. Trump's vanity project.

Name: Nancy Bearce

Date: March 3, 2026 1:15:58 pm

Please scale the White House's East Wing design and size be no larger than the existing footprint of the White House. I believe the national White House remain the focal point on its current property.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Bearce

Name: John Reynolds

Date: March 3, 2026 1:16:25 pm

My name is John Reynolds. I am a retired career employee of the National Park Service, and was its Deputy Director from 1993-1996.

During that time, the National Park Service was preparing a plan for Presidents Park, including the White House and its grounds (Reservation 1).

That plan, and its associated Final Environment Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) were completed and signed by Robert G. Stanton, Director National Park Service on March 29, 2000.

That plan is the official plan for the White House and its grounds, as documented in the still current FEIS and ROD.

Please see attached plan from the CMP/FEIS. This plan envisioned that the White House and its two wings remain unchanged in size and shape. There was no consideration of expansion of the east Wing in that plan and FEIS.

In addition, the entirety of Reservation 1, the White House and its grounds, are a legislated unit of the National Park System (see Public Law 87-286-SEPT. 22, 1961) which states in part that Reservation 1 "shall continue to be known as the White House and shall be administered pursuant to the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1-3), and Acts supplementary thereto and amendatory thereof. In carrying out this Act."

The Act of August 25, 1916, The National Park Service Organic Act, states that "[The National Park Service] shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations hereinafter specified by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. (16 USC 1).

Two amendments to this act, in 1970 and 1978, supplemented and clarified these provisions as follows:

Congress declares that the national park system, which began with establishment of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, has since grown to include superlative natural, historic, and recreation areas in every major region of the United States, its territories and island possessions; that these areas, though distinct in character, are united through their inter-related purposes and resources into one national park system as cumulative expressions of a single national heritage; that, individually and collectively, these areas derive increased national dignity and recognition of their superlative environmental quality through their inclusion jointly with each other in one national park system preserved and managed for the benefit and inspiration of all the people of the United States; and that it is the purpose of this Act to include all such areas in the system and to clarify the authorities applicable to the system. Congress further reaffirms, declares, and directs that the promotion and regulation of the various areas of the National Park System, as defined in section 1c of this title, shall be consistent with and

founded in the purpose established by section 1 of this title [the Organic Act provision quoted above], to the common benefit of all the people of the United States. The authorization of activities shall be construed and the protection, management, and administration of these areas shall be conducted in light of the high public value and integrity of the National Park System and shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established."

In light of the facts that the CMP, FEIS and ROD remain in effect as required adherence to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and that Reservation 1 is a legislated part of the National Park System, I request that the National Capital Planning Commission (NPCP) defer making a decision on the proposed East Wing project until appropriate NEPA compliance, including addressing Public Law 87-286-SEPT. 22, 1961 and the NPS Organic Act as amended.

I further request that all activity by the federal government and/or the NCPC be open and transparent, and give the owners of Reservation !, the people of the United States, ample and recurring opportunity to participate.

I further request that this statement be made avaiolle to the NCPC staff and all members of its board.

Thank you.

John Reynolds

[Attachment](#)

Name: Douglas Moss

Date: March 3, 2026 1:23:43 pm

The current design for the new east wing is a travesty. It overwhelms the scale and character of the whitehouse. Please don't let this addition happen in its current design.

Name: Jane Hennedy

Date: March 3, 2026 1:24:26 pm

Dear Commissioners,

As an American citizen and professional in the field of historic preservation, I add my voice to the majority of Americans who are decrying the outsized and vulgar proposal for the East Wing of the White House. The balance of the Neoclassical building would be lost, it would overshadow the central and most historical portion of the building, and it sends a message of undemocratic overindulgence and poor taste that we should not allow to represent our nation.

Sincerely,

Jane Hennedy
Blackstone, Massachusetts

Name: Jennifer Kolitch

Date: March 3, 2026 1:24:49 pm

The current proposed design of the East Ballroom is destroying history. It overshadows and diminishes the most important and recognized house in America: The White House. Citizens own this house. We do not agree with the scale and design of this project. It needs to be rejected in its current offering.

Name: Kenneth Foody

Date: March 3, 2026 1:26:09 pm

East Wing White House Project

This project should not have begun without the proper submittals to all the approval agencies required. Demolition of the building did not follow proper protocol established by the NCPC, OBM, FCIP, District Department of Consumer Affairs

and Regulations, Environmental Protection Agency, and OSHA. No inspections were performed to determine if there were asbestos or lead products being removed. Based on the age of the building and applicable construction methods at different times it is almost guaranteed to have had contaminants and hazardous materials present. The disposal of said materials was not per any approved methods established by the EPA or OSHA. Contaminants having been discarded on the White House property may still have been illegally removed to unauthorized sites. Fines and penalties as prescribed by Government Notice R1196, Regulation 10 of 11/10/2020 addition. The Toxic Substance Control Act and Clean Air Act both have established procedure for lead and asbestos abatement.

Building plans with the appropriate current codes have not been submitted for approval prior to the start of the demolition. Demolition drawings were not submitted prior to the start of the project. Cost proposals were not submitted prior to the start of the project. The complete disregard for protocols and procedures should have the project halted until it is determined that work to date can be remediated where required. Funding should be verified and established in appropriate accounts to the OMB.

Public review of the proposed project was never a consideration, The work was started with the assumption it would be approved and financed. Reviewing historic projects started in such a manner frequently finds they incur significant cost overruns and project delays. As a retired Building Inspector, Plans Examiner, Energy Code Inspector, Mechanical Inspector, and Code Enforcement Officer this project has done more things in violation of established codes than can be listed. At the very least this project should be halted until all issues are resolved and proper approvals can be given.

I remain;

Kenneth Foody

Name: Rebecca Banyas

Date: March 3, 2026 1:27:37 pm

I understand the need for a WH ballroom, but I strongly object to the current plans for such a ballroom. The scale and size of current plans are not in keeping with key architectural principles as well as the original historic plans of L'Enfant and Frederick Law Olmstead. With some modifications to scale, volume, and balance, it could still meet the need of serving a function of 1000 people, while respecting the history and architecture of the building it is designed to complement-- the White House itself (AKA the People's House). It should not dominate or outstrip that building.

Among the most serious problems which could be remedied by a redesign:

1. Blocking the original historical design of L'Enfant's plan for DC. The large size of the ballroom blocks the view down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol. This view is one of the most important views and relationships in L'Enfant's original 1791 design for Washington DC. This must be corrected.
2. Proposed 90,000 square-foot construction will overwhelm the 55,000 square foot WH structure and disrupt its classical design which is predicated on balance and symmetry.
3. Ballroom itself is much bigger than it needs to be. The architectural standard space for ballrooms is 10-15 sq. ft. per person. Even at the highest level of that standard (15 sq. ft per person), the ballroom should be 15,000 sq. ft. Currently it is proposed at 22,000 sq ft-- 47% higher than the industry high standard.
4. Proposed south portico is designed only for show and is too large compared to main WH structure. It does not serve a purpose (no usable doors) and is not ADA accessible. The large number of columns block the view from the interior.
5. Whole building is higher than it needs to be. Ceilings are unusually high and the lower floor is designed to be above ground when it could be placed below ground.

I firmly believe that a redesign is needed before the ballroom can be constructed.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Submitted by,
Rebecca Banyas
Portland, OR 97222

Name: Gene Greene, AIA

Date: March 3, 2026 1:28:24 pm

Good Day,

I am writing this to express my concerns about the East Wing Modernization Project. There are numerous design flaws to consider:

The scale of the ballroom is obscene at best. Going back to Pierre Charles L'Enfant's original baroque-style plan for Washington, D.C. Pennsylvania Avenue forms a direct line-of-sight axial relationship between the White House and the

Capitol. This is by no means accidental, and is symbolic of the relationship between the branches of government. The ballroom design completely blocks the view between the White House and the Capitol.

The Ballroom design also encroaches upon Frederick Law Olmsted's symmetrical drive. The encroaching oversized faux Portico does not even connect to the Ballroom, and is oversized just for the sake of being oversized, while blocking the view down Pennsylvania Avenue. Perhaps Mr. Trump is not fond of that view as it reminds him of his deeds on January 6th?

The desecration of the "People's House" is a crime that will have to be righted. The Ballroom is discordant with the original design. In the future, the ballroom will be demolished, and the East Wing will have to be rebuilt at a great cost to the american taxpayer - all for the vanity of one man?

The time is now to stop this criminal endeavor, and I applaud anyone with the courage to stand up for the "People's House."

Thank You For Your Consideration.

Name: Don Lauritson

Date: March 3, 2026 1:29:30 pm

I believe the proposed large ballroom building will desecrate the historic value of White House area. It is too large and tall in relation to the White House building and will interrupt the view of the White House from the diagonal axial street connecting with the Capitol Building. it will require modification of the circular access road designed by Frederick Law Olmstead.

It should be redesigned with a reduced size and lowered in height to better fit with the design, size and location of the White House. Please take these comments seriously to keep our nation's capital grounds and buildings preserved in a way consistent with national historic preservation standards and guidelines.

Name: Brian Smith

Date: March 3, 2026 1:31:16 pm

Since when did the White House become Donald Trump's house. I thought it was the people's house.

Name: Robert Humphreys

Date: March 3, 2026 1:34:17 pm

For inclusion in the public comment,

As a registered architect, citizen, taxpayer, and voter, I would like to express my sadness at both the recent demolition activities and the proposed design for a new East Wing at the residence and place of work of the President of the United States located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C.

From the original design by James Hoban, extending to the revisions by Benjamin Henry Latrobe, the reconstruction after damage during the War of 1812, and the subsequent construction, remodel, and additions including the West Wing, Oval Office, and East Wing, the White House has been a shining representative, in built form, of the ideals of democracy and our republic both at home and around the world.

It would be naive to argue that the history of the chief executive of the United States of America is not fraught with injustices toward many and that those who held that power have not always followed the rule of law, but it should not be futile to argue that procedures for design review and approval, as required by law, should be followed in a country of laws.

As such, I respectfully request that the members of the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) deny the currently proposed design as inappropriate in scale, both in plan and height, and in overall massing, and issue a stop work order to allow time for additional consideration so that a historically sensitive design, sympathetic to the proportions and details of the existing building and grounds can be pursued with full and open public review and comment.

It is my hope that any and all future work will proceed in a fashion both acknowledging the ever-expanding needs of a functional building for the chief executive with appropriate space and security, but not the proposed "larger footprint and height [that] will dominate the eastern portion of the site" per the NCPC Finding of No Significant Impact draft document, page 4.

Ongoing maintenance of historic properties with structural concerns, moisture infiltration, technological improvements, and ever-changing security demands create challenging operational difficulties. Yet if these issues were of paramount importance, the White House would have no doubt been demolished and replaced with a modern building long ago, or even numerous times, and indeed other wings or features could be demolished at any time in the future. This alone is not sufficient reason to abandon or bypass our legal procedures to protect and represent the voice of the American public and the historic property in these proceedings.

For a property of such historic and symbolic importance to this great nation to be destroyed or defaced without the owner's permission is counter to the ideals which that house represents.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Humphreys, Architect

Name: Angela Rae

Date: March 3, 2026 1:35:24 pm

Greetings!

Please accept my strong opposition to President Trump's unauthorized demolition of the People's East Wing of the Whitehouse and his subsequent plan to build an unneeded Ballroom in its place. I understand that past presidents have made alterations to the White House but there are limits any president can make. The White House belongs to the American people, not to any individual. Changes must be limited to maintenance, upkeep, and necessary upgrades (plumbing, electricity, wifi, etc.). Frivolous personal demolitions and a massive addition seem to violate the rules (and common sense) on exactly how much the White House can be altered at the whims of the current president, whomever they may be. The White Hoise is not the president's property, it is Ours, we The People.

Thank you.

Name: Laura Driscoll

Date: March 3, 2026 1:36:45 pm

Disgraceful —and seemingly unlawful — for one person to whimsically presume the authority to raze even part of a beloved public building especially one so emblematic of American idealism. The precedent it sets should be frightening to all of us.

Name: Elaine Erck

Date: March 3, 2026 1:36:46 pm

trump needs to rebuild the east wing in its original form out of his own pocket. he had no right to destroy our white house! We have no need for a ballroom for the rich to party when we have people living in the street and people unable to feed their families!

Name: Erin Reilly

Date: March 3, 2026 1:36:50 pm

[Attachment](#)

Name: Martin Bowers

Date: March 3, 2026 1:37:06 pm

What would be the frequency of use for this ballroom? How often during the course of the year are events held that include 1,000 people? As the Federal Government is in the process of getting rid of their owned properties in favor of leased properties, it would seem to make more sense for when a large ballroom type event is taking place that the space be leased from the private sector.

The proposed design is out of scale with the main white house and the overall complex.

1. The size of the ballroom could be reduced based on the standard building code calculation of 15sf per person for an Assembly occupancy for 1,000 people, for a total of 15,000sf as opposed to the 22,000sf being proposed.
2. The entire building could be located lower into the ground with the service areas being below grade. The floor level of the ballroom could be at grade reducing the height of the building significantly. This would also eliminate the need for the large staircase on the east side and corresponding long ramp to provide ADA access. This portico at the east entrance with oversize Corinthian columns and pediment could be deleted.
3. The south portico is not necessary for the function of a ballroom, and there is not even access to it from the ballroom floor. It is oversized with enormously tall columns with inappropriate Corinthian capitals as opposed to the Ionic capitals used throughout the complex. The doors on the south portico are non-functional and do not lead to the ballroom. There is no ADA access to this south portico from the ground.

Name: Anne Lipke

Date: March 3, 2026 1:37:09 pm

The East Wing did not need to be destroyed. Please return as was including the Rose Garden and the grounds that have been destroyed

Name: BJ Cullen

Date: March 3, 2026 1:37:34 pm

Should not have taken down the historic east wing without historical or planning approval or a real plan. Against the whole ballroom project, overshadowing the White House, and the fake goldenization of the whole White House.

Name: John French

Date: March 3, 2026 1:38:28 pm

I fully support a white house ball room. However, the current project is too big. It shouldn't dwarf the white house. I believe the square footage should be no more than 60,000. the majesty of the white house is enhanced by annex in proportion to the main building.

Name: Peter Lipke

Date: March 3, 2026 1:38:28 pm

Trump is executing the desecration of an American landmark. The planned modernization shows complete both ignorance of history and a lack of aesthetic values.

Name: Mary Ellen Healey

Date: March 3, 2026 1:38:56 pm

I understand the current occupant of the White House wishes to turn the building into a gaudy, gold-dipped shrine to himself. Unfortunately for Mr. Trump he is a president in a democracy, not a pharaoh in Ancient Egypt. His delusions of godhood should be worked out in therapy, not in a slapdash construction project carried out as rapidly as possible in the hopes that by the time actual adults see what he's up to, it's too late to stop him.

The White House is not Versailles, as badly as Mr. Trump may wish it to be. The White House is not his personal property, one of his tacky hotels, or one of his bankrupt casinos. The ballroom is a direct reflection of the man who commissioned it: crass, unbalanced, sickening in its excess, utterly incompatible with the aesthetic of a democratically elected head of state's residence, juvenile and amateurish in its design, and funded by bribes from billionaires.

I would urge the professionals to step in and put a stop to this narcissistic nightmare. Rebuild the wing exactly as it was in

form if not function. Do not allow the presidential equivalent of a toddler to scribble in crayon all over the Mona Lisa. If this travesty of a ballroom is built, it will simply have to be torn again the second a president worthy of the office is elected - one who aspires not to be worshipped but to serve.

Name: Lisa Lambros

Date: March 3, 2026 1:42:34 pm

The NCPC YouTube video was very thoughtful and specific to the history of the plans from our history as well as a very well thought out solution to solve the issues, that the current proposed East Wing Project is causing. The solutions give a new ballroom that fits any needs that we need in the future. It would be also to see the deference in costs on the two options. We do not need to waste money, ignore historical plans that were put in place, for specific reasons or finally to reduce the views of the Peoples House.

Please do what ever you can to stop this horrible plan as it is being planned! If I can help in any way I would be happy too. I am also a follower of Olmsted and his designs. I am a board member of the Olmsted Society of Riverside and I live in his first planned community of Riverside IL.

Lisa Lambros

Name: Melissa Creasey

Date: March 3, 2026 1:42:44 pm

Please do keep the modernized East Wing to the same scale as the White House itself, if in fact there is a ballroom built. I would prefer the reconstruction of the original East Wing, however. Any new building that obstructs the between the U.S Capitol and the White House, changes the design of Olmsted for the approach to the White House, and looms over the White House will not be acceptable. This is our property to be respected for its historical significance and symetric design.

Melissa Creasey

Name: Gretchen Schnabel

Date: March 3, 2026 1:43:47 pm

I believe the East Wing of the White House must supply the needs of Protocol and Welcome at the highest social standards to be representative of the whole of the American people. This cannot be expressed by an agglomeration of gilded objects. It needs to architecturally express the vast diversity of the United States' population and the richness of our land and culture. Ideally, the wing would be brought to life by a team of architects and designers that represent all parts of America, its people, and history.

Name: Carol Hensel

Date: March 3, 2026 1:44:03 pm

I am a 71-year-old retired social studies teacher. I was horrified to see that the proposed building will look so much larger than the White House. I think the White House is one of the most important symbols of our nation. It should not be overwhelmed by another building.

Name: Mary Moniz

Date: March 3, 2026 1:44:17 pm

I appreciate this opportunity to voice my opposition to the East Wing Modernization Project. We have never been an ostentatious people, so this project does not reflect our people nor our Nation.

I would ask that the project be declined.

Mary Moniz

Name: Heather Reiffer

Date: March 3, 2026 1:44:36 pm

I respectfully submit my comment on the "East Wing Modernization Project." I have served as a heritage site executive director at a National Historical Landmark and at a National Historic Register District during my 25+ year career in historic site administration. During any project -- whether we were performing preservation maintenance or restoration work with minor alterations, our organizations' plans were under official scrutiny. It was a public process through historical commissions and community feedback. We took that scrutiny very seriously, and made changes if needed. In the end, we were stewards of historical structures for the community so feedback was essential to our success in preservation.

The proposed new ballroom addition to the White House is not in keeping with the White House's existing architectural fabric. The style is different, and the size and scale is monstrously larger. It will dwarf the White House, taking away from its power as a building -- in terms of being a statement of a long legacy of US executive power. The human eye craves balance - the new ballroom will minimize the White House's legacy and link to the beginnings of our nation. While making updates and upgrades is vital to our nation's leaders ability to perform their duties, these updates should be in keeping with the spirit of what the founders intended. This is not to mean that our architecture shouldn't evolve as needs change, it's that it's important to ensure that new structures should always maintain a visual connection to the original building -- to convey that we're forever visually linked to the intentions of America's founders.

Thank you.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Chelsea Stamm

Date: March 3, 2026 1:46:04 pm

As a Maryland resident, I frequently visit DC and the National Mall. I love the juxtaposition of exiting the Brutalist architecture of the Metro into the Classical architecture of the federal buildings and monuments. I love how intentionally the city was designed dating back to L'Enfant's plans commissioned by George Washington. Therefore, I am very concerned with the proposed plan for the East Wing ballroom addition to the White House. I was already deeply frustrated that the existing East wing was demolished with seemingly no input from the public or preservation societies. Now the plans the administration has released regarding the new East wing raise several red flags. First, and most concerning, is the scale of the addition, itself. The renderings of the East wing show it practically dwarfing the existing White House, and at some points the East wing roof is higher than the existing building. The massive footprint would throw off the Vitruvian symmetry of the White House grounds and be completely out of balance with the original concept of the White House. The large portico is also far bigger than both the porticos on the White House and the Treasury building across the street, again causing asymmetry. The addition would cause an irrevocable and complete obstruction to the line of sight down Pennsylvania Avenue connecting the White House and the Capitol. Although symbolic, I feel this intentional design by L'Enfant to preserve the line of sight between the Legislative and Executive branches is needed now more than ever. The reason for such a large building is also overstated. The proposed square footage is nearly 50% larger than needed for the expected 1000 person events and would in fact cause the space to seem out of balance indoors too. In addition to the size, there are red flags regarding the details of the design including the mismatch of column style on the portico (Corinthian on the East wing addition which are more ornate than the Ionic columns on both the White House and Treasury porticos), the completely lack of functionality of the portico itself (no internal connection to the ballroom, not usable for outside events), the lack of ADA accessibility to said portico, the blocking of the Palladian windows on the East side of the White House, and the seemingly random choice of ceiling height for each floor, etc. As the White House is the People's house, I think it's vitally important the public is listened to moving forward and I hope the NCPC can work with the administration to amend the designs into something that is more in line with industry standards for space usage which would allow for building an addition with a smaller footprint that balances the intent and historical context of the White House with the need for a larger event space.

Name: Gerhard Depken

Date: March 3, 2026 1:47:10 pm

There are several reasons why the current design is a nonstarter and should not be approved including:

1. Not enough information is provided to support the design. Why is the third floor so tall? What will be its function? Why is such volume needed for the proposed use? Why have a South Portico that is not useable?

2. The proposed structure is just too big, out of proportion with the White House and the surrounding buildings. Its proposed use can be accomplished with a smaller structure.
3. History is being ignored. The view from the Capitol and Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House will be destroyed and replaced with the view of a side of the ballroom. The use of Corinthian columns is out of place with the Ionic columns of the White House. If we really need a ballroom, let it conform to the original conception of our Founding Fathers.

I lived in Washington, D.C. for many years and the beauty of the White House and its surroundings has always been inspiring. We should not interfere with the scale and balance of the People's House.

Name: Blair Kamin

Date: March 3, 2026 1:47:22 pm

Don't be fooled by the plan's supposedly contextual classical design. It's an elephant in sheep's clothing--a massive, utterly inappropriate addition that will not only do permanent damage the White House but wreck a powerfully symbolic urban design feature of the nation's capital.

Previous additions to the White House, like the Truman Balcony, have also been controversial, but they still respected the Executive Mansion's classical symmetry and aesthetic restraint. The White House remained the White House--adapting to changing times and needs, but still adhering to the historic character of James Hoban's original design.

In contrast, the proposed ballroom's enormous bulk will overshadow the White House, which will no longer be the central, focal point of the composition. This isn't good classicism--it's classicism on steroids, more in keeping with the imposing, institutional scale of the neighboring Treasury Building than the modest, more welcoming scale of the White House..

As the National Trust for Historic Preservation has revealed, the proposed addition's massive south portico would be a stairway to nowhere, a useless stage set. By getting rid of it and lowering the ballroom's proposed kitchen below ground, the addition can strike the proper balance between form and function, past and present.

A smaller footprint also will not disrupt the symmetry of the curving drives that Frederick Law Olmsted designed for the White House grounds and, more important, the Pennsylvania Avenue visual axis between the Capitol and the White House. The latter was an essential part of Pierre L'Enfant's Washington plan, reflecting the significance of, and interrelationship between, the legislative and executive branches. The proposed addition will wreak havoc with all that.

Yes, a new ballroom is needed. But not this design. It will go down in history as an imperialistic appendage to a beloved symbol of American democracy. Reject it--and tell the President to do better.

Blair Kamin

Former Chicago Tribune architecture critic

Name: Lana Caywood

Date: March 3, 2026 1:50:50 pm

I strongly oppose the construction of the proposed ballroom. It dwarfs the historic White House and disrupts the architectural integrity. The White House is the people's house and the history of the building and its architectural style must remain constant. Other modern presidents have held State dinners and receptions without an oversized ballroom. It is clear this construction project is to satisfy the oversized ego of the current president. It is my hope the White House will be restored to its original, symmetrical, neoclassical style and placed under stronger protections against such vandalism by a temporary occupant in the future. I also hope the Rose Garden is restored in its original location to complement the White House grounds.

Name: Terri Lombardo

Date: March 3, 2026 1:52:28 pm

This is to be paid on full by the man who ordered it. It should be historically accurate (as in, the size a ballroom would

have been when the white house was built) and it must provide separate meeting areas for the first lady... Not one penny should be spent on this project until there is no national debt and national infrastructure has been brought up to date.

Name: Lynnette Barker

Date: March 3, 2026 1:53:17 pm

I am in FULL support of the new ballroom, as is currently designed. Our great country has gone far too long hosting events in a backyard fashion. I look datasets to the finished wing finally reflecting the status of our great nation.

Name: Lynda Lantz

Date: March 3, 2026 1:53:22 pm

The White House is the People's House. It carries enormous symbolic value that is all the more critical as we reflect on the 250th birthday of our democracy. The White House reflects in important ways our perception of democracy. This was true when George Washington planned the layout of the District with L'Enfant. He specifically called for a views from the White House to the other branches. The ballroom as currently designed would destroy that visual relationship of the branches requested by George Washington. Further, the current design of the ballroom destroys important spatial symmetry that is a hallmark of classicism. At this inflated size, it also destroys the landscape symmetry designed by Frederick Law Olmstead. Of course, each Administration places its mark. This should not erase the past and should not destroy symbolic markers of our history. While significant damage has been done without appropriate approval or acknowledgement of public comment, it is, nonetheless, not difficult to help restore the proportionality and retain the architectural integrity by shifting the kitchen to below grade, reducing the size to the industry standard for 1,000 guests, and reducing or removing the oversized, non-ADA compliant portico, which is not intended for any use. I ask the committee to preserve the classicism of our White House and symbolism of democracy.

Name: Nancy DeTine

Date: March 3, 2026 1:56:47 pm

While there are SO many compelling architectural arguments against the enormous proposed ballroom, I will confine my comments to the desecration of our historical legacy that would result from its construction. George Washington, the revered father of our country, engaged two of the era's most gifted professionals to design the nation's capital city and the White House. The massive ballroom addition would egregiously interrupt the beautiful vistas created by Pierre L'Enfant. It would also irretrievably alter the pleasing classical symmetry of James Hoban's design for the People's House and the landscape later perfected by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. As the nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, we must preserve this precious history.

Name: Sally Parsons

Date: March 3, 2026 1:57:51 pm

President Trump has forever damaged our White House. The need for a ballroom speaks only to his ego. Past events have been held in off site locations that did not require constant expenditures to make ready for events. We are not a monarchy!!!!

This ballroom will spoil the the classic architectural appearance of our nation's White House, waste money better spent to help our nations people, and become a space that Trump will use to generate funding for himself and his oligarchy. Despite his claims that it won't cost the American people any money, we know that his attention, such as it is, has been focused on the self-aggrandizement and profit that he can implement for his and his family's gain. Please do not allow this barbarism to continue.

Name: Ann Deinhardt

Date: March 3, 2026 1:58:08 pm

I want this project cancelled. It is a travesty.

Name: Robin Tully

Date: March 3, 2026 2:02:08 pm

1. The President does not own the White House.
2. The people of the U.S. own the White House.
3. The President has no right or permission to remove the East Wing of the White House.
4. The NPS and other agencies have procedures in place when making changes to the White House. They were not followed. The lack of knowledge, respect, and planning are astounding.
5. No one asked for a ballroom.
6. Please rebuild the East Wing, according to the classical style that was there. The new plans are for a tacky, monstrous, eyesore of an addition that will block sightlines to other D.C. landmarks. What happens when attendance at the balls are low? It will seem empty. :-(
7. Deny anymore work on this ballroom. The destroyer should be punished. Just a start: Fines/jail are the standard for anyone vandalizing National Park property.

Thank you!
Robin Tully

Name: Natalie tublitz

Date: March 3, 2026 2:04:33 pm

I wish ground had not been broken for this new ballroom. Trump can use one of his homes to entertain. Using our money (know he said private contributions) when it is needed elsewhere is unthinking and only for his ego.

Name: Elizabeth Andrews

Date: March 3, 2026 2:06:50 pm

I believe the White House is a historic site and the ballroom will ruin its appeal and authenticity.

Name: Janet Greene

Date: March 3, 2026 2:08:22 pm

I am commenting on the East Wing Modernization Project. First, I am horrified by the fact that the original East Wing was unceremoniously destroyed without any previous knowledge of the destruction or any planning or public comment beforehand. This act was an abomination and an assault of the sanctity of our shared spaces, customs and laws. Since the renovation or update of the East Wing has been brutally taken away from the American Public, I need to voice my opinion of the proposed replacement.

I am absolutely opposed to the size and scale of the proposed project. It would dwarf the White House - The People's House. It is a monstrosity of scale and completely not needed. From what I understand, a good 25% of the structure is unnecessary and not accessible by able bodied and non-abled bodied people. It does not fit into the historical layout or scenic view of Washington, DC. The height of the structure is completely uncalled for. A 23-foot ceiling on one level? Seriously? Again, it dwarfs the White House, The People's House.

The East Wing was informally known as the "heart" of the house and where the First Lady had her offices. The new structure should reflect that sentiment. What of all the offices and functions that were in the East Wing? Are they being accommodated? The plan is very patriarchal in that it assumes the duty of the First Lady is to entertain.

I am also very opposed to the cost of the project, which will have costs overruns as all construction projects do. The project is supposedly to be paid for by private investors - just like Mexico was to pay for the border wall. In the end, it will be paid for by Americans' tax dollars. The idea that "private investors" are putting up money means that they expect a return for their money. How will this manifest in the future? This alone should cause major concern.

The current occupant of the Oval Office is seeking construction of several projects throughout Washington, DC as

monuments to himself, the "ballroom" being one of them. This completely goes against the core essence of the United States. The United States is We the People, For the People and By the People - Not Kings!

Name: Jenny Foster

Date: March 3, 2026 2:08:29 pm

Demolishing a historic public building without consideration of the public's input is criminal. Here's why:

1. The view of the White House from many angles is now blocked. Was this even considered?
2. Aesthetically speaking, the proposed wing is wildly out of proportion. It looks like it was designed by an amateur.
3. Using public funds to make a huge redesign of OUR HOUSE without public input, all during hard economic times for so many Americans, is the wrong thing to do! It hurts to watch our money being wasted like this.

Overall, the redesign of the wing is a bad idea!

Jenny Foster,
Rockville, MD

Name: Fort Felker

Date: March 3, 2026 2:09:12 pm

The proposed ballroom is an ugly, unnecessary, stupid affront to American history. To demolish part of the white house in America's 250th year is such a powerful metaphor for the decline of the country perpetuated by the wanna-be autocrat currently in residence. Deny this project approval. The project is a farce. Rebuild the old east wing.

Name: Nancy Ray

Date: March 3, 2026 2:09:48 pm

Originally, the ballroom was going to be a separate building which would not have interfered with the White House design and architecture. Then the East Wing was torn out. The White House has been designed to be symmetrical and balanced. The current ballroom design not only throws off that balance and symmetry, but dwarfs the White House to the point of almost hiding it. Personally, since the ballroom is replacing the East Wing, it should be the same total square footage as the East Wing. Any larger size should be built as a separate building as the original plan was designed and the East Wing rebuilt.

I have concerns regarding the financial part. As a retired local government accountant, I highly recommend a third party not involved with the project manage the accountability of the project. Trust for the National Mall is in charge of handling the donations and President Trump is in charge of this project and seeking donations as well as working with the Trust. This can be seen as a conflict of interest. To avoid any issues with transparency and to have a clear accounting of donations and expenses, The National Trust for Historic Preservation would be a good choice for a third party to oversee the accounting.

Thank you for your time.

Nancy Ray

Name: Michele Stoudt

Date: March 3, 2026 2:10:31 pm

You don't modernize history! "I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. The American people demand the authorizations, permits and design review mandated by the LAW. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. This is the PEOPLE's house not the Trump's. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans."

Millions of Americans can't afford to buy groceries, afford housing or healthcare. Not to mention, we are now in an

unconstitutional WAR that is nothing more than a way to distract Americans from the Epstein files and further plunder our Treasury.

\$300 million of unapproved funds taken for a gilded ballroom that does not serve the American people or have any historic significance.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Michele Stoudt

Name: DOUGLAS STERN

Date: March 3, 2026 2:11:01 pm

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

East Wing Modernization Project

Comments submitted by Douglas L Stern

I oppose the proposed East Wing Modernization Project. I do this on account of the Project's significant, negative impact on the architectural integrity of the White House and its failure to meet the design standards of the National Capital Planning Commission found.

More specifically, the Project:

- Dramatically and negatively impacts the original, symmetrical design of the White House, constructed 1792-1800, as well as the White House's original scale and massing.
- Destroys the 1902 East Wing, a portion of the White House culturally significant for its associations with several First Ladies and their legacies.
- Negatively impacts street-level views of the White House from the east, as well as the White House's spatial relationship to the historic U.S. Treasury Building to its east.
- Significantly overuses the White House when reasonable and architecturally appropriate alternatives are available.
- Mimics the original design of the White House, thereby giving the false impression that the Project was original to the White House.

For these reasons, the Project is architecturally inappropriate and incompatible with the White House. It does not comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Name: Terrence Williams

Date: March 3, 2026 2:12:04 pm

I am horrified that something as culturally symbolic/significant as the White House could be modified so casually by its occupant. There is a reason why uniquely historical structures should not be treated with the level of careless whimsy on display with the proposed ballroom addition. Let there be a due process for review and comment rather than allowing this proposal to go forward. Certainly cooler heads will prevail, and this cultural icon will endure in its current, magnificent state for years to come.

Name: Gladys Kerns

Date: March 3, 2026 2:13:42 pm

I strongly object to changes in the White House East Wing. The president did not have authorization to order the east wing to be destroyed, and I object to a ballroom being built to entertain billionaires. There is not a need for a ballroom, and the guise of "modernization project" is ironic because now that the president destroyed the people's White House, it will have to be rebuilt using updated building codes and requirements.

The destruction of the east wing is a reminder of the destructive nature of the current president. The gaping hole that is left is a symbol of his black heart which lacks any moral or ethical inclination.

I would approve of the east wing to be replaced with the previous symmetrical and architecturally appropriate first lady's offices.

I object to a ballroom or any building larger than the previous east wing to be built, regardless of whose money is paying for it.

Name: Natalie Wilkinson

Date: March 3, 2026 2:14:42 pm

Dear NCPC Commission Members,

I am writing to express concern over several aspects of the proposed East Wing Modernization Project.

First, as a historic landmark building in the United States administered by the National Parks Service, I believe there should have been significant review both of the building proposal and proposed demolition. What happened makes a mockery of everything required of our Historic Preservation rules and our Historic Tax Credit system that ordinary citizens observe down to the last piece of moulding and mortar recipe.

Second, it has been reported that debris is being improperly disposed of. I question who ordered and approved a demo permit for the property.

Third, for a public project of this level, there should have been an opportunity for qualified and experienced architecture firms from around the country to submit proposals. Typically a competition would have been in order for a project of this magnitude.

Fourth, from a short review of the information that has been presented publicly, I believe that the proposed 90,000 square foot addition will dwarf our 55,000 square foot White House (I estimate it's footprint at 9-10,000 square feet based on publicly available information.)

The general public has also not been presented with information on what will happen regarding the First Lady's offices or Public Reception areas that were destroyed.

I doubt the pleasantness of dining in a 3-4 story room as well as the sound quality, and I wonder how it will be used on ordinary days, since even presidents don't entertain 1,000 guests every night.

My last comment would be on the grounds. I believe the approach should retain its symmetry in keeping with the original structure.

Thank you for considering my opinions.

Sincerely, Natalie Wilkinson

Architectural Draftsman and Designer

Name: Mary Clare Beck

Date: March 3, 2026 2:17:01 pm

As an American with deep concern for historic preservation, I urge that the Commission require more study and explanation of the need and use for the proposed ballroom building. While there is longstanding interest in a larger gathering place than is available in the East Room and State Dining Room, the proposed footprint is much too large for the site and should be reduced unless clear explanation is provided that a ballroom three times larger than the White House is essential. So far we have had only the president's repeated statements that it will be the biggest and most beautiful ballroom in the world. I would rather hear specifics about what it will be used for, how much, how often and for how many people. It seems to me that the size of the ballroom and the kitchen could be reduced, the unusually high ceiling could be lowered, the kitchen put below ground, and the portico eliminated (since it is only decorative with no entrance to the building) among many possible changes.

I also am alarmed at the chaotic lack of normal process for something as sensitive as the White House: the sudden demolition of the East Wing, the absence of a final plan, the sudden switch of architects, the \$400 million funding provided by businesses with government contracts, the dismissal of members of the Fine Arts Committee and your commission, and the absence of Congressional involvement. From the beginning, maintenance and renovation of the White House has been funded by Congress through the normal legislative process. In recent decades, Congress has added

various guard rails to protect against the whims of individual presidents, such as establishing that the White House is a museum, a National Historic Site, and a National Park, maintained by the National Park Service using established guidelines. The White House was intended to be suitably dignified for the official residence of the president while also reflecting the republican simplicity a nation that rejected kings. That historic ideal must be protected.

Name: Karin Clark

Date: March 3, 2026 2:17:32 pm

Good Day,

As the White House is one of the most historic buildings in the USA, it does not need "modernization." Redecorating would be one thing, but demolition of the East Wing without the input of the US Citizens is outrageous and unacceptable. Before one more pebble is moved, one more marble destroyed, one more plan started, the people need to be offered the opportunity to made decisions about our House. The people in there now will be there a very (hopefully very, very) short time. Making changes like this without our awareness or input is not surprising but needs to be immediately halted until we offer our input.

It is my hope that the current tenancy will be even briefer than the full term. Please halt the current actions and allow us our voice.

Regards,

Karin Clark

Name: Susan Guill

Date: March 3, 2026 2:19:59 pm

I strongly oppose any further destruction. A new White House ballroom is unnecessary and symbolically tone-deaf. At a time of rising national debt and pressing domestic needs --housing, infrastructure, veterans care -- allocating public funds for an expanded ceremonial space sends the wrong message.

The White House already hosts large events using existing rooms and temporary structures. Major renovations also risk disrupting a historic building that belongs to the public and carries deep architectural and civic meaning. Preservation, fiscal restraint, and priorities aligned with everyday Americans should come first. Public resources should serve broad public benefit not expanded pageantry.

I do not believe the cost will be paid for by private donors. I do not want private donors "owning" the White House.

Name: Lauren Hoffman

Date: March 3, 2026 2:26:49 pm

The destruction and demolition of the East Wing should have never happened. Trump's actions were reprehensible and the integrity and history of the White House were completely destroyed and compromised. It is not Trump's house it is the People's House. I believe the proposed expansion and construction of a ballroom is completely unnecessary and ridiculous. I think that the East Wing needs to be rebuilt and restored as it was. Also, all the destruction that has been done to the grounds needs to be restored and rectified as well.

Name: Ross Anderson

Date: March 3, 2026 2:27:33 pm

The proposed ballroom should be scrapped! The rendition is atrocious! It has no place in our nation's Capitol city, and will significantly detract from the original beauty and grandeur of the Executive Mansion.

Name: Ross Richardson

Date: March 3, 2026 2:28:58 pm

NO White House ballroom. This project is an abomination.

Name: Susan Poling

Date: March 3, 2026 2:29:16 pm

Dear Preservation and Planning Officials --

I am appalled with the planned renovation and new construction of the Ballroom at the People's House, The White House. It is oversized and out of scale in comparison with the White House itself and is oversized even with the current best standards for the size needed for 1000-person ballroom. This is true of the ballroom itself and the kitchen. In accordance with architectural standards, the kitchen is about 2 1/2 times the industry standard to served the proposed space for 1000 people. The design is not in keeping with Pierre L'Enfant's design for the new capitol as commissioned by our first President, where there is a direct line down Pennsylvania Ave from the Capital steps to the White House. The axial line will be blocked by the outsized addition.

The design has dozens of false windows, a fake staircase that goes to a level not even accessible from inside the space, and does not meet the classical proportions expected of a building beside the White House. The submitted plans are not even final and should NOT be approved until you as a commission can verify that the project is consistent with the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act. All site plans, architectural drawings and funding documentation should be submitted in advance of your approval.

The White House is the People's House and as such, belongs to all Americans. A decision should not be rushed.

Sincerely, Susan Poling

Name: Maine Preservation

Date: March 3, 2026 2:31:13 pm

[Attachment](#)

Name: Patricia Muscatelli

Date: March 3, 2026 2:33:38 pm

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed ballroom addition to the White House.

The White House is a historic building. The design represents a classical architectural approach, which emphasizes symmetry and proportion. It, not a wing or other add on, is the most important feature on the property. The proposed ballroom is totally at odds with this. The ballroom is supposedly being built to accommodate 1,000 people. According to industry standards, this would require a room with a maximum of 15,000 sq. feet. The proposed ballroom is 22,000 sq. feet or 47% larger than standards would require. Why? It cannot be subdivided into smaller areas so it cannot be used for smaller or multiple events. This means it will stand empty for most of the time. Again, why?

There is a South portico planned which leads to nowhere. It is not ADA compliant. There is no doorway or connection to the interior of the building. The only way to access it is to walk up the oversized stairs. What is the purpose of this portico? As shown, its only use is to serve as a way to block the view of the White House from the Capital and the street. This means that the symbolic connection between the different branches of government is lost.

The White House belongs to the people of the United States and as such is only on "loan" to our Presidents for the time they are in office. While it is to be expected that changes will be made over time, those changes should enhance, not destroy, the beauty of the building and the surrounding area. This project is totally inappropriate and does not meet the guidelines for renovating a historic building. If a ballroom is needed, then its structure should be compatible with the White House, not overpower it. Its size should reflect what is actually needed. The South portico should be entirely eliminated as it serves no legitimate purpose.

I realize that the current occupant of the White House thinks that he has the right to change things to his liking. He and his architects should be reminded that he is a temporary guest of the American public and, as in any short term residency

agreement, he needs the permission of his landlords to make any permanent changes to the building. The citizens of this country object to this project as currently planned. It should be rejected.

Name: Stacey Holeman

Date: March 3, 2026 2:35:08 pm

I count myself among the millions of Americans who were gutted when the current president demolished the beautiful East Wing of the people's White House. I guess there's no turning back the clock but I support a more sensitive, size-appropriate replacement for what has been lost, with an exterior that blends with the remaining structures and an interior that is classic and timeless.

Thank you for requiring this comment process and for the good work you do.

A patriotic American,

Stacey Holeman

Name: Marcia Isenberg

Date: March 3, 2026 2:39:55 pm

No. Absolutely not. As envisioned this project is an abomination that trashes the appearance of the White House and should not be allowed. A smaller addition that closely matches the size of the former East Wing is the only building that should be permitted.

Name: Deborah Chosewood

Date: March 3, 2026 2:41:33 pm

Our People's White House does not need a monstrosity of a ballroom. Trump has already destroyed the East Wing and the Kennedy Rose Garden. We do not need him doing anything else. He should be forced to rebuild the East Wing and replace everything he ruined. He should be personally responsible for the cost since he didn't get permission to do what he's done. The taxpayers absolutely should not have to foot this bill.

Name: Mary Evans

Date: March 3, 2026 2:43:06 pm

The East Wing was demolished illegally. All construction that has been done since the demolition of the East Wing should be undone and reversed. The East Wing should be completely rebuilt in its original design. We should seize the donations to pay for the restoration. The fascist MFs responsible for the demolition of the East Wing without the American people's permission need to be taught a lesson. This should be aggressively litigated and a permanent injunction in place that no demolition or construction that changes the architectural integrity of the White House will be done by the Trump administration or any administration without a thorough review by the appropriate institutions and of course the American people. We own the White House. Not the White Trash Trumps. Thank you for this opportunity.

Name: Mary Beth Buck

Date: March 3, 2026 2:45:07 pm

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I am writing to oppose the White House East Wing Modernization and State Ballroom Project. This White House is a National Historic Landmark and National Park. As such it deserves far more care and transparency than this project has received to date. The East Wing was demolished before any review process was initiated or completed. Moreover, the current proposed plans are totally insensitive to 18th century architectural standards of classical architecture and to the original comprehensive layout of the District of Columbia. In fact, they seem to make a mockery of both! Moreover, the scale of the ballroom far exceeds industry norms for state dinners, etc. Reducing the proportions of the project while accommodating modern needs would make far more sense.

Any project at the White House, whether interior renovation or a new exterior, acts as a national precedent in the

treatment of historic properties. I urge the Commission to take that responsibility seriously and respect our most treasured national landmark. Please honor its history and respect its beauty.

Respectfully,
Mary Beth Buck

Name: Bear Atwood

Date: March 3, 2026 2:46:07 pm

I was shocked and horrified when the historic East Wing was demolished to make way for an ornate ballroom. The Presidents's plans for the ballroom are ostentatious and completely out of keeping with the architectural and feel of the White House.

They also do not reflect the values of our constitutional government. The proposed ballroom is fitting for a monarchy. We have an elected president, not a king.

I believe the East wing should be rebuilt, but I know that is not realistic. I hope any new building is tasteful in keeping with our American values of representative government.

Name: James Phillips

Date: March 3, 2026 2:50:39 pm

The 90,000-square-foot ballroom would irrevocably alter the character-defining visual and spatial relationships of the White House Grounds, a National Historic Landmark. This is clearly just a vanity project for Trump, and frankly pretty pathetic.

Name: Frank Zwart

Date: March 3, 2026 2:51:40 pm

Please add my voice to the many who are objecting to the current design for a re-conceived East Wing of the White House. The current design is far too large for a sensitive and cherished site. It overwhelms the White House, one of our nation's most important, and most cherished, buildings. Send the architects back to the drawing board with instructions to try harder. A better design IS possible.

Name: Susan Burnside-Kelly

Date: March 3, 2026 2:53:11 pm

Please do not approve this plan. It does not fit the footprint of the White House. It is overly large and unpleasant

Name: Candy Wood

Date: March 3, 2026 2:55:03 pm

Please don't allow the building of a structure that dominates the complex. The White House itself is the main feature. An oversized ballroom takes away from the history and the look of the complex, and a ballroom is not necessary to the functioning of the work of the President. Please!

Name: M Rebecca Carr

Date: March 3, 2026 2:55:16 pm

I am writing to strongly urge that the massing and size of this project be scaled back to protect the balance within the White House campus as well as the view corridor to the Capitol.

The height of the new east wing and its connecting corridor can be brought back into line with the rest of the campus and

not overshadow the main White House or be completely out of balance with the west wing. This can be done by making more of the 1st level subterranean as the kitchen and other service functions don't need daylight. Additionally, the ceiling heights on the 1st and 3rd floors can be dramatically lowered as there is no stated reason for above standard floor heights on those levels. It could also be lowered on the main or second level while still providing above average height for the ballroom.

Second, there is no need for the immense portico. It serves no actual function and is out of scale with surrounding buildings. It could be eliminated. This would preserve L'Enfant's plan for the view corridor along Pennsylvania Avenue which has been historically protected, and allow the preservation of Olmsted's landscape plan.

Again, there is no need for a building of this size and mass, and relatively simple fixes could be made to protect view and the classical principles of balance and scale.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Mindi Ramsey

Date: March 3, 2026 2:57:14 pm

I respectfully submit the following comments regarding the East Wing Modernization Project and the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition.

The White House is a National Historic Landmark, federal property, and one of the most symbolically significant civic buildings in the United States. As such, alterations to its physical form must be evaluated with particular attention to scale, massing, architectural compatibility, visual impact, and long-term preservation of federal interests in the National Capital Region.

The proposed ballroom's size raises serious concerns regarding proportionality within the historic White House complex. The White House's architectural power lies in its carefully balanced classical composition, restrained ornamentation, and deliberate hierarchy of spaces. A structure of this magnitude risks overwhelming that balance and altering historic sightlines and spatial relationships that have defined the site for more than two centuries.

Under NEPA and related review processes, alternatives that meet programmatic needs while minimizing adverse effects must be meaningfully evaluated. I urge the Commission to ensure that less intrusive design options are thoroughly considered, particularly those that reduce above-ground massing and visual prominence.

Because the White House belongs to the American people, any permanent modification should meet the highest standard of design sensitivity and preservation stewardship. Federal review exists to safeguard national heritage from decisions that could irreversibly alter its character. The Commission plays a critical role in upholding that responsibility.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these comments and for maintaining transparency and rigor in this review process.

Respectfully,

Mindi Ramsey
Munster, IN

Name: David Hannah

Date: March 3, 2026 2:59:34 pm

I am dumbfounded and angry by the demolition of the East Wing of the White House. I am further frustrated by plans to construct a Ball Room in its place. There was absolutely no opportunity for the American public to provide input on the demolition and construction project. The White House is a major symbol of our country and is a very public property. The citizens of the United States should have a major voice in any actions that substantially alter this historic property. The process was and is completely un-American. The people of the United States should have been involved before such drastic and irreversible action was taken. Please deny any permission to proceed with construction of a Ball Room.

Name: Brandy Schadler

Date: March 3, 2026 2:59:43 pm

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House. The demolition of the East Wing has irreversibly altered one of the most significant historic sites in the United States and undermined the architectural and cultural integrity of the People's House and its surrounding grounds.

Equally troubling are reports that demolition work involving the West Wing may have occurred without proper review or approval. If accurate, such actions would represent a serious breach of federal preservation law and the safeguards that protect nationally significant landmarks from unlawful alteration or destruction.

The White House is not simply an executive residence—it is a symbol of American democracy and a designated national landmark. Any substantial addition of this magnitude demands the highest level of transparency, legal compliance, and public scrutiny. A 90,000-square-foot ballroom is incompatible with the historic character of the property and sets a dangerous precedent for future encroachments on protected federal sites.

I respectfully urge the National Capital Planning Commission to reject this proposal and to ensure a full investigation and appropriate accountability regarding any unauthorized demolition. Preservation of our nation's most important historic resources must remain paramount. If it is determined that the East Wing was demolished or altered without proper legal authorization, Mr. Trump should be required, at his own expense, to restore the East Wing to its previous historic condition in full compliance with applicable preservation standards and federal law.

Thank you for your time,

Brandy Schadler

Name: JF Garcia

Date: March 3, 2026 3:02:08 pm

Please, please, please STOP this unnecessary, unwanted boondoggle of a project

The East Wing so-called Modernization Project is another attempt by Mr Trump to pave over American history with cheap, gilded bad taste

No American asked for this - No American wants this and NO AMERICAN should be required to stand by and watch this travesty unfold

Please! Remember that this is the PEOPLE'S House, not a Trump house

A renovation of this scope and magnitude should NEVER have been undertaken without sufficient study - history must be respected and preserved, especially since the current occupant of the Oval Office has NO sense of history and NO sense of taste

I am horrified and appalled that this little tinpot dictator has been allowed to literally bulldoze the East Wing while shredding the Rule of Law and reducing the Constitution to ashes

Name: Judith van der Linden

Date: March 3, 2026 3:04:18 pm

To: National Capital Planning Commission

Re: The East Wing Modernization Project, NCPC File # 8733

Dear Commissioners,

The Executive Residence of the White House has proposed the installation of a 90,000 square-foot ballroom on the White House grounds. This project is important to me as a person who studies history, appreciates historic buildings and believes in the right of citizens to comment on and influence such changes.

After learning about the proposal, I strongly urge the NCPC to reject it as it stands. Conceptual drawings clearly show the sheer mass and height of the ballroom will overwhelm the 55,000 square-foot White House and disrupt the balance of the White House complex, which was historically designed to emphasize the Executive Residence. I believe any new addition to the complex should respect the prominence of the White House.

I hope the NCPC will recommend that the ballroom be reduced in overall size and/or visibility. This would serve to protect key views of the White House and ensure that the scale of the construction is in harmony with that of the Executive Mansion and its east and west wings.

If it is maintained, the size of the proposed addition could be disguised by placing portions of it underground. This very idea was suggested in the National Park Service's Comprehensive Design for the White House, developed in 2000 in part to address the future need for a larger event space.

Please consider this and other options to reduce the proposed building's overall size and mass. The integrity and historic prominence of the White House as the "People's House" needs to be maintained.

Sincerely,
Judith van der Linden

Name: Ellen Zarter

Date: March 3, 2026 3:04:19 pm

I remain appalled that Mr. Trump did not seek the necessary approval to tear down the East Wing. That said, I hope you will bring a rigorous eye before approving whatever awful plan he is now pursuing. No one asked for this! Please, allow your own good taste to prevail rather than his appalling ideas. What a sad waste of money.

Name: Rachel M

Date: March 3, 2026 3:07:52 pm

Given this project was started illegally, it should be scrapped entirely, and the East Wing restored to its previous layout.

Name: Janet Phillips

Date: March 3, 2026 3:08:12 pm

I am in opposition to this project due to the costs continuing to rise, the location and size of the ballroom is inappropriate and oversized. The is a disgraceful use of taxpayer funds that would be much better used to pay down the rising national debt and to fund programs that provide for the safety and health of the taxpayers
Thank you.

Name: Naomi Brooks

Date: March 3, 2026 3:08:27 pm

Please reject the White House's East Wing Modernization plan in its current form.

The White House is the architectural symbol of the American people's house, and it is of utmost importance that those people have input into these types of major changes.

There are experts in historic preservation and adaption who have developed guidelines for projects, systems in place for reviewing such projects, and technical briefs about specifics to follow to maximize both preservation and modernization of our historic sites. None have been given their rightful place at the table, with their important voices of expertise.

Our government and the way it follows processes demonstrate behaviors that should be worthy for the rest of the country to emulate. Instead, we have a wildly inappropriate project begun without the proper reviews, the experts removed and replaced with those willing to agree, and a process that has been ignored.

Sites across our country, whose land and buildings are the physical reminders of the creation of the United States and its

democratic foundation, have now been given a model to follow that will irreparably alter the very places that make our towns unique and compelling. The story of America that is written in these buildings will get obscured or erased.

Name: Marc Levenson

Date: March 3, 2026 3:08:36 pm

SOMETHING needs to replace the demolished east Wing of the White house, and quickly! However, the current proposal (see attached .pdf) is out of scale. I am suggesting lowering its exterior profile as shown on the second figure in the .pdf file. Ideally, it could also be moved closer to the residence, improving the view and adding security. I do hope this is a constructive suggestion!

[Attachment](#)

Name: Mary Beth Buck

Date: March 3, 2026 3:09:01 pm

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission -

I am writing to oppose the White House East Wing Modernization and State Ballroom Project. The White House is a National Historic Landmark and National Park, owned by the American people. It deserves far more care and transparency than this project has received. Unfortunately, the East Wing was demolished before any public review process was completed.

As presented, the current plans fail to recognize and honor neither the 18th century precedents for classical public architecture nor the overall layout of the District of Columbia. Rather, they make a mockery of both! Moreover, the scale is so oversized that it dwarfs the original building and far exceeds industry norms for state dinners, etc. Surely, the proportions of the addition can be reduced to respect the symmetry of classical architecture and yet adapt to 21st century needs.

Any project at the White House, whether interior renovations or a new exterior addition, acts as a national precedent in the treatment of historic properties. Please respect the White House's distinguished history and its classical proportions.

Respectfully,
Mary Beth Buck

Name: Deborah Wessell

Date: March 3, 2026 3:09:13 pm

The planned new White House ballroom is absurdly out of scale with the White House, and was begun without proper planning, consultation, or approvals. This is a ridiculous ego project and should be stopped. Thank you.

Name: Debra Shankland

Date: March 3, 2026 3:11:47 pm

I am heartbroken that a temporary resident of the White House chose to completely destroy a beautiful, practical and historic building. Surely there was expensive furniture, doors, drapes, lighting and architectural elements that should have been salvaged prior to the impulsive destruction, but they were probably just scrapped and landfilled. What a total shame.

I feel it's very important to recreate the exterior just as it was, in the same footprint. No expansion, no flashy lights, no towers, no gilding. This is our history, not the president's. Our history must not be erased or debased.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Name: Paula O'Hare

Date: March 3, 2026 3:13:12 pm

Comments on the East Wing Modernization Project

1. The proposed project totally destroys the aesthetics of the grounds designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, turning the White House from a classic symmetrical beauty to a mismanaged suburban front yard.
2. The layout of the nation's capitol has historic, idealistic and symbolic significance that would be destroyed by the new, larger East Wing.
3. Approval and construction of a building with fake doors and windows, a 4000 sq foot portico that serves no function, and front stairs that are at different heights from the ground and first floors would make the United States a laughingstock for decades to come.
4. The new construction is completely out of proportion with the rest of the White House and makes the entire structure look tacky.
5. Approving the construction of a federal building that does not meet federal ADA compliance requirements is the height of absurdity and shows a flagrant lack of respect not only for Americans with disabilities but also for the laws of the country.
6. There is no need for a 13,000 sq ft kitchen that grossly exceeds industry standards.
7. A ballroom that can only be used for excessively sized state functions is a huge waste of money. While construction costs may be funded "privately", maintenance costs will not be.
8. To approve a monstrous building without a plan for the uses of the upper two floors is irresponsible.

Name: Kim Dengler

Date: March 3, 2026 3:14:17 pm

Having reviewed the presentation, I whole-heartedly agree with your assessment of the monstrosity that is proposed. Your counter-proposal is appropriate given the historical context of the city and the buildings that are in the vicinity of the White House. I don't have much else to say and am not an architect, but can appreciate the ridiculousness of the current design. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process.

Name: michelle Moore

Date: March 3, 2026 3:14:31 pm

The White House is not just a residence but a symbol of American democracy and history. Any additions or modifications should honor the existing architectural language established by the original designers and subsequent thoughtful renovations. Consider how the East Wing can complement rather than compete with the historic structure. There are ways to ensure that any expansion maintains appropriate scale relative to the existing building. Oversized additions will overwhelm the original structure and disrupt the visual balance that has defined the White House for over two centuries. The goal should be harmony, not dominance.

New construction should echo the neoclassical elements that define the White House—its columns, symmetry, and refined detailing. Modern needs can be met while respecting traditional design principles. Please consider how previous successful additions have integrated contemporary function within a classical framework. Washington has a rich array of experts: architectural historians, preservation experts, and the Commission of Fine Arts who can provide guidance on preservation within modernization early in the process. Their expertise can guide decisions that balance modern requirements with historical integrity. Public input and transparency about design to a national historic property and paid for by taxpayers should be part of the process.

Name: Dominic Ricciotti

Date: March 3, 2026 3:16:13 pm

Many Americans, professional architectural critics, prominent journalists, and newspaper editorials have all agreed that the President's proposal to add a ballroom to the White House is ill conceived and problematic in many respects. I, on the other hand, an "unfamous" art historian who has published scholarly articles in referred journals, have nothing new to add to what others have stated. They have noted what is painfully obvious to anyone who cares about historic American architecture and the culture of the United States. The ballroom is simply and starkly out of scale with the White House complex. It is too big and too ostentatious, overshadowing the simplicity of the president's residence. The Classical aesthetic that guided the construction of our historic buildings from the beginning is appropriated in the ballroom in a way that is superficial and lacks distinction. In a word, the design is tasteless. (Computer renderings of both the exterior and interior of the proposal have been published.)

The historic buildings of the capitol were created during the Neoclassical revival era that grew out of the excavations at Pompeii and Herculaneum in the early eighteenth century and are expressive of the spirit of the Enlightenment. The ideals of the Enlightenment were central to the thinking of the nation's Founders and are said to have directly inspired Thomas Jefferson, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence. Moreover, Jefferson's work (with the help of others) as the architect of his home, Monticello, the Capitol of his home state of Virginia, and the original Campus of the University of Virginia are exemplars of Neoclassicism that set the tone of the first governmental structures of the new Republic.

As Adam Gopnik has observed, the White House as a national monument is also a home for the elected president and his family. It is not grand—it is a modest building, when compared to the Neoclassical structures of Old-World Europe—as to be expected of a new nation courageously carving the first democracy out of the wilderness of North America. If a ballroom were truly needed, a less obtrusive space than that of the former East Wing could have been found elsewhere on the White House grounds. In such a space, a structure could be built that would not disturb the straightforward symmetry of the residence and its two wings.

All the legal procedures for erecting a government building have been violated in the destruction of the East Wing, as has been the processes of choosing an architect and the design. Everything was handled incorrectly and insensitively, all of which have been publicly discussed. It is encouraging that the NCPC has entered the fray; Americans may hope it will be able to exercise leadership. Perhaps, if it has the authority and it is not too late, it is able to bring in experts, restoration architects, and historians, to begin a review process, so that dignity and rigor may be brought to this entire undertaking. Should the president's vision of a ballroom go forward, its grandiosity stands to cheapen the quiet, understated character of the existing White House.

Name: Noreen Herbert

Date: March 3, 2026 3:17:11 pm

The White House is the PEOPLE'S HOUSE and the people do not want a very large ballroom just tacked on our house. The historic East Wing was demolished on the President's whim with no official oversight. The idea of him designing an oversized barn to put his name on will mar and distract from the Peoples House. From what I've seen it's a large box tacked on to this historic site over powering this important symbol of democracy. I strongly object. This man seems to feel he can do as he wants with public property and I strongly disagree. This is not how this country is meant to operate.

Name: Martha Walz

Date: March 3, 2026 3:18:13 pm

I support the efforts of the National Trust to preserve, protect and defend the integrity of the White House and surrounding grounds by opposing the construction of the proposed Ballroom addition, alternately called East Wing Modernization Project.. As the National Trust has found, the plans submitted indicate a structure considerably larger than respected industry standards for the described purpose of ballroom/banquet facilities for 1,000 people. We are led to believe these accommodations are needed at the White House to enhance the international diplomatic stature of the USA. I offer the thought that this size disparity may be due to the willful misrepresentation of the primary intended use of the building. Please consider, for lack of more definitive information in the proposal, that instead of comparing the requested size to industry standards for ballrooms, we should instead be looking for comparisons to the industry standards for Casinos and Sports Facilities, basketBALL courts, bleachers, boxing rings, etc. Picture an Exclusive sports arena, dressed up with a few decorative columns, adjoining the White House. This is a different matter all together. It may explain both the current size proposal and any resistance to recommended reductions in size to meet ballroom needs while preserving the dignity of the White House. The president said he's looking forward to entertaining his friends there. While diplomats may enjoy sports too, like Sumo wrestling, and be impressed by a gilded arena, and the president may be entitled to build such a facility, it does not belong anywhere near the White House or surrounding gardens. Please show some respect for the historic virtue of this property and immediately block further destruction/construction presently in progress on the east side. I read a rebuttal that stopping now would compromise the security of the president. Would that put him in any more danger than launching a war in the Middle East? Let's not be distracted by The War. Save the White House. Now. Thank you for reading.

Name: Holly McGuire

Date: March 3, 2026 3:18:15 pm

Dear Sirs and Ladies--

The White House has been through so much in its history: burned by the British, rebuilt, expanded. It is the embodiment of the presidency and should not be overshadowed by the East Wing (or West Wing). Considering that the primary purpose of the East Wing modernization is to create a ballroom, then emphatically, that ballroom should not overshadow the main building.

It should also have historical and architectural consultants with no connection to the current administration, since whatever is created will be for all administrations in the future.

Thank you for considering this comment.

Best, Holly McGuire

Name: Bayard Schoetle

Date: March 3, 2026 3:20:28 pm

The proposed new East Wing Ballroom is too big and out of scale with the White House and the corresponding West Wing. The White House is a treasured building and all additions should be subordinate and maintain a balance symmetry on the facade White House complex. I would suggest that this structure could be located at a far corner of the grounds, and be attached by an enclosed colonnade and underground hallway that could connect with the rear-facade of an appropriately scaled East Wing.

It is not necessary to have the Ballroom attached to the White house, and it may be more practical and secure to have it be free-standing.

Name: Jonathan Crowder

Date: March 3, 2026 3:23:20 pm

To whom it may concern,

I believe the currently proposed White House ballroom is far too big. It should be reduced in size to the industry standard, if not smaller. And, the South Portico should be eliminated.

I'm not opposed to a new ballroom that can accommodate more people than the previous one. But, the new one must maintain historic and spatial relationship with the White House and other surrounding buildings for the American people and future generations.

Thank you.

Jonathan Crowder

Name: Cath Posehn

Date: March 3, 2026 3:23:47 pm

To the Commissioners:

I respectfully urge the Commission to require exploration of design alternatives for the proposed White House ballroom that prioritize architectural sensitivity, historic integrity, and visual harmony with the existing Executive Mansion and surrounding landscape.

Any addition to this nationally significant site should be subordinate in scale, compatible in materials, and carefully integrated to preserve key sightlines and the character of the historic grounds. I encourage the Commission to consider options that minimize footprint and massing, incorporate sustainable design principles, and avoid alterations that could diminish the symbolic and architectural legacy of the site.

Given the importance of this project, robust consultation with preservation and design authorities—including the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and the National Park Service—as well as opportunities for meaningful public input, are essential.

A thoughtful alternatives analysis will help ensure that any new ballroom meets functional needs while safeguarding the historic and civic value of this landmark for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

C. Posehn

Name: Janice Gintzler

Date: March 3, 2026 3:24:09 pm

I am trying to figure out why the White House needs a new ballroom. Why is it necessary? None of this information has so far come to us.

Is the proposed ballroom size compatible with surrounding architecture?

And please give us information on why a ballroom is proposed to be built. This is the people's house. We are the ones who need to decide any changes to the White House. Why has this not been done?

I see no reason why a ballroom should be part of the White House. The purpose of the White House is to serve us all. A ballroom is beside the point.

My comment is likely similar to many comments. The White House does not need a ballroom. Serious matters come to the White House, such as why there was slavery in the United States? Such as, how may the common person inform the government before a particular event unfolds? Rather, how can we obtain information before an event even happens?

If you want a ballroom, tell us why you want it. Let the people determine what happens to the White House. Most specifically, there are problems in the United States. Discrimination against persons of color is still a societal problem.

Now you want a ballroom. There are issues before the White House I am sure, that are serious. Such as discrimination against people who are poverty stricken or people of color. I think more important that a ballroom is the need for the United States to have some sort of public statements regarding discrimination against people of color, or why the economy does not embrace all who live in the United States. There should not be poverty, for example. Why are there billionaires? Who legislated that economic nightmare? Why is there so much between the Haves and Have Nots?

I am not sure I picked the right issue. The issue is the ballroom. The White House does not need that. I am against changing the White House in this manner.

Sincerely,

Janice Gintzler

Name: Gloria Geller

Date: March 3, 2026 3:24:16 pm

Using the measure of cubic feet, the proposed East Wing project will be three (3) times the mass of the White House. Although the purpose of the proposed East Wing project is to seat 1,000 people, the actual size of the proposed building would seat 1,500 people. These figures make the mass, size, and scale of the proposed building completely out of scale with the proposed purpose of the building and with neighboring buildings. A major downsizing of the proposed East Wing project is required.

Name: Kathleen Cathey

Date: March 3, 2026 3:24:17 pm

I am deeply concerned first about the process for capital construction projects at the White House and on its grounds. Whether the president is Barack Obama or Donald Trump, any substantial, ground disturbing project should require historical review and Section 106 consultation prior to demolition.

The fact that any administration can upend our national treasures and destroy parts of our history with no public input or review is horrifying. That this administration is taking large donations from business interests who seek political favors to fund this project shows the diminution of the common person, their voices and their needs.

Those are my feelings. On a more substantive level, it is unclear whether the White House is subject to ordinary planning requirements which include a purpose and need statement, scope of work and multiple opportunities for comments and appeals. Instead, it appears that any president can gut and redesign the White House to meet their desires within very short order.

Concretely, the proposed project is grossly out of scale to the White House itself. Project proponents claim the new facility will seat 650 people at a state dinner; however, the size of the structure would actually support 1,500 attendees within just the public areas. Puzzlingly, it also features a massive non-public kitchen area, ornamental and unusable entry points, no real connection to the White House residence and ceilings so high that their only purpose appears to be to render the existing White House to a subordinate status.

I have not seen analysis of the cost to heat, clean, staff and maintain such a structure, but in an era where families have to choose between paying the light bill or the doctor bill and borrow money to pay the rent, this project seems grossly out of touch with the needs and interests of the taxpayers.

This project should be postponed pending a review of the actual needs. Public input needs to be carefully integrated into design to ensure that the integrity of the White House and its history is maintained, and that the structure is scaled back to a subordinate position and made fully functional.

President Trump campaigned as a peacemaker, but instead has shown himself to be a wartime president. He spends our blood and treasure – along with our global standing – picking economic fights, undercutting food aid, medical care and disaster response, teargassing residents in blue state cities, threatening longtime allies and even bombing a grade school in the Middle East. In this campaign, it appears that the president is declaring a war on past presidents and their careful cultivation of the historic White House and its grounds. Remaking our public spaces in the image of the casinos he built up and abandoned over the years.

In a few years, he will no longer be president. In 20-30 years, I'll be gone. But my children and grandchildren and their children and grandchildren deserve a self-reflective nation that acknowledges its awkwardness and wrongs, while protecting the character of our national treasures and celebrating what we got right.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. I urge the Commission to proceed deliberately, exercise restraint, listen and integrate public comments, and consider the weight of this decision. You will be written into the history books when this extraordinary presidency is recorded and analyzed, and this very large project may well reflect your competence and independence.

Name: Sheri Johnson

Date: March 3, 2026 3:26:01 pm

Dear members,

I acknowledge that "event space" is needed to host dinners and such at Our House, The White House; however, what is proposed is so excessively large and disproportionate as to be an abomination to the scale and historic classical architectural style of the White House.

A South Portico with no entrance doors, which serves no other purpose than to disrupt the view of the White House, can be eliminated, and the height of the ballroom should also be adjusted. The scale must be reduced so as to keep the historic sight lines between the Capitol and the White House.

The White House is a National Historic Landmark, and nothing should be done to this historic treasure which will cause disruption to the symmetry and balance of the property. The very design of Washington, D.C., the White House itself and the White House Grounds have too much history and classical design to be tossed aside.

The scale of the Ballroom also goes against the Department of the Interiors own guidelines.

Mrs. Sheri Johnson

Milledgeville, GA (a city which is also laid out like Washington D.C.)

I am begging you to require major modifications to this gaudy "modernization" and have it be scaled to be proportionate to MY White House, so as not to completely overwhelm the White House.

The White House, OUR House, deserves more respect than it is currently being shown.

Thank you for your preservation of our White House & Grounds.

Name: Susan McLaughlin

Date: March 3, 2026 3:28:06 pm

I am appalled at what is being done to the People's House. There is absolutely no need for a gaudy ballroom. And there was no feedback requested from experts, nor from the public. It is a disgrace. It was so lovely and had such historical value to the people in our country and the past residence of the White House. First of all, a major revision should have been approved by our elected officials in Congress. There should have been an opportunity for the public to review the plan as well as historical experts, the National Capital Planning Commission, Commission of Fine Arts, Committee for the Preservation of the White House and the National Park Service before the demolition crews arrived. Whoever order them to demolish the East Wing should be held accountable, along with the current administration. All demolition and construction should be halted until a full investigation is complete and a plan is developed for construction that has been vetted and approved, along with a budget that makes sense. Actually, the money should come out of trump's pocket since Congress did not authorize funds for the demolition of the East Wing and construction of a gaudy ballroom.

Name: Martha Mountain

Date: March 3, 2026 3:28:45 pm

Put it back. We don't need a ballroom.

Name: Marlena Byrne

Date: March 3, 2026 3:29:47 pm

Dear Members and Staff of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing in strong opposition to the oversized and inconsistent East Wing project. Setting aside the fact that the former historic East Wing was illegally demolished (a tragedy), this new monstrosity is just that-- completely inconsistent in scale and design to the existing building. The new work should not dwarf the old, it should be subordinate to the existing White House. The design is tacky and vulgar. Please take this horror show back to the drawing board.

Thank you for your service,
Marlena Byrne

Name: Alexander Chanler

Date: March 3, 2026 3:30:07 pm

East Wing Modernization Project, is a misnomer. The East Wing has been destroyed and the public had zero input. The proposed "Ball Room" is a monstrosity. I don't care that "private" money has been raised. No one asked for this to happen. The public was not brought into any chance for negotiating. The committee should shut down the entire project now. Thank you for your attention, Alexander Chanler

Name: Gaye Guyton

Date: March 3, 2026 3:34:16 pm

As a concerned citizen and historian, I am writing with grave concerns about the new ballroom design. The current one dominates the White House, does not respect the historic trees and the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden or the architectural style, and is out of scale for balls and state dinners.

I ask you please to amend the design so that it maintains the original classical design of the White House and ensures the

new wing DOES NOT overshadow the current residence, adjust the scale so that it is more comfortable (human-sized), for the people who visit, protect the trees and Kennedy garden, and allows for a comprehensive review. This ballroom should be built for the next 250 years. Take the time and effort to get it right. Don't rush.

Thank you.

Name: Sara Arnas

Date: March 3, 2026 3:34:26 pm

Hello,

Thank you for accepting public comment.

The White House means something to every American and any changes to the people's house should have involved the people. I am very concerned about the destruction of the structure that was the East Wing and I believe the person who ordered that destruction without the approval of the American people and the committee should pay a large fine and be banned from making permanent architectural changes to any federal structures in perpetuity.

The plans for this enormous space will dwarf the existing building structure. A space that will largely sit unused with the exception of the times when it is host to extravagant parties that are vastly inappropriate for the time in which we live. And I truly hope that the person I vote for is not spending the majority of their time hosting parties but doing the work of the American people. The concept of a ballroom is outdated and stagnant. I hardly believe this should be called a modernization project if a large ballroom is being built.

If there is to be a "ballroom" it should be significantly smaller than the proposed plan. Should be in-keeping with the architecture of the White House, should not be dripping in gold because we are not a monarchy and that does not represent the American people, and should be advised by a team of people who are experts in architecture, conservation, environmental protections, and historic preservation. The rose garden should be reinstated and the ugly concrete and patio furniture be removed.

Thank you,

Sara

Name: Kathy Richmond

Date: March 3, 2026 3:35:45 pm

It is WRONG for Donald Trump to tear down the East Wing w/o permission! It is EQUALLY WRONG for him to add a 90,000 SF ballroom to a historic house that DOES NOT BELONG TO HIM. I am disgusted by the Mar-a-Lago-ization of the White House (which belongs to the People of the United States NOT TO HIM) & his shenanigans in posting ridiculous plaques in his version of a "Hall of Fame of Presidents." It is time for him to be stopped, so please do that. He's using tax payer money for his revamp of the White House & his many wars (Iran, Venezuela, & whatever other country he can trample to distract people from his presence in the Epstein files).

Please do NOT allow the "East Wing Modernization Project" to go proceed.

Name: Peter Byrne

Date: March 3, 2026 3:37:27 pm

The proposed ballroom building is grotesquely and unnecessarily large. As such, it overwhelms the White House and permanently disrupts both the axial connection between the White House and the Capitol (a key element of the foundational L'Enfant Plan) and Olmstead's historic landscaped grounds. The entirely pointless ballroom south portico, which has no function since it does not provide access to the building and has only fake doors, is appallingly large, dwarfing the White House South Portico. The east portico of the ballroom is higher than the White House roof. Both ballroom porticos are way too wide, out of all proportion with the porticos of the White House and Treasury Building. These are gross insults to the historic fabric of Washington.

Moreover, the proposed building's size seems entirely unnecessary other than to make a statement of brutal dominance. The ballroom is proposed to serve 1,000 guests at a seated meal, but it is large enough for 1,500 guests, according to generous industry standards. The ceilings for all three floors are ridiculously high. The ground floor kitchen and service

offices could easily be placed below ground, lowering the entire building. The third floor, the function of which has not been explained, unjustifiably is nineteen feet tall.

I urge the NCPC to reject this proposal, which would make Albert Speer blush, and direct the Executive Office of the President to submit a proposal that meets legitimate needs in a manner that respects the historic context of the site.

Name: Melinda Winograd

Date: March 3, 2026 3:38:59 pm

I am opposed to the present plans for the Trump ballroom and abhor the demolition of the East wing that has already happened. It should have been put through a rigorous process that would include making sure the ballroom was in line with the architectural parts of the white house as it stands- not a huge unrelated add on. I am also opposed to the billionaire donors who have bought this monstrosity, and for the rubble to be used in another public park. It is a terrible plan as it stands and I am opposed to it continuing.

Name: Judith M Jacob

Date: March 3, 2026 3:40:42 pm

I am writing to voice my concern for the proposed East Wing Modernization Project.

The President's House, the PEOPLE's House, is the most important component of the entire Whitehouse and its additions. While a large gathering place--a ballrooms--would be useful, the building that contains it should not visually overpower the home. I agree with everything written by Ms. Carol Quillen, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, to Mr. Rodney Mims Cook, Jr. Chair U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, on February 18, 2026.

Respectfully yours,
Judith M. Jacob
Brooklyn, NY

Name: Lynn McClintock

Date: March 3, 2026 3:41:22 pm

To: National Capital Planning Commission
Re: East Wing Modernization Project — White
House Ballroom Addition

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed East Wing Modernization Project and its centerpiece: a 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House complex.

The White House is not merely the residence of our nation's president — it is a National Historic Landmark, a National Park, and arguably the most symbolically significant building in the United States. It belongs to the American people, and any permanent alteration to it must be treated with the gravity that heritage demands.

My concerns are as follows:

Historic integrity. The proposed addition, by multiple assessments, would dwarf the White House itself, which spans approximately 55,000 square feet. A structure of this mass and height would fundamentally upset the carefully balanced classical design that has defined the White House for over two centuries. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are clear: new additions must be compatible with the existing massing, scale, and character of a historic property. This project does not meet that bar.

Process violations. Construction began — and the original East Wing was demolished — before plans were submitted to this Commission or to the Commission of Fine Arts for public review. This reversal of the legally required review sequence has denied the American public its rightful opportunity to shape decisions affecting our shared national heritage. Approving this project now, after the fact, would set a dangerous precedent that oversight bodies can be bypassed so long as construction moves quickly enough.

Transparency and funding concerns. The project's cost has ballooned from an estimated \$200 million to \$400 million,

privately financed by donors whose full list was not published on schedule. The prospect of wealthy individuals purchasing influence over the White House through renovation donations raises serious ethical questions that have not been adequately addressed.

Viable alternatives exist.

As the National Trust for Historic Preservation has demonstrated, more sensitive design alternatives are available that could meet the legitimate goal of a larger event space without overwhelming or permanently disfiguring one of America's most treasured landmarks.

I urge the Commission to require a full redesign that respects the scale, proportion, and historic fabric of the White House, and to insist on rigorous public participation before any further above-ground construction proceeds.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn McClintock

Name: Kim Doom

Date: March 3, 2026 3:42:59 pm

I am completely against the upgrade President Trump has tried to force through, by demolishing the east wing prior to any judicial process. I oppose the proposed upgrade because:

1. It's just looks monstrous, bigger isn't always better!
2. The White House does not belong to any one president, it is on loan to them during their term of office. The White House belongs to ALL the people of this country. Not just a few.
3. If upgrades are needed then the proper procedures to acquire the proper permits should be followed to the letter, because the White House is a museum, to be safe guarded and cherish.
4. The current plans do not add to the beauty of the White House, but will make it look deformed, not unified as it was designed to be.
5. I would like to see the East wing put back to how it was. If the ballroom can be made bigger while adhering to the original architects vision and design, then explore that option.

For one individual to unilaterally make the decision to demolish a part of the White House without following protocol, is an unfathomable level of disrespect. Not just to the legacy of the White House, but also to everything it stands for as well as to what it has represented to the people for decades.

Name: Diane Johnson

Date: March 3, 2026 3:44:19 pm

Mr. Trump should have gone through the proper channels required by the regulations for the altering of a Historical Landmark. He should not be allowed to do whatever he wants without following the regulations. It is not his property but belongs to the people of this country. It should be protected as such.

Name: Lucille Honig

Date: March 3, 2026 3:45:50 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project to be canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to proceed without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Deborah Laraway

Date: March 3, 2026 3:46:37 pm

The White House is the people's house. Destroying bits and pieces here and there or in larger chunks without any oversight or accountability is anathema to me.

The White House does not need a ballroom, it does not need golden bits of frippery glue gunned to it's walls and it does not need such unserious persons in charge of its destiny.

Name: Jan Dempsey

Date: March 3, 2026 3:46:49 pm

Dear Members,

I am distressed to see the enormity of the proposed ballroom addition to the White House. The size of this addition destroys the beauty of the classical architecture of the White House-. Also, the proposed East Wing Ballroom will block and destroy the symbolic connection between the White House and the US Capitol. This is not what our founders would have wanted. In fact, they were so intent on the actual checks and balances of our three branches of government that a clear view between the two buildings was essential. The current administration wants everything to revolve around our current president. He will not be here forever so I implore you to adhere to the historicity of the desires of our founders and to respect a design that makes sense. Respectfully submitted, Jan Dempsey

Name: Rhoda Kapugi

Date: March 3, 2026 3:46:49 pm

Leave the peoples White House as it us.

No ballroom, it is a waste of the people's money!

It will be an ugly building!

Stop ruining our Capitol

Name: Anne Paris

Date: March 3, 2026 3:46:49 pm

This hideous vanity project would be grotesquely oversized and dwarf the White House. If there is truly a need for a larger room for events, there are many ways to do this without overpowering the president's home. For instance, it could be partially or completely underground. Please do not let one man's narcissistic delusions of grandeur destroy this symbol of democracy more than he already has.

Name: Catherine Sullivan

Date: March 3, 2026 3:47:10 pm

This reminds me of when Donald Trump had the Art Deco friezes from the Bonwit Teller building in Manhattan smashed rather than carry out his promise to donate them to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this East Wing replacement project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Joe McMahan

Date: March 3, 2026 3:47:15 pm

To demolish the East Wing without public comment or Section 106 review is a tragedy for the American people. Mitigation should include replacement in kind, to be paid for personally by those responsible. Any ballroom construction within the viewshed of the whitehouse should be prohibited.

Name: Jon Michael

Date: March 3, 2026 3:48:48 pm

Unreal. This has to be stopped!!! I'm retired from the banking world. Additionally, worked in the planning profession. This an affront to common decency, not withstanding financial and architectural standards!

Name: Kathleen Greene

Date: March 3, 2026 3:49:41 pm

Our white house is a part of the history of our nation. No one person should have sole decision making powers about changing the building. The new ballroom should be much smaller and proportional to the White House. Please stop this erasure of our history. It is the peoples house o

Name: Jane Gutsell

Date: March 3, 2026 3:49:54 pm

I urge you to deny any and all applications to build a 90,000 square foot ballroom on the site of the former East Wing. Demolishing the East Wing without any authorization was an outrage. Replacing it with a monstrous vanity ballroom will add immeasurably to that outrage. The White House is the people's house. Its occupants are all temporary. The people do not need or want a ballroom of any size. There is nothing "modernizing" about this proposed addition to our house. Thank you.

Name: Julia Fuog Caudill

Date: March 3, 2026 3:55:19 pm

I am completely opposed to the alterations that are planned for the East Wing of the White House.

Spending \$300 million on this "modernization project" razes an important era in American history, when the White House became a place that embraced the work of the First Lady and her staff. The proposal was initiated without proper authorization, or permits, or design review. The East Wing was destroyed with no warning, no Architectural & Engineering Request for Proposals, no bids from contractors, and no abatement of hazardous materials; all as required by federal law.

I would like to see the East Wing rebuilt to its former design (that was scaled and in proportion to the rest of the building) and the administration's project canceled. The current design is for an out-of-scale, out-of-place, and out-of-time pseudo-historical building.

No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Sophie Oberstein

Date: March 3, 2026 3:55:40 pm

I'm writing to express my concern about the design of the East Wing of the People's House. The scale of the ballroom plans being considered are massive and not aligned with the look and feel of our beautiful national monument, the White House. I understand plans exist that are more sensitive to the historical, cultural, and architectural significance of this project. I urge you to implement one of these plans rather than an eyesore that we the people didn't ask for. It's not just the absolutely terrible way the demolition of this project happened that is of deep concern to me; it's also that an ugly, unvetted, massive eyesore is being rushed to fill its place, destroying the scale and appearance of a national landmark.

Name: Diane Marlin

Date: March 3, 2026 3:56:33 pm

March 4, 2026

East Wing Modernization Project

Diane Marlin [REDACTED]

I appreciate questions raised at the Feb 5 NCPC meeting by Commissioners Mendelson, Argo, and Dixon related to the project's size, mass, scale, accessibility, and consistency with historic planning documents. My comments are based on information provided by the NCPC and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

1) This project is far too large for the site. It can be reduced in size and scale without compromising any of the proposed functions. The current design dwarfs the historic White House, blocks the sight line between the Capitol and White House along Pennsylvania Avenue, and disrupts the historic landscape design. In one fell swoop, it obliterates the legacy of Hoban, L'Enfant, and Olmstead. This cannot be allowed to happen.

According to the National Trust, the East Wing project has nearly three times the mass of the White House, 2.4 million cu feet above grade compared to 875,000 cu ft. The Ballroom interior ceiling is 40 feet high and other areas have ceilings as high as 23 feet. The Ballroom and Kitchen area are significantly oversized based on industry standards. Seating for 1000 people should require up to 15,000 sq ft, not 22,000 sq ft as proposed. The kitchen area is 2.5 times the industry standard.

2) The East Wing project is inaccessible. According to Mr. Baranes, there are two primary entrances to the Ballroom: From the East Room of the White House via the colonnade OR from an east side ground level driveway, where one would go up steps to the East Portico, enter a foyer and walk up a Grand Staircase to the Ballroom. Mr. Baranes further clarified that the "primary handicap access to the Ballroom is through the front door of the White House. The other entrances won't be accessible." This is unacceptable. There should be elevator access from the east side foyer directly up to the Ballroom. If you are building a Grand Staircase, you can install Grand Elevators.

3) The colossal South Portico, terrace and staircase appear to have little purpose other than to add to the mass of the structure and they should be removed. The Ballroom floor is 12 feet ABOVE the terrace and the kitchen is BELOW it. There is no internal connection from these rooms to the Portico. There are no functioning doors from the Ballroom to the South Portico. The Portico's 24 massive columns will block much of the view from the Ballroom windows. The 40 ft wide staircase stops at the terrace.

I urge NCPC to require the following changes to the East Wing Modernization design:

- a. Reduce the mass, footprint and scale of this project. Resize the ballroom and kitchen to industry standards, rearrange the kitchen and service areas and remove the fake South Portico to reduce overall mass by 40% (National Trust)
- b. Preserve L'Enfant's sightlines between the Capitol and the White House, follow Hoban's elegant White House design, and maintain Olmstead's vision for the grounds.
- c. Prioritize accessibility for people of all ages and abilities.

Name: Luke Hallowell

Date: March 3, 2026 3:56:36 pm

The message the new East Wing project sends is fundamentally Anti-American. It reeks of the English Aristocracy and feels like a return to the very thing we founded this country to escape from. I hope we can shift this project to ensure the White House remains "The People's House" instead of the house of Lords.

Name: Cheryl Nevelizer

Date: March 3, 2026 3:57:07 pm

Pres Harry Truman must be spinning in his grave. His restoration of the White House was just that. He ensured that the White House was restored, not changed. Rather than knock down walls and destroy, he took heavy equipment apart and rebuilt them in the White House basement. But Pres Truman knew and respected his history. The White House belongs to the American people and is a part of our history. Let Trump put up this gaudy and historically inaccurate addition at his own home on Florida.

Name: Laura Howie-Walters

Date: March 3, 2026 3:59:10 pm

I do not approve my tax dollars paying for a 90,000 foot ballroom. I was horrified that the East Wing is now just gone! That money could be spent on a number of more important things in my opinion.

Name: Paula Borhauer

Date: March 3, 2026 3:59:25 pm

Thank you for taking public comments.

PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE the East Wing plan that contains over 2 million cubic feet and destroys the historical design of the Capital area and the landscaping design.

To recover from the destruction that has been done, PLEASE INSURE there is a viable ALTERNATIVE PLAN that retains the historical design of the Capital area, the historical landscaping design, and fits with the remaining White House structure. An alternative design will meet the intended purpose, without exceeding industry standards and destroying the historical value in our Capital area.

The President acted beyond his authority and the trust of the citizens in directing such destruction of our National Historical Landmark. Please stand up for our historical values and landmarks.

Name: Serena Smith

Date: March 3, 2026 4:00:53 pm

What the president did is horrifying and a violation of the public trust. His taste is offensive. I oppose this administration pursuing any project without the input of trustworthy and knowledgeable professional and historic preservation organizations directing it. This administration cannot be trusted by the people of this nation to act responsibly in this matter.

Name: Brent Forkner

Date: March 3, 2026 4:01:00 pm

Please stop him from this execrable desecration.

Name: Tawny Reynolds

Date: March 3, 2026 4:02:15 pm

"Modernization"? That's what we're calling the razing of an historic building without taking time to gather the legally required permits and approvals, let alone properly remove all the irreplaceable antiques and artwork that was inside at the time? So there's that.

Separately, the "ballroom" appears to be purely a way to launder bribes and other corrupt money transfers directly to President Trump.

And lastly, the president's architectural design is completely out of keeping with the rest of the White House. The gargantuan proposal will completely overshadow the existing building - or what remains of it - and its sole purpose is to serve to aggrandize the president.

Instead, I ask that you approve the recommendations made by National Trust trustees and fellows of The American Institute of Architects, David Scott Parker and Bill Bates for design alternatives for a more sensitive White House ballroom.

Thank you.

Name: Maude Adams

Date: March 3, 2026 4:02:19 pm

The proposed plans for a ballroom to replace the east wing of the White House are greatly out of proportion to the existing structure as well as the surrounding buildings. As a citizen of the United States of America, I am appalled that a sitting president demolished part of the "People's House" without any concern for or acknowledgment of the architectural and historical significance of the building he demolished. I believe that this act has broken the trust of the majority of the citizens of this country. When we elect a president, we entrust them with our most cherished structures and lands and expect them to respect their place in our history. Tearing down the East Wing of the White House to build a privately funded ballroom is contradictory to the fabric of this trust.

The plans for this ballroom take away from the grandeur that is the White House. It's standing as the "People's House" is erased when private entities are driving the design and funding the construction. Ever since I was a small child, I revered

the White House as a symbol of our democracy and had great comfort in knowing that all of it's former occupants had cared for it in such a way as to respect it's historic and architectural nature. The proposed structure not only detracts from that history and architecture, it overshadows it in a way that diminishes the stature of the existing building. The White House was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960 and as such the citizens of this country can expect and should demand that any renovation be carefully considered for not only proposed usage but also for adherence to the architectural integrity of the building. The proposed ballroom does nothing but diminish the existing structure and will overshadow the surrounding buildings. There needs to be some adherence to architectural norms especially when it comes to a building with National Historic Landmark status. I ask that the Planning Commission reject the current plans and request the design be reviewed and redesigned to blend with the existing structures so that the White House remain the prominent structure within the compound.

Name: Ann Hatke

Date: March 3, 2026 4:03:29 pm

[Attachment](#)

Name: Mary Calmes

Date: March 3, 2026 4:08:09 pm

The destruction of the East Wing of the White House in October of 2025 came as a shock to me as a US citizen. The "need" for a sumptuous ballroom has not been convincingly demonstrated. But the East Wing is gone now and plans are in the works for the construction of grossly oversized ballroom that will come at a great cost to our country historically, physically, and economically.

The south facing portico is 4000 square feet of grandiosity: no entrance, fake doors, columns that are not in keeping with the design of other columns of building in close proximity. It is all show. The third floor of the building has 19 foot ceiling and to date no noted function. The lower level with no windows also has extraordinarily high ceilings as does the ballroom property topping out at 23 feet. This structure will destroy the balance of design inherent in the building of the capitol city. The ballroom will destroy the inherent design of the city by blocking the lines of sight from the Peoples' House to the the Capitol and the Department of State that was ingeniously designed by Pierre L'Enfant dating back to George Washington's time. Honoring our history takes priority over some egomaniac's fever dream.

Name: Robert Stoneham

Date: March 3, 2026 4:08:13 pm

The currently proposed ballroom design will result in an addition that disrupts the history, views, and classical symmetry of the White House. The ballroom addition design should be revised to accomplish the following:

1. Lower its overall height to be below the White House
2. Set it further back so the view between the White House and the Capitol is not obscured
3. Lower the connector to match the height of the West Wing connector
4. Reduce the scale and features of the portico so its scale does not overshadow the White House portico

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Name: Michael Tomko

Date: March 3, 2026 4:09:13 pm

The White House is supposed to be the peoples house. Just that a house not a palace. Kings and Queens have Ballrooms not the President of the United States. The proposal is out of scale with the original plan of the White House and obstructiucts the original intention of the building to be in view of the Capitol building from both directions.

Beside that it will go unused for most of the time, after all how often is there a "Ball" in DC. It is a shame the project has gone this far with the destruction of the East Wing with no prior consideration by any of the overseeing agencies. If billionaires want to contribute to buildings in DC they might start with the much needed repair and upgrading of so many historical buildings in need.

I would hope this committee would put a halt to this unnecessary and might I say UGLY change to "The Peoples House". the president is only a temporary occupant, not the owner.

Name: MarthaLee Doyle

Date: March 3, 2026 4:09:20 pm

I am opposed to the plans for the extravagant ballroom expansion.

Name: Mark Garff

Date: March 3, 2026 4:10:06 pm

To: National Capital Planning Commission

Re: Public Comment – East Wing Modernization / White House Ballroom Project

Date: March 3, 2026

Submitted by: Mark S. Garff, ASLA, PLA

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I submit this comment to express concern regarding the proposed East Wing Modernization and White House Ballroom project. The White House grounds are a nationally significant cultural landscape embedded within the L'Enfant Plan and shaped by successive generations of architectural and landscape stewardship. The current proposal raises serious issues related to urban design integrity, scale, architectural authenticity, landscape preservation, and public access.

1. Disruption of the L'Enfant Plan and Axial Relationships

The White House occupies a pivotal position within the L'Enfant Plan, defined by strong axial alignments and carefully composed sightlines. The proposed addition risks diminishing the clarity of these historic relationships. Any intervention of this magnitude should be supported by a rigorous urban design analysis demonstrating that axial continuity and sightlines are preserved.

2. Loss of Olmsted's Oval and Historic Landscape Character

The White House grounds reflect layered landscape design, including contributions associated with the Olmsted legacy. Alterations to features such as Olmsted's Oval erode historic spatial composition and landscape intent. Historic landscapes must be evaluated holistically, and avoidance of adverse impacts should be prioritized.

3. Architectural Authenticity: Non-Functional Elements

The inclusion of non-functional windows, doors, and a portico without meaningful interior connection raises concerns about architectural integrity. Compatibility with the White House's classical character should be achieved through proportion, hierarchy, and functional clarity—not through superficial mimicry.

4. Excessive Scale and Programmatic Overreach

A ballroom designed to accommodate up to 1,500 attendees represents a significant escalation in scale relative to the existing White House complex. The massing appears disproportionate to the Executive Residence and East Wing, and the program prioritizes maximum occupancy over flexibility. A space of this size—unable to effectively accommodate smaller events—suggests that the physical impacts may be driven by unnecessary programmatic ambition rather than demonstrated need.

5. Public Accessibility and the "People's House"

The White House is the "People's House," and major alterations to its grounds demand robust transparency and public engagement. The scale of this project warrants extended review, clear disclosure of alternatives, and a demonstrated public benefit that outweighs the loss of historic resources.

6. Loss of Historic Commemorative Magnolia Trees

The removal of the commemorative Southern Magnolia trees associated with Presidents Harding and Roosevelt constitutes an irreversible loss to the historic landscape. These mature plantings were living memorials embedded in the cultural narrative of the White House grounds. Their removal underscores the broader concern that historic landscape resources are being treated as expendable.

Conclusion

The proposed ballroom project raises substantial concerns regarding scale, historic preservation, urban design integrity, architectural authenticity, and public stewardship. The cumulative effect of these impacts is significant.

I respectfully urge the National Capital Planning Commission to:

Require comprehensive analysis of impacts to the L'Enfant Plan and historic sightlines.
Ensure avoidance or minimization of further adverse effects to historic landscapes, including Olmsted-era features.
Reevaluate the programmatic necessity and scale of the proposed ballroom.
Insist upon authentic architectural design rather than superficial historic imitation.
Strengthen public engagement and transparency prior to any final approvals.

The White House is more than a building complex—it is a civic symbol embedded in a carefully composed historic landscape. Stewardship of this national asset demands restraint, rigor, and respect for its layered history.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark S. Garff, ASLA, PLA
Butte, Montana

Name: Wesley Haynes

Date: March 3, 2026 4:11:16 pm

I write as a semi-retired historic preservation professional based in Connecticut in strong opposition to this project as currently planned. The addition intrudes on the visual connection between the historic White House core and Capitol, a visible expression of our nation's government and its separation of powers. The oversized scale of the addition and its hyphen dwarf the White House and intrude upon the site's well preserved Olmstead landscape placing it in conflict with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Please do not approve this application as currently presented.

Name: Rebecca Gay

Date: March 3, 2026 4:16:01 pm

The current design for the East Wing of the White House is completely unacceptable (as was demolishing the East Wing with no regard for historical preservation process, approvals, or planning). There are many reasons the current plan need reworking:

1. The White House is 'the people's house' and is a sacred symbol of the best of what the U.S. stands for. It is restrained, balanced, and beloved. The 'modernization' project as it stands now is a mockery of the original White House design and a grotesque statement of defamation.
2. The current design violates history and maims the District of Columbia due to its grossly out of proportion scaling which can only be described as monstrous. It completely distorts James Hoban's original White House plans. Currently 15 square feet is the accepted standard/person in a ballroom and this design exceeds this standard significantly; and the square footage of the ballroom and the ceiling height would make it impossible to section off the area for smaller gatherings).
3. it desecrates L'Enfant's beautiful plan for the District of Columbia by obliterating the axial vistas that visually connect the legislative branch (the Capitol) and the executive branch (the White House).
4. It completely violates Olmsted's beautiful landscape design and requires reshaping and distorting the lovely drive around the White House.

The architecture of the proposed design disrupts the balance and symmetry of the White House and does not honor the nomenclature of classical design (one example, the use of corinthian columns on the ballroom upstage the White House's ionic ones). The potential for private donors to be paying for it further distorts the integrity of 'the people's house'.

Name: Dan Storm

Date: March 3, 2026 4:16:42 pm

The entire proposal is atrocious. It is a vulgar display of excess. All those involved in the demolition of the East Wing MUST be required to pay for the rebuilding as it was originally. The White House is a national treasure and should never have been desecrated in such a manner. And that goes for the rose garden as well. Further, it is beneath whoever named this project to think the American public would be swayed by naming it the East Wing Modernization Project. Call it what it is, The Simpleton's Vanity Project.

Name: Robert Marshall

Date: March 3, 2026 4:16:47 pm

This is awful and needs to be stopped as the "peoples house" is not to be changed at the whim of this president. Demolishing the building should never have been allowed. Typical "shyster" developer asking for forgiveness instead of permission.
The proposed project is too large and out of proportion for the White House. No design sense, taste, or restraint required for a project like this.

Name: Sharon Hernandez

Date: March 3, 2026 4:18:13 pm

I strongly object to Donald Trump's vision for an oversized ugly ballroom on the White House grounds. I see it as unnecessary considering the number of formal events normally scheduled by the White House during the year. He had no authorization to destroy the East Wing and this addition will completely overshadow the main White House structure and will destroy the beautiful symmetry of the historic structure as well as destroying the grounds. Further I believe he will "decorate" the ballroom with gaudy accoutrements that reflect the tacky overstated pseudo-opulence of his personal club at Mar a Lago. We cannot allow this grotesque structure to be built.

Name: Sharon Geil

Date: March 3, 2026 4:19:26 pm

While it would have been best had the East Wing not been demo'd, at least prior to consultation, here we are. It is very important that its replacement honor the architectural style and scale of remaining structures. After all, we're talking our Nation's capital and specifically "The People's House". George Washington commissioned a design from L'Enfant that has been followed since 1791. It's exceedingly disrespectful and inappropriate to disregard this historic plan with its proportionality and planned axes. The planned addition is reportedly 166% of the size of the White House! Per the National Trust for Historic Preservation, scale can easily be restored by simply moving non-public area that don't need natural light to below ground level. For example, the kitchen, which is also much larger than commercial kitchens built to accommodate service for 100 people. Speaking of accommodation, the building should be ADA accessible! What if a delegate or guest such as the head of a foreign government is disabled? There should also be access to the East Wing from the interior of the adjoining White House. Historically, the First Lady's offices have been in the East Wing. It's frankly bad planning to force going outside to access her offices! Please consult in good faith with the National Capital Planning Commission and take into account the suggestion offered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Maintain the historic context and viewscapes of the Capitol!

Name: Amy Miller

Date: March 3, 2026 4:19:35 pm

We have much to be proud of in our country -- and the fact that we can say a lot without yelling is one of them. There is no need for a new ballroom to yell and dwarf the White House. It can be constructed to provide the desired seating and still be respectful of the White House and the design of our capital and the White House grounds ---

In considering the plans for new construction ---
please ensure
that the scale of the new construction is compatible with the White House.

That the new construction is smaller than the White House in both its volume and its mass.

To seat 1,000 people architecture industry standards call for 15 sq ft per person --which would be a 15,000 sq.ft. space NOT the proposed 22,000 sq ft.

Please ensure that the historic line of sight that has existed for more than 200 years to the US capitol is maintained. Any new construction should NOT create a visual impairment (reference design work by Pierre L'Enfant in 1791 building around grand vistas, and strong axial connections between landmarks)

Preserve the landscape of the site including the symmetrical drive leading to the south entrance -- by preeminent landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead

In the end -- smaller can be very effective in its statement and in its usefulness ---

Thank you

Name: Laine C

Date: March 3, 2026 4:19:39 pm

The proposed construction and footprint of the East Wing are far too large. It does not respect the White House's original architectural style nor the material representation of the symbolic equality between the legislative and the executive branches. A ballroom that seats the desired capacity could be built with a far lower roofline and a more balanced style to that of the West Wing. It smacks of gaudy self-importance and doesn't represent the values of the American public.

Name: Andrea Chasen

Date: March 3, 2026 4:20:42 pm

To the members of the Commission:

It is an understatement to say that the wrecking ball that was taken to the East Wing PRIOR TO ANY REVIEW FROM THIS COMMISSION shocked me.

At this point,, you ae left with a difficult conundrum. Approving the submission of a 89,000 sq. ft extension that dwarfs the White House is ridiculous, but there is a hole in the ground that needs to be filled with something.

This White House does not belong to the current occupant and he has no right to make changes of this magnitude with no oversight. Nor can he simply hire any firm to do his bidding.

Whatever is built, must be to an appropriate scale and must reflect the overall design and the White House--not Mar-a-Lago.

I urge you to reject the current iteration and ask you to use your authority to make sure that this precious building is maintained in its historical standards, albeit with necessary modifications to meet the ADA and 21st century needs.

Please reject the abomination that is before you.

Thank you.

Name: Keith Benjamin

Date: March 3, 2026 4:20:48 pm

Mr. Trump has chosen to destroy the historic east wing on the White House with out any input from the American people. This destruction is unacceptable. His plan to build a "ball room" in its place is foolish at best. America does not need a dance hall in the White House. Please see to it that Mr. Trumps foolish ego does not create a national eyesore in our in our capitol.

Thank you.

Rev. DR. Keith F. Benjamin

Name: Julie Anderson

Date: March 3, 2026 4:21:26 pm

I wholeheartedly support the two architects who have presented their vision for the scaling back of this design. The actual Vitruvian Man, which for the purposes of illustration, a HUGE, meaty arm was superimposed over the Vitruvian Man

showing what this appallingly large building—in coherently long and high—would do to symmetry, sight lines to the Capitol, and obscuring the White House itself and the grounds on approach the People’s House—all eclipsed by the monstrosity of this outsized ballroom plan.

No plan for the gargantuan third floor!! Say what? Undoing La Font’s plan, Olmsted’s plan and the winning design for the White House plan! NO! The people want to scale back the administration’s insensitive plan.

I’m praying for our country which has illegally gone to war three days ago killing hundreds already— and today I want to focus on how this administration has gone to war over our architectural cultural history for the Gem of the Ocean! War with Iran and War with the cultural architectural history of our precious Democracy all of it brings me to tears!

Name: Michael Kennedy

Date: March 3, 2026 4:23:58 pm

To the planning commission:

The East Wing was demolished without proper review and public input.

But on to the merits of the proposed addition. The addition is wildly out of scale to the existing main part of The White House. As you probably realize, the White House as it evolved through the two Roosevelt administrations became a version of the classical organization of having a main building, two outlying pavilions or offices and hyphens joining the main building to the pavilions. We see this organization at Monticello, Poplar Forest, the University of Virginia, among other places. To work, the main building needs to be dominant and the pavilions subordinate. Ideally, the new East Wing would be approximately the same size (above ground) as the West Wing, to preserve symmetry.

The East Wing as proposed will result in a ungainly, unbalanced, confusing building, an architectural fiddler crab.

Thank you,

Michael F. Kennedy RA

Name: Diana Suttentfield

Date: March 3, 2026 4:24:02 pm

I may be directing my comments to the wrong project.....but I am strongly opposed to the huge expansion on our nation's White House. Not only is the current White House rationally designed, its size is in keeping what we accept to be the correct size for our nations White House- it is not pretension (sp)- it is in keeping with our American values as the home of the president, not a king, of the United States. The proposed huge ballroom, etc. extension is simply too much and will diminish the main structure which is where the important decisions are made.....the size of the demolished wing was suitable and it's height did not detract from the main building. This proposed ball room is not appropriate. I was born in Washington,D.C. in 1944 and although I have not lived in the city for many years, it is my "home" and I am very proud of many of the government and non government buildings- Washington, D.C. is a beautiful city and one of the reasons is that there is a certain, maybe undefined, design that seems to connect all the buildings into a complete "whole"; building the huge ballroom will throw out the architectural rhythm of the other important buildings. And that huge ballroom is not what our government, our city, and we, as citizens are about. Please build the ballroom to be a compliment to the White House, not an overbearing white elephant.

Name: Linda Weiss

Date: March 3, 2026 4:25:02 pm

I am writing to oppose the current plans for the East Wing project. The work was initiated without proper authorization, permits, or design review. The East Wing was destroyed with no warning, no Architectural & Engineering Request for Proposals, no bids from contractors, and no abatement of hazardous materials; all of which are required by federal law.

I hope to see the East Wing rebuilt in a way that is scaled and in proportion to the rest of the building and consistent with the design of the White House, more generally. I hope the current project/design will be cancelled.

No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Diane Duggan

Date: March 3, 2026 4:26:12 pm

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is the People's House.

Not a place to denigrate. Not a place to stamp one's own style. Not a place to create the illusion of worthiness. Certainly not to flout one's ego.

It was built with conviction. It was built with history and presence of mind to enhance the flow of architecture that is our Nation's Capitol. The People's House built to transcend any administration, any conflict or any individual's whim. It was built to exemplify the strength and dignity of the United States of America.

But it was also built on the backs of enslaved individuals. A history which must not be forgotten or tucked away as an inconvenience.

And it has been the temporary home for those who have been chosen to lead. Its walls have seen much of our Nation's history unfold.

True, as with aging buildings, renovations have been necessary to update technology or to provide for individual occupants' needs. But these were done with an eye towards the intent of this historical dwelling.

And the Dignity of the People's House has endured.

It is timeless.

Please keep it so.

Name: Lisa Scattaregia

Date: March 3, 2026 4:26:34 pm

You—as Commissioners of the National Capital Planning Commission—are the last line of defense to preserve the integrity of the White House for its rightful owners—the PEOPLE of the United States.

Detailed concerns and objections are attached and respectfully submitted.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Margot Joy

Date: March 3, 2026 4:27:12 pm

The "ballroom" project is completely unnecessary. It is wasteful, destructive, and the exact opposite of what should happen in an historic building. Sensible people are sickened by the damage already accomplished and by the threat of more.

Name: Kurt Korfmacher

Date: March 3, 2026 4:28:55 pm

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing these comments in response to the proposed East Wing Modernization Project of the White House, also known as the Trump Ballroom. This proposed project is completely out of line with the historic appearance and context of the White House and does a grave disservice to both the American public and to an important symbol of American government. Some examples of what I mean are listed below.

1. The proposed expansion is grossly out of proportion with both the original White House building and the West Wing, as well as the former East Wing that it would replace. This throws off the balance of the complex and impacts the design and feeling of the property.

2. The proposed expansion is larger than what would be required by the stated goals of the project. Expected to hold 1000 people comfortably, the building as proposed would hold 50% more due to its inflated size. There is no reason for the building to be larger than required.

3. The ballroom is a bad design. Its primary facade is out of balance with the main building and the West Wing. The porch formed by this facade is dominated by large columns that make this space useless for any purpose and block the views outside from within the building. The ballroom floor is also inaccessible from this side, despite the false entrances.

4. The size of the proposed expansion interrupts the original plan for Washington, D.C., and intrudes upon the sight lines between the White House and the Capitol Building. This uninterrupted visual connection between the President's residence and the seat of our government has been in existence since the two buildings were built and is a vital part not only of the city's ethos, but of the guiding principles of the nation itself.

As an architectural historian, I urge you to consider both historical precedent and the tenants of good architectural design in reviewing this proposed expansion. If an addition is so required to meet the needs of this administration, surely it could be designed in a way that is both complementary to the existing building and the overall plan for the city. This proposed expansion as it is now does neither, and is not in the best interests of this country. I implore you to reject this design.

Sincerely,
Kurt Korfmacher

Name: Lisa DeFrancesco

Date: March 3, 2026 4:29:40 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million (or whatever the current number is) on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. Processes and review panels exist for a reason. This project should be cancelled and the East Wing rebuilt and restored. No one is above the law -- including the President and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Michele Luciano Faas

Date: March 3, 2026 4:30:33 pm

Every time I visit Washington DC, I am filled with a sense of pride and connection. In my mind our national buildings represent the continuity of the American republic. They connect us to this country's founding and represent our development into the country we are today. This connection to our past is very important, particularly this year, our 250th anniversary. With this in mind I ask the National Capital Planning Commission to review plans for the Modernization of the East Wing respecting the design and intent of the early planners. Please ensure that this new addition to the White House Complex is synergistic with the current buildings, not architecturally different or overpowering. It also should work within the Pierre "Peter" L'Enfant blueprint of city grids (connecting the White and the Capital building); as well as maintain the beautiful landscaping designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. I appreciate this opportunity to provide a comment. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Patricia Phagan

Date: March 3, 2026 4:30:38 pm

As per the Site Elevation drawings available in the materials for review, the projected Ballroom would be a major component of the White House grounds. As rendered, the Ballroom's classical south portico encourages a kind of visual back and forth stylistic conversation with the stately neoclassical residence. That vigorous exchange between the projected Ballroom and White House seems a bit isolated, however, and does not extend very much to the smaller and lower West Wing and its historic colonnade to the left of the residence. To help remedy this and make the grounds more balanced and pleasing, I suggest a slightly narrower and shorter footprint for the ballroom and a somewhat lower adjacent colonnade, with additional tall plantings near the West Wing and along its colonnade, as security allows. The writer is a retired curator of prints and drawings with over thirty years of experience.

Name: Heidi Cummings

Date: March 3, 2026 4:31:38 pm

I feel the East Wing should be rebuilt as close to possible as it was before its illegal destruction and replace the Rose Garden while they are at it. No other president has put his hand of destruction on the White House like this one has. If a

ballroom has to be built, definitely go with a smaller one, preserving Washington's intention.

Thank you for the very informative video.

Name: George Hernandez

Date: March 3, 2026 4:32:13 pm

I am totally against it!

-This is a misuse of funds and a total waste of money for a Trump vanity project.

-From a historical standpoint, it is destroying a national monument. A great symbol of America

-Money can be better spent on serious issues like homelessness and health care rather than something that has no benefit to Americans.

-It destroys the beauty of the White House with an out of balance overbearing structure.

-Americans don't want it, only one narcissist does!

Name: Shelley Smith

Date: March 3, 2026 4:33:13 pm

As proposed by the President, the new East Wing is too large, out of scale, and exceeds industry standards for a ballroom (and kitchen). This new wing should have a smaller footprint and much less height than the White House. Original sightlines to the White House should be maintained, not blocked by a behemoth of a building!

Name: FiFi Sheridan

Date: March 3, 2026 4:36:49 pm

March 3, 2026

Distinguished Members of the Commission,

As a former resident of Washington for twelve years who served her government in the country and abroad, was a board member of the D.C. Preservation League and has been a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation for over 46 years, I strongly encourage you to:

---pause and reflect on the purpose and history of "the Peoples' House",

---pause and reflect again on the significance of the classical architectural design by Mr. James Hoban, with its plan and siting

developed by President Washington and Mr. L'Enfant, creating an axis connecting the White House with the Capitol Building in

this new country--- a most significant connection,

---pause and examine the purpose of the proposed space to continue the incredible value of diplomacy among our nation and

others,

---reflect on the brilliance of our forebears in establishing the new Republic.

As proposed, the new dining area would accommodate 1,500 for a seated dinner. The White House presently seats approximately

100--300 at its State Dinners; Buckingham Palace 150-170 guests; Versailles 150—180. These smaller sizes are much more

conducive to the art of Diplomacy than a convention hall or arena or stadium accommodating 1,500.

The smaller space allows for the sense of history to be more evident, allows for more conversational exchanges and is calmer.

Respectfully,

FiFi Sheridan

Name: Nancy Zintak

Date: March 3, 2026 4:37:08 pm

I am opposed to the current East Wing Modernization Project for the new ballroom at the White House.

-nancy zintak

Name: Markie Vie

Date: March 3, 2026 4:37:44 pm

The East Wing of the White House is part of a historic federal property that carries significant architectural and symbolic importance. Any substantial alteration, demolition, or structural repurposing should be subject to transparent review under federal preservation standards, including compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and appropriate public oversight.

Converting or significantly altering this space without clear legal authority, preservation review, and public process would undermine established protections for historic federal property. Decisions affecting nationally significant buildings should prioritize preservation, legal compliance, and transparency.

I urge the Commission to ensure that all statutory preservation and planning requirements are strictly followed before any structural changes proceed.

Name: Peggy Nikolajski

Date: March 3, 2026 4:40:43 pm

"East Wing Modernization Project"...more appropriately called the East Wing Destruction Project. Again the house owned and maintained by the American People has been subject to the egotistical and tacky ideas of this president.

He had no right to destroy the East Wing to build an ostentatious ballroom. If one was needed he needed to go through the proper channels.

Stop the building of the ballroom pending the examination of the plans and appropriate revisions.

Unfortunately we can't get the East Wing back but we can limit the damage to the White House

Name: Peter Benton

Date: March 3, 2026 4:41:03 pm

Please do not approve the East Wing Ballroom Project in its current form. It is too large, overwhelms, and is inappropriate to the size and character of the White House. It needs to be much smaller. Thank you.

Name: Pamela Penn

Date: March 3, 2026 4:41:13 pm

As a long standing member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation I was especially interested to hear how respectfully the East Wing Modernization Project was being carried out. As The White House is known as "The People's House" and as all previous presidents have undertaken any modifications to the building with this thought in mind, it has been disconcerting to find no information readily available to the public concerning the action this administration has taken.

Reviewing the information provided about the plans clearly reveals the fact that neither the structural components of the addition nor the historical symbolism of the building have been taken into consideration in the plans for this wing. The fact that it obstructs the direct sight lines between the White House and the Capitol; the fact that the formal entrance is not truly an entrance because the grand staircase does not lead to an entrance; the fact that the ballroom floor does not lead to the portico, so there is no internal connection; the fact that doors and windows viewed from the outside do not represent a usable entrance or natural light for the spaces inside; the growing cost to accommodate 1000 people when no research has been provided as to exactly how often and to what extent such a space is warranted; the overall unbalance this wing represents in terms of the entire building. All of these and many more issues convince me to write in opposition to

approval of this plan.

While I am not an architect or someone familiar with all the finer points of creating grand structures of quality I can see that this effort is not worthy of "the People's House". I would hope as an interested citizen and thoughtful researcher of information that you would take my comments into consideration as you think about approving this modernization.

Name: Barbara Kaplan

Date: March 3, 2026 4:42:13 pm

This euphemistically named "East Wing Modernization Project" represents an illegal and unwarranted desecration of a National Historic Landmark and a National Park. The destruction of the East Wing, which constitutes one third of the White House, was undertaken without review and without the ability of the public to comment on this extraordinarily significant alteration to this historic and iconic structure. This clandestine activity was undertaken at the sole discretion of the President who had previously lied about this project by saying that "the planned ballroom wouldn't interfere with the East Wing months before demolishing it".

Not only has the White House been desecrated by this demolition of a third of its footprint, the proposed 90,000 square foot ballroom would totally dwarf and diminish the remaining structure. The President has stated that this ballroom is necessary for National Security without any justification for this assertion. If this were a true statement, then certainly the President should have gone before Congress to make the case for the ballroom and request funding for its construction. Of course the idea that creating a space for the gathering of 1000-1500 people would protect National Security is ludicrous!! If anything, gathering that many elite business, political officials, and/or foreign leaders in one place just makes for an easy target!

We are told that this project would be funded with private funds, but who has contributed? And what will they get in return for their contribution??

If this project is allowed to proceed, it would set a dangerous precedent, not only for the survival of the remainder of the White House, but for all National Landmarks and historic government buildings. What will come next? The President is unhappy with the Supreme Court - will he demolish their building for a hotel??

In addition to the egregious and illegal nature of the ballroom itself, the President and his enablers have added insult to injury by undertaking a large demolition of an old building without any regard to the possibility of releasing asbestos or other environmental contaminants into the air, and by dumping the demolition debris in a city park! Have they no SHAME !!!

This project must not be allowed to proceed. It is destroying the soul of the country!!!

Name: Mary Follenweider

Date: March 3, 2026 4:46:14 pm

It is of highest consideration to respect the legacy of scale, proportion, balance and symmetry originally envisioned for the configuration of this site. The proposed program truly does not honor this legacy, while it ignores the impact of "the ballroom" massing on the surrounding environment including the White House and the axial view corridor to the Capitol. The White House is the People's House; it is My House, and as a architect, I take exception that so much has been ignored or violated in getting to this point in the process with little or no citizen input.

Name: Beverly Marston

Date: March 3, 2026 4:47:09 pm

A 400 million, 90,000 ft.² White House ballroom will destroy a national landmark. At nearly twice the size of the executive residence, the new structure will overwhelm the historic look of the White House. The current administration should not have initiated construction before obtaining full, independent approvals from agencies like the National Capitol Planning Commission. The cost of such a project at outrageous. Please save the dignity of our White House.

Name: Keith Lyle

Date: March 3, 2026 4:47:58 pm

Thank you for this opportunity to share my comments.

This project can't be called a modernization because it is a reconstruction. You can't modernize what has been demolished. The language assigned to this project is intended to obfuscate the truth.

Secondly, this is a project launched by the president alone, as if it were a private residence. It is not. It is the people's house and should be treated as such. The secretive and sudden demolition of the East Wing shocked the nation. A section of the most famous and historic residence in the United States was ripped down with all the care and concern of a Denny's being torn down for a new condo. The president, last summer, specifically told the American people that the existing structure of the East Wing would not be touched or changed. This was clearly a lie meant to allow him the time to push through this anti-historical reconstruction. The president is taking advantage of his enormous access to unnamed and unaccountable super-wealthy donors in order to escape the prying eyes of Congress and the public. This is a gross misuse of his private and public power.

Because of the ram-rod nature of this project and the secrets and lies that have been at its very core from the start, the entirety of this project should be halted – even if a hole in the ground remains where the East Wing once stood for a decade. Lies must not be rewarded.

Name: Austin Hill

Date: March 3, 2026 4:49:44 pm

Board Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

The Federal Government and those who lead it set the example for the nation in preservation guidelines. We should follow the rules as set forth by the National Park Service. The proposed alterations and additions to the East Wing of the White House are grossly out of scale and will cause irreparable harm to this wonderful historic site. This project has grown exponentially and needs to be denied.

The White House is the people's house, and the same rules that apply to the people, apply to their house. As a private citizen who has conducted Historic Preservation Tax Credit projects on a large scale, I am intimately familiar with the rules on additions, and their appropriate scale to historic structures. There are no special circumstances which warrant the scale of this addition. As Chairman of the Board of The Historic Savannah Foundation, one of the largest landmark historic districts in the country, ruling in favor of this grossly out of scale addition will set a dangerous example that will trickle down to cities like Savannah. Please deny this proposal.

Thank you for your service and attention to my comments.

Austin Hill,
Chair, Board of Trustees, Historic Savannah Foundation

Name: Judy Chesser

Date: March 3, 2026 4:53:06 pm

Statement of Judy Chesser, Chair, Committee of 100 on the Federal City, Regarding the Proposed White House East Wing Modernization and Ballroom Addition (Meeting of March 5, 2026, NCPC File Number: 8733)

To the Members of the Commission:

I am pleased to provide this statement on behalf of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City regarding the White House Ballroom Proposal.

There can be no question about the critical importance and national significance of the White House and its setting to the character of the Nation's Capital, and, in fact, to the Nation itself. A central element of the 1791 L'Enfant Plan for Washington, D.C., it is one of the most recognizable and important historic landmarks in the country, if not the world.

It would be irresponsible for any public institution—particularly one devoted to careful planning such as the National Capital Planning Commission—to approve any plan to alter the White House and its historic setting that fails to meet nationally-accepted planning standards and guidelines applicable to such a proposal.

In our view, the proposal before you is clearly incompatible with those standards and guidelines.

As currently proposed, the new White House Ballroom would be seriously out of scale with the historic setting of the

White House and its environs, conflicting with the design guidelines specifically adopted in 1997 for the White House and President’s Park by the National Park Service. The proposal would also conflict with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties — which for decades have served not only as essential direction for the federal government, but which are widely considered a national standard by preservation architects and planners across the country.

Specifically, the White House design guidelines state that new construction must:

“... respect the size, scale, mass, proportion, and aesthetics of existing elements, and the spatial relationships between them.” Design Guidelines for the White House and President’s Park, Guiding Principles, p. 10, National Park Service, 1997.

Similarly, the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties state that:

“New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.” (Secretary’s Standards for Rehabilitation, Standard 9.)

Yet, as proposed, the new structure would dominate the eastern portion of the landscape, at a size and scale much larger than the structures to which it would be connected, out of balance with the overall setting.

The historic design of the White House and its setting reflects classical architectural elements and relationships, including a central and prominent (but relatively modest) building—the Executive Mansion—with wings connecting to secondary dependencies on either side that are (or in the case of the East Wing, were) appropriately subordinate in size, scale, and massing.

The construction of a proposed ballroom of such a massive size and scale would not respect the existing and historic elements of the site, and the spatial relationships between the Executive Mansion and the secondary structures that comprise (or have historically comprised) its setting would be drastically altered.

In our view, constructing a ballroom of a palatial scale at the termination of a new (and, as proposed, much higher) East Wing connector would represent an adverse—and, we believe, damaging—alteration of the White House complex and its cultural landscape, contrary to the guiding principles of the 1997 White House Design Guidelines and the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

In summary, it is our view that the design concept for the Ballroom Addition, as currently proposed, would result in the construction of an addition to the White House complex that is seriously out of scale with the historic setting of the White House and its environs, in contravention of standards and guidelines that should govern the design, planning, and construction of a modern addition such as this.

We strongly urge the National Capital Planning Commission to deny the application in its current form, and to convey to the applicant that the proposed addition should be significantly scaled back in height, massing, and overall size in order to minimize the adverse effects on the historic character of the White House and its historic setting.

Finally, we would note that there are alternatives to the current proposal that would be in keeping with the historic standards while achieving goals intended for this project. For an excellent discussion on this issue, we would encourage Commission members to view the recording of a webinar hosted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation on February 25, discussing viable alternatives for a more sensitive White House ballroom. The recording is accessible online at https://youtu.be/kTqhH_X02DA.

Thank you for considering the views of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City.

(Founded more than a century ago, the Committee of 100 on the Federal City is a nonprofit organization dedicated to safeguarding and advancing Washington’s historic distinction, natural beauty, and overall livability. The Committee’s work recognizes the critical value of public planning, informed by traditions that originate from the L’Enfant Plan and the McMillan Commission, continuing to the current day.)

[Attachment](#)

Name: Patricia Mitchell

Date: March 3, 2026 4:56:11 pm

I am writing to express my deep concern about the proposed \$400 MILLION 'ballroom'

This is an unnecessary project...and will undoubtedly cost much more than the original \$200M, then revised to at least \$400 Million.

ONLY the current president is pushing for this ridiculously LARGE, GARISH attachment to the White House.

It is absurd. Mr. Trump wants his newest VANITY PROJECT, to which he will attach his name!

It is wasteful, was NOT approved by anyone.

Please halt it.

Sincerely,

Patricia Mitchell

Name: Robert Kolodny

Date: March 3, 2026 4:56:48 pm

The nation doesn't need a ballroom and this one should not be allowed to be built. White House should be restored to as close to its original condition as possible. President should be publicly reprimanded and shamed for the unilateral action he has taken.

Name: Christine Huff

Date: March 3, 2026 4:57:09 pm

My general opinion on White House additions is that under no conditions should any addition be larger than the original White House.

The proposed ballroom is totally out of scale. The style shown does not match the existing buildings, neither inside or out.

It should not be dependent on 'private donations'. This building belongs to the American people and not any individual, regardless of their position in the government. Including Presidents.

The current construction as proposed, should be stopped and the plans scrapped. It is a garish monstrosity.

Name: Toni Moore

Date: March 3, 2026 4:57:13 pm

This is an important update. Do not impede progress on this project.

Name: Walter Gallas

Date: March 3, 2026 4:57:52 pm

The architect, in his eagerness to please the client, chose to ignore basic design principles, guidance from the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and the history of the White House and its site.

Basic Design Principles—The proposed plan includes a ballroom for 1,000 seated guests in a space of 20,000 square feet. That is 20 square feet per person. The industry standard is 10 to 15 square feet per person. The ballroom is too large. The ballroom plan has an extraordinarily large kitchen, more than two and a half times the industry standard to serve 1,000 guests. The kitchen is too large. The south façade has an immense columned portico which has no apparent function. There are no doors to access the portico. The portico is useless.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties—In "New Exterior Additions to Historic Buildings and Related New Construction" (page 26), the Standards document states in part: "A new addition...must be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and design of the historic building while differentiated from the historic building...New construction should be appropriately scaled and located far enough away from the historic building to maintain its character and that of the site and setting...." The proposed plan is not compatible with the White House by any of these measures.

The History of the White House and the Site—It's no accident that the White House stands where it does. Pierre L'Enfant's plan for the city placed the President's House in a visual line with the Capitol building along Pennsylvania Avenue. The proposed plan will interrupt this vista because of its size. James Hoban's plan for the President's House was Classical and symmetrical. Wings were added in succeeding centuries, but each time the additions were balanced—and low. The proposed plan would construct two story-wings, destroying the primacy of the White House as focal point. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. was engaged in the 1930s to carry out a plan for the White House grounds. This included a symmetrical circular drive on the south side of the building. This drive would be interrupted and altered by the proposed plan.

Name: Kenn Rabin

Date: March 3, 2026 4:59:28 pm

I understand that past presidents have made alterations to the White House. But in the face of current overhauls, we need to make a stand about the limits any president can make. The White House belongs to the American people, not to any individual. Changes should be limited to maintenance and upkeep, and necessary upgrades (plumbing, electricity, wifi, etc.). Frivolous personal demolitions and additions (ballroom) should go through a strict series of reviews and authorizations to determine if the change is necessary, or would alter the National Building too much. The rules should be clear, in written form, stating exactly how much the White House can be altered.

A huge ballroom, created to satisfy one president and his decidedly 19th century ambitions (after all, who has balls anymore, and why can't he have them at Mar-A-Lago since he's there playing golf so much?), made by destroying part of a national treasure, historic building, which belongs to us, not to him, without his having sought the approval of Congress, or the NCPC, or, really, anyone--seems a frivolous waste and simply an attempt to do anything he wants. There ARE guardrails. I know he's already destroyed so much, and apparently had the debris dumped in the only public golf course in the city. I don't know how much damage can be reversed. But I object to the President's taking over the White House as if it were a property he bought.

Name: Laura Pakaln

Date: March 3, 2026 4:59:53 pm

Please see the attached document.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Jim Martin

Date: March 3, 2026 5:00:06 pm

First, the pro/prosed ballroom here is grossly out of scale and ruins the look of the White House. But you don;t need me to tell you that, you know it already.

Perhaps more importantly in the long run, the strategy of bulldozing a building and THEN asking for approval cannot be rewarded by success, or you will see it again and again and again and again...

Before ANY approval for any project there is approved, it should be required that the status quo ante be restored as nearly as possible. You cannot allow them to get away with presenting you with a fait accompli, believing that you will have no choice but to approve whatever they want to build in place of what they have destroyed. If you accept that, you have given them the ability to circumvent your authority into the indefinite future.

A simple decision should be issued:

"No permission for any changes to the East Wing site will be considered, regardless of relative merits, until the destruction of the existing site is reversed and the original structure restored. The administration is instructed to restore the site immediately, after this has been done they can propose, and we will consider, any changes or upgrades at the site."

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed ruling,

JGMjr

Name: Nancy Norman

Date: March 3, 2026 5:01:19 pm

The planned ballroom addition to the White House should, as in any addition to an existing structure, enhance and complement what is already there. The current plans, if executed, will not achieve that objective. I would support the modified plans put forth recently by two AIA trustees (D.S. Parker and Bill Bates) that would blend in with the White House rather than stick out like a sore thumb. Furthermore, it is unconscionable to permanently block off Pennsylvania Avenue and cut into the landscaped grounds designed by Olmsted.

Name: Elizabeth Wilkins

Date: March 3, 2026 5:01:24 pm

Dear National Capital Planning Commissioners:

I am writing in opposition to the East Wing Modernization Project in its current form. Specially, I object to the scale of the proposed structure, which seems to dwarf the size of the White House itself, when considering not just the footprint but the volume of the space it contains. In addition to issues of scale, perhaps the most egregious flaw of the design is the impact on the line-of-sight view from the Capitol, which would be obliterated by the new structure. This intentional symbolic view has persisted since President George Washington chose the site in 1791.

This building, known since the early 19th century as the "People's House", should be sacrosanct, and not substantially altered by the whims (or the wrecking balls) of transient presidencies, whether Republican or Democrat. Furthermore, any alterations should be subject to the entire review process established to protect both the historic viewshed and structures contained therein. Any other result is in direct violation of laws designed to safeguard our National Heritage.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Elizabeth Wilkins
Yorktown, Virginia

Name: Susan Honig-Rogers

Date: March 3, 2026 5:01:55 pm

I have restored an 1817 Federal house, using the DOI guidelines and most of my inheritance. I am convinced of the intrinsic value of historic preservation.

Mr. Trump has already unilaterally ripped away one of our structures of national importance, without a second thought. Now he proposes to build a replacement which disregards all DOI guidelines. Scale and mass alone will dominate, dwarfing the WHITE HOUSE itself.

Please do not approve this most inappropriate ego project.

Susan Honig-Rogers
Mahlon Schooley House


Name: Joel Mandel

Date: March 3, 2026 5:02:06 pm

Please approve a project with dignity and gravitas rather than gaudy and tasteless.

Name: Virginia Justiniano

Date: March 3, 2026 5:02:31 pm

The United States is not a country of palaces and kings. We are a simple, hard-working people who value the history and tradition of our nation. The proposed ballroom does not fit in with our worldview. It overshadows the Executive Mansion, disrupts the symmetry with the West Wing, and obstructs the axis with the Capital. Furthermore, several elements of the design are unnecessary and/or excessive. What is the purpose of the South Portico and its respective staircase if one cannot access the interior of the building from it? Why does the third floor of the addition have 19 foot ceilings for areas one can assume will be offices? Why are the kitchen and other nonpublic service areas planned for the first floor instead of below grade, and why do we need a kitchen that is 2.5 times' size the industry standard to serve 1000 people?

Please give this project the due time and consideration that it deserves. Instead of rushing to construct a monstrosity, please follow the laws and protocols for building on public lands, including feedback from architectural experts, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the public.

The American public deserves a more modest, elegant design. Thank you.

Name: CELESTE GARCIA

Date: March 3, 2026 5:02:42 pm

As a resident of the District of Columbia, I am writing to express my concerns about the East Wing Modernization Project.

The White House is a part of American history that students around the nation learn about in elementary school. I remember on my first trip to Washington, DC to visit family I demanded to know if we would see the White House and the Capitol they were preconditions for my taking the trip. The iconic design and symmetry of the White House campus is a part of who we are as Americans. Dolly Madison braved fire to save artifacts from the White House when external forces -- the British -- sought to burn it down. There is an elegance about that sacred building and campus.

We have already lost the East Wing which many of us have fond memories of entering upon visits to the White House. I can remember walking through it particularly when I had the opportunity to walk through it and see the beautifully decorated Christmas trees. I personally felt a painful sense of loss and violation when I heard the wing had been demolished.

To build a structure larger than the White House itself feels sacrilegious. My understanding is that the ballroom would dwarf the now out of proportion White House. The focus of the campus would be on a ballroom that many of us will never have an opportunity to visit and not on the people's house.

If you cannot stop the plans, please consider scaling them back so that the White House and not the ballroom is the center of the campus.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Miriam Kliewe

Date: March 3, 2026 5:02:45 pm

Hello,

I believe the proposed East Wing ballroom to be vastly out of scale with the White House and surrounding buildings. It is far too large for the number of people it was designed to accommodate. It also disrupts the historic views of the White House from the surrounding streets that have been in place since George Washington's time.

I strongly urge this committee to work to redesign this building to be more appropriately sized, with details (such as columns and windows) and construction that better complement our historic White House.

Thank you.

Name: Charlotte Hitchcock

Date: March 3, 2026 5:03:37 pm

The plans that have been made public for the White House Ballroom construction, are unacceptable in numerous ways. - The proposed addition is out of scale with the White House itself and with the West Wing and Treasury Buildings. Studies by the National Trust for Historic Preservation document the excessive size of the building even for the number

of occupants in the defined program.

- Additions to a National Historic Landmark building are required to comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards which the proposal does not respect.
- The design of Washington D.C. by Pierre L'Enfant prescribes an open view between the Capitol and the White House; the plan for the Ballroom addition violates this requirement.

Name: Janet Klinke

Date: March 3, 2026 5:03:55 pm

Having once lived near Washington D.C., I have visited many times to enjoy its sites, which enhance my appreciation of our history and heritage.

I strongly object to the current plans regarding the White House ballroom.

Its size is inappropriate to its setting and will negatively impact the balance and beauty of the grounds.

Please modify the current plans to enhance, rather than detract from the People's House.

Name: Jean Lundell

Date: March 3, 2026 5:04:47 pm

In reviewing the plans as displayed for the President's new Ballroom, I am dismayed to note the number of historic features, both architecturally, in its proximity to the White House (The People's House) and relationship to the design of the city itself. In comparison, the proposed Ballroom overwhelms all of the above concepts, actually Blocking the view of the White House on Pennsylvania Ave.

Please do not let this monstrosity materialize. Consider instead the designs offered by those who have refinement, true understanding of preservation. Do not let this travesty move forward as it is presented.

Thank you.

Name: Lynda Selde

Date: March 3, 2026 5:05:04 pm

I am writing to share my deep concern regarding the proposed White House Ballroom set to take the place of the White House East Wing. It appears that the project would be enormous and overwhelm the historic White House. This historic building deserves to be not demeaned by the addition of something garish. I hope that any planned addition will be designed with greater sensitivity to its surroundings.

Name: Christopher Brown

Date: March 3, 2026 5:05:37 pm

I am here to register my objection to the east wing modernization project purely for reasons of aesthetics. The ballroom if built would be twice the size of the white house and would obscure views of the executive mansion from many angles. Over the past years I have seen many changes to the white house grounds which offend me. Let me name just a few. The green press tents on the north lawn, the largely unused handicapped ramp on the north steps, the sheer size and number of guard booths, the 13 foot high fence, the 2 huge new flag poles which are usually seen on used car lots. These are examples of unnecessary visual clutter that have been added under various administrations without much objection. These additions pale in size and scope to the ballroom that is being discussed today. Consider the fact that the Truman balcony is barely noticeable.

As someone once said if you have a complaint bring us a solution. Well, I have a solution. President Trump if all you want is a ballroom, you can have it. Like the Capitol visitors center just put it underground. This solution preserves the integrity of the white house grounds while giving the president the space for entertaining he desires.

I am sure the objection to this would be that it is too late to start over. Well, whose fault would that be? The president should have submitted plans before construction started. Since this addition will live forever it is well worth the effort and added expense to get it right now. I urge the commissioners to require the president to bury the ballroom.

Name: Lori Llewelyn

Date: March 3, 2026 5:06:11 pm

The White House is one of the most important historic buildings in the United States. The White House and President's Park are a public trust and an important part of our national heritage. The proposed ballroom will be the first major change to its exterior appearance in 83 years. Such a significant change to an important historic building should follow a rigorous and deliberate design and review process, in accordance with the recommendations of The Society of Architectural Historians.

The current proposal is for a huge new ballroom addition that is out of proportion to the historic building. The design and review process has been completely inadequate. I urge you to send this project back to the drawing board.

Name: Kristin Ewing

Date: March 3, 2026 5:06:53 pm

Dear Commission,

No. The current occupant is a war criminal, runs a crime syndicate masquerading as an administrator, an adjudicated sex offender, convicted 34 count felon, and is a pedophile. There is no right under our constitution to defile the people's house and its surrounds. He defiles our rights and acts without justification in a racially biased and cruel manner and has personally enriched himself. He is an enemy of America - especially our children. He is treasonous, and he, along with his cohorts, should be removed, and arrested for TREASON. In reference to "allowing" him to continue desecrate public property - No.

Name: Ruby West

Date: March 3, 2026 5:09:07 pm

It is difficult to even know where to begin, as this project has ignored the fact that the White House is the people's house, not the property of one temporary resident.

The fact that the east wing was razed to the ground with barely a public mention much less any sort of public approval of the project is simply beyond the pale.

The White House is a historic property and it is preposterous that the felon in the White House has used his bloated ballroom plans to both destroy a piece of our history and collect corporate bribes is ridiculous.

However shameful his actions have been in regards to the people's house, they are the least of his crimes. He should be immediately removed from office and arrested for treason.

Name: Judy Treible

Date: March 3, 2026 5:09:18 pm

I write to oppose the East Wing Modernization Project as proposed by the Trump administration. This project has moved ahead without any consultation or guidance from Historic Preservation officials. The plans have not been fully made public. This building is not an Atlantic City casino that can be changed or torn down at the whim of a developer. The White House is one of the most famous buildings in the World. It belongs to the American people and must be protected and treated with the utmost respect. It has survived as a classic structure in the heart of Washington, D.C., for more than 200 years. President Trump's proposed ballroom would upset and overshadow our historic White House. Please do not allow this monstrous plan to move forward.

Name: J T

Date: March 3, 2026 5:12:08 pm

Officials must stand up and say no to these current plans. The plans must be redone by qualified independent historians since this proposed work cannot be undone without great time and money costs. This administration is already ruining our country. Don't let it ruin one of our most important symbols.

Name: Marina Gill

Date: March 3, 2026 5:12:47 pm

The current drawings/plans for the east wing replacement Ballroom are in no way acceptable.

Washington DC is exceptional due to articulate dedication to balance, proportions relative to adjoining buildings, following classical architectural standards to maintain continuity and value to the collection structures adjoining this project. The planning of Washington 1791 was laid out with a footprint that would be very easy to continue in the future. The ballroom project fails those standards with 20 'fake porticoes without windows nor any function at all. The portico is higher than the White House itself! The White House is the center jewel. Porticos on both sides should be an equal proportions which is not. The Vision Pierre Charles L'Enfant and Hoban's President House would totally be interrupted. The Frederick Olmsted's symmetry would be ruined in the classic setting. The east wall Palladium of the White House would be golfed by the New Edition. The ballroom floor is 20 feet above ground grade.

The enormity of the ballroom structure itself blocks visual sight lines from the original plans of Washington DC, as well as looks proportionately hideous next to the White House. The project needs to come back and industry. Standard standards need to be followed, which would help reduce the total size of this new structure. Please, if the current architect would sit and find a solution working with those at the national trust, historic preservation, the project could end up being a positive to President Trump's legacy. As currently presented, this project cannot be allowed to proceed.

Name: MARY SINCLAIR

Date: March 3, 2026 5:13:34 pm

Just say no.

Name: Jean Givens

Date: March 3, 2026 5:18:02 pm

To Commission and Board members--I'm writing as a citizen and an architectural historian who wishes to register my strongest objections to the destruction of the East Wing of the White House, its proposed replacement designs, and any and all proposed construction of a ballroom addition. These actions are shocking violations of public trust and desecrations of the traditional home of the US president. NO single president has the right to take these actions absent full review and approval of ALL relevant commissions and review bodies. As important, I fear any "review" undertaken at this moment faces undue pressure and political taint. The destruction of the East Wing was taken without consultation and approval of the US population. The proposed replacements MUST proceed slowly with full review by non-partisan, architectural historians. As for the ballroom addition. such a structure is not appropriate or necessary. Please, deny these projects and restore public trust.

Name: Deborah Dobson-Brown

Date: March 3, 2026 5:19:52 pm

I have been an architectural historian and historic preservationist for 39 years devoting my time in recording, assessing, and analyzing our historic structures in order to preserve the history of our country's-built environment for future generations. I have worked on several projects involving federal government buildings as well as UNESCO landscapes within the United States. As a career architectural historian, I spend a lot of time analyzing the visual impacts being made to our landscape, and to historic structures resulting from demolition, rehabilitation, and restoration. I analyze the visual and mental impacts of these modifications (or removal) on our nation's history. Our historic built environment provides our nation with the physical democratic knowledge of our nation's past, while also giving us a groundwork for our future. The resources give us the evidence of our democracy, something tangible to see and feel.

Removing the historic East Wing of the White House destroyed a part of our history with no thought as to how the American People would feel about the demolition – the removal of something tangible to our democracy has left a hole in our country's past. Replacing the original structure with a building physically out of balance to the White House and West Wing sends a lopsided view of our democracy. The White House is the dominant structure in democracy (along with the Capitol). It is the building where decisions are made, peace deals occur, international treaties are made and executive orders created to benefit the people of this nation. By creating a new, outsized building, which is being constructed to 'host' a ballroom, does not represent the policy and decision making of the Executive Branch, which is housed in the White House. The White House is the people's house, not a house for entertainment, but one in which Americans know that our executive office is taking care of our democracy. Having a new structure devoted to 'entertainment' is off balance

with what the White House (Executive Branch) does, and it sends an incorrect message, not only to the American People, but to our allies and foes abroad.

Please turn down this request to build this structure with the design that is presented to the commission – it is not a representation of America's democracy or the sacred office the White House holds.

Name: Mark Saifer

Date: March 3, 2026 5:22:53 pm

To All Whom This May Concern:

It is important to respect the architectural integrity of the White House in any improvements that are permitted. The current proposal destroys the symmetry and overwhelms the historic White House building. Furthermore, it has been proposed to build a West Wing extension to balance the current East Wing proposal; however, that would even further diminish the historic White House, itself.

When considering the scale of the ballroom addition, attention to its ceiling height is critical to its contribution to exterior visual asymmetry and lack of respect for the existing historic structure. Since the proposed ceiling height is a major factor in creating asymmetry and dwarfing the historic White House, it should be reconsidered. The roofline of the East Wing extension should be far below the current roofline of the White House, itself. That can be accomplished without compromising the splendor of the new structure, as seen from within.

The celebration of 2027 should not be marred by the desecration of one of our nation's most beloved historic structures. Please consider this principle in your final judgment of this modernization project.

Name: Kim Meyer

Date: March 3, 2026 5:23:51 pm

Oh my! How much architectural history can be destroyed!

When Washington DC was first designed, then shape of the Whitehouse and its view from the capital and streets were important. If this monstrosity of a building that is way oversized for the number of people they want it to hold is built, all of that goes to ruin. All the architectural history will be canceled.

Preserve what is left of the history of the white house by sizing the new ballroom to industry standards which will help preserve the views. It will never be able to go back to what it was, sadly.

Name: Leigh Greenburg

Date: March 3, 2026 5:24:31 pm

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission

Preserve and protect all character-defining features of the classical, historic buildings including the site itself.

Protect the preeminence of the Executive Mansion including all four (4) facades.

Protect the Mansion's classical composition including its facades, its wings, and its entire site.

- the Mansion must be flanked by smaller wings
- the wings should be substantially equal in height, length, and mass
- underground the ballroom's service floor which does not need windows
- protect all viewsheds, both from within and without
- each view is critical to the original site plan created by Olmsted and the district's plan created by L'Enfant
- protect the preeminence of the Mansion's portico by reducing the new portico

- the new portico (or add-on) must use Ionic columns, not Corinthian

When I was a college student, I lived and studied in DC during the era of the Watergate Hearings. As a student then and a more seasoned citizen now, I can say this magnificent House signified our nation's enduring democracy.

The entire site is a place of dignity: The White House including its setting is a place embodying our nation's devotion to duty for and by the American people.

This beautiful house and its entire site is important like no other house on the planet.

In the bluegrass region of Kentucky, we say There is no right way to do the wrong thing.

Please do the right thing and deny approval of the project as proposed.

Please listen to our nation's citizens including those associated with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

Leigh Greenburg

Name: kathy meinhardt

Date: March 3, 2026 5:24:49 pm

The proposed design looks like a mausoleum, burying the people's house. The scope and design if approved makes a mockery of our democracy

Name: D. Scott Cunningham, AIA Emeritus

Date: March 3, 2026 5:24:58 pm

President George Washington and Pierre L'Enfant created in 1791 the most iconic city plan of any capital in the world. In the intervening 238 years that preeminent stature in the world has never been eclipsed.

Since its completion by architect James Hoban in 1800, the White House has been the country's enduring symbol of the American presidency, known as the "People's House" and recognized around the world as one of the primary seats of American Democracy. When the original White House was destroyed by the British in 1814, architect James Hoban was called upon to restore the building, which he completed in 1817. The White House then took on the additional significance around the world as a symbol of American resilience.

Now in 2026, President Donald Trump wants to add a grand ballroom to the White House grounds, the current design of which has numerous unresolved issues. I am grateful for the opportunity as an architect to comment on the proposed changes and add my grave concern to scores of other responses from citizens from across America.

First, the L'Enfant Plan called for a direct axial line of sight from the White House to the Capitol, the other primary seat of American Democracy. While the construction of the Treasury Building in 1869 impeded upon this critical axial relationship, the proposed ballroom with completely and forever totally block this axial relationship.

- Consequently, the proposed ballroom should be shortened in the north/south dimension and pulled back towards the original White House to maintain this important and historic line of sight to the Capitol down Pennsylvania Avenue.
- In addition, reducing the north/south length of the ballroom addition will prevent the destruction of the remarkable and memorable circular drive plan created by Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr.

Second, the Hoban White House original design projects an unparalleled elegance due to its scale, balance, proportion and symmetry. This was the design selected by President George Washington for the People's House. While previous additions detracted slightly from these foundational architectural principals, the proposed ballroom currently overwhelms these principals due to its size and scale.

- Consequently, the ballroom needs to be reduced in size because its 90,000+ SF overwhelms the 58,000 SF main mansion.
- The administration and their architect have made many comments about the ballroom addition's cornice height matching the original White House. In reality, the cornice of the ballroom should be lowered to below the height of the original White House to pay proper deference to the original structure.

- The highly decorative Corinthian columns shown in ballroom renderings are too ornate and in architectural conflict with the simple and less verbose Ionic columns designed by Hoban.
- The 4,000 SF south portico of the ballroom addition has no connection to the interior spaces and the stairs in front lead absolutely nowhere.

Third, by all appearances the addition is oversized even for the often stated, and revised, program requirement for 1,000 guests.

- The approximately 22,000 SF size of the ballroom space itself should be able to seat upwards of 1,500 people at the upper end of the industry standard range of 10 SF to 15 SF per seated guest. At 1,000 guests it is instead 22 SF per seated guest, a 50% premium above the upper end of the industry standard for planning these types of venues.
- The apparent 40-foot-tall ceiling is going to make the ballroom seem cavernous, especially during events where attendance is less than 1,000 people.
- Designing the space for 1,000 guests also begs the question of how many White House events in the past 50 years have required that many seats? Is this a program being driven by actual need, or by the “gut instincts” of the client?

Fourth, the administration’s contention the construction of the ballroom addition must be allowed to proceed because of “national security issues” reflects very poorly on the security planning for the project. If the demolition of the East Wing of the White House created these security issues, then why did the administration, headed by an experienced developer and builder, proceed with that demolition in the first place?

In conclusion, if this ballroom addition is going to be built it is incumbent on the National Capital Planning Commission to ensure that it is an addition that fits comfortably and correctly into the historic context of its site at the People’s House. The project should not simply be the manifestation of the ego of the 46th temporary resident (since George Washington who planned this wonderful symbol of the new country never lived there). A temporary resident who will be gone from the White House in less than three years.

Therefore, I urge that the NCPC adhere to its mission statement and order that construction of the East Wing Modernization Project be put on hold until the issues I have raised, and the scores of other issues raised by other parties, are resolved through the required proper oversight and public project reviews which have been woefully absent to date.

Name: Paul Williams

Date: March 3, 2026 5:25:46 pm

Absolutely unacceptable. The Ballroom project is to be stopped immediately, and the East Wing of OUR White House is to be rebuilt to the original specifications, only with modern upgrades to improve the usability. This is OUR WHITE HOUSE; not an upgrade to Mar al Lago!

Name: Gigi Cabell

Date: March 3, 2026 5:26:05 pm

The planned ballroom is not merely an architectural and urban planning monstrosity. In a larger sense, it is a twisted attack on the sacred values the People’s House must always represent: decency, humility, honor, integrity. This frivolous, ill-considered vanity project is an act of gross disrespect to our history and the shared heritage of the American people.

I cannot adequately express the shock, pain, and outrage I felt when Donald Trump unilaterally demolished the historic White House East Wing, without consulting any of the appropriate and necessary channels prior to his desecration of our beloved People’s House. It is no wonder that the Administration tried to prohibit the press and the American people from seeing the demolition in progress. It is no wonder that images of the White House that are currently broadcast avoid displaying the horrific amputation of the East Wing.

The current ballroom design obliterates the genius of Pierre L'Enfant's beautiful and symbolic plan for the District of Columbia by eliminating the axial vistas that visually connect the legislative branch (the Capitol) and the executive branch (the White House). This Administration’s clear contempt for the legislative branch is perfectly expressed by severing this context-rich urban planning connection.

The design dwarfs the People’s House in its grossly disproportionate scaling. Figuratively and literally, it is truly monstrous. The design completely distorts James Hoban's original White House plans. Furthermore, the accepted standard per person is 15 square feet for a ballroom, which this design exceeds significantly. The square footage of the ballroom and the ceiling height would make it impossible to cordon off the area for smaller gatherings.

Needless to say, combined with the absurdity of this unnecessary, undesired, and out of touch project, the announcement that private donors will pay for it has all the hallmarks of a complete absence of integrity and accountability.

The only design I would accept is a historically accurate reconstruction of the vandalized East Wing.

Name: Ann Roberson

Date: March 3, 2026 5:27:42 pm

This project is not a modernization, but rather a razing of American history for the glorification of one man. I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project of ego, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. I want this project entirely canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Kathy Meinhardt

Date: March 3, 2026 5:28:09 pm

The proposed design looks like a Mausoleum. The scope and design make a mockery of our democracy and would be a representation of death of the people's house.

Name: Kari Thorstensen

Date: March 3, 2026 5:28:52 pm

I am so heartbroken by the destruction of the East Wing of the White House. The White House has been the temporary home to our presidents and the permanent home of American Democracy for nearly 250 years. It should never have been destroyed without the consent of the people. The proposed design makes the destruction even worse. It is way out of scale, dwarfing and hiding a very important building. I ask you not to approve the design without considerable revisions.

Name: Glenda Callahan

Date: March 3, 2026 5:29:28 pm

The American people never asked for an east wing update. We liked the history and coziness of the east wing and the rose garden. Now we have a Panera patio instead of heirloom roses. The White House is not Trump's castle. It belongs to the American people. Are regular people going to be invited to the formal balls the oligarchs and tyrants are planning? I think not. The money spent by the 1% would be more beneficial if they had given their workers' raises or paid for healthcare, instead of paying to play. Instead of a ballroom why don't you plant a garden with fountains and statues of true patriots, (Alex Pretti and Rene Goode), that everyone can enjoy.

Name: Carole Machek

Date: March 3, 2026 5:33:09 pm

My comments concern the East Wing of the White House ballroom addition. Although having an upgraded ballroom facility is needed for diplomatic guests and other formal governmental functions, the design and size put forward by The Trump administration is substantially beyond the industry standard for dining functions. But more importantly, the size, design and positioning of this addition will be in direct violation of the original design of our nation's capital's primary designer, Pierre L'Enfant. To interrupt the direct vision line between the White House and the Capitol, as will occur if this addition design is approved, will reflect the reduced balance between these two critical governing bodies. I am not an architect, but it is obvious that such a huge addition will unbalance the Palladian design of the White House. I am bold enough to submit my comments because the White House is the people's house, therefore it belongs to the people of the United States of America and does not belong to the current president or his administration. His is a temporary occupancy and final design must be approved by those representatives that are skilled in architecture and the importance of maintaining the symbolism that supports the principles on which this nation is founded. Please consider the huge

disruption approving this outsized design will cause. There are certainly other designs that will improve the gathering space and will preserve the beautiful and meaningful layout of our nation's capitol.

Thanks you for considering my comments.

Name: Amanda Underwood

Date: March 3, 2026 5:38:48 pm

I can fully understand the need for a modernized space in the White House. However, it should have followed proper precedent and been designed to integrate with the current layout and shape of a historic monument. The proposed design, as it stands, is not a balanced design and detracts from the beauty of our National Monument. The ridiculous size is unnecessary and turns an iconic landmark into a mockery of its purpose.

Name: Case Norton

Date: March 3, 2026 5:40:31 pm

I am submitting this comment to express serious concern regarding the proposed “East Wing Modernization” project at the White House.

The White House complex is one of the most significant historic sites in the United States. Any project involving its alteration should follow a fully transparent process that includes proper authorization, permits, environmental review, and historic preservation oversight. Reports suggesting demolition activity began before all appropriate approvals, permits, or design reviews were completed raise legitimate concerns that deserve immediate clarification.

Equally concerning is the reported scale of the project’s cost. Spending hundreds of millions of dollars on a project of this nature demands careful scrutiny and clear justification to the American public. At a time when families across the country are dealing with rising costs for housing, healthcare, and basic necessities, it is difficult to justify large expenditures that do not clearly serve an urgent public need.

There are also serious questions about safety and environmental compliance. Demolition of older structures must be conducted with extreme care due to the potential presence of hazardous materials such as asbestos. Worker safety and environmental protections must always be treated as absolute priorities.

Finally, the White House is not simply a government building — it is a historic symbol of the American people. Any changes to the complex should prioritize preservation, respect architectural history, and follow the recommendations of historic preservation professionals.

For these reasons, I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to ensure this project undergoes full legal, environmental, and historic preservation review before moving forward. If any required processes were bypassed, work should be paused until those requirements are properly fulfilled.

Public trust depends on transparency, responsible stewardship of historic landmarks, and careful use of public resources.

Respectfully,

Case Norton
Candidate, U.S. House
Georgia’s 7th District

Name: Barbara Hendricks

Date: March 3, 2026 5:41:00 pm

[Attachment](#)

Name: Daniel Russo

Date: March 3, 2026 5:42:13 pm

There are multiple problems with the proposed project design. First is size. The largest, and thus most important building, on this historic site should not be a ballroom, yet the current project dwarfs the White House. The second problem is proportion. The proportions of this proposed project do not align with existing structures. Third is relationship of the project to the city layout. This building cannot interfere with sight lines to the White House. Fourth, this building does not respect the landscape design of the site.

Please lessen the impact of this ill-conceived project by requiring its design to be modified.

Name: Kendra Helvey

Date: March 3, 2026 5:42:29 pm

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my opinion albeit late in the process.

I am, as are so many others, a history fan. Particularly American history.

I realize we are a nation evolving, growing, and hopefully improving with the times. So I am not completely against the idea of enlarging a ballroom facility for use of our government.

But, the idea of a huge structure, out of place and scale, and obscuring any view which our first president Washington planned is, in my opinion disrespectful and selfish. Each and every addition or improvement to the White House has been met with some scepticism I know, but this is so obviously absurd I cannot begin to think of how it could have come this far in it's construction.

I am so proud of our nation, it's people and it's president and government, and will always be. But I feel this is a mistake which can never be undone.

Kendra Helvey

Name: Simons Young

Date: March 3, 2026 5:44:30 pm

The The South Portico should be subordinate in scale to the scale of the white house main portico. The ballroom elevation above the street level could be reduced. The massing should be subordinate to the white house.

Please see quotations from "New Additions to Historic Buildings" published on the NPS website

"To meet Standard 1, which states that a property shall be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building, it must be determined whether an historic building can accommodate a new addition. Before expanding the building's footprint, consideration should first be given to incorporating changes—such as code upgrades or spatial needs for a new use—within secondary areas of the historic building. After such an evaluation, the conclusion may be that an addition is necessary, particularly if it is needed to avoid modifications to character-defining interior elements. The addition must be designed to be compatible with the historic character of the building and thus meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation."

In accordance with Standard 9,...must be compatible with the historic building's massing, size, scale, and architectural features; "

A new addition is most appropriately located where its visibility from the primary views of the historic building is minimized.

Typically, a compatible addition should be smaller than the historic building in both height and footprint. However, there are other considerations that may allow moving away from this basic concept.

Depending on its location, it may be possible that an addition slightly taller or slightly larger than the historic building may be acceptable, as long as it is visually subordinate to the historic building

Name: Patricia Morrison

Date: March 3, 2026 5:48:21 pm

I am appalled by the proposed plans for the White House ballroom that would destroy the historical design for the White House, surrounding government buildings, and beautiful symmetrical landscaping in front of the White House, in addition to blocking the magnificent view of the White House for all visitors traveling down Pennsylvania Avenue.

i am not opposed to a new ballroom, but it should be designed in keeping with its function and surroundings. There is no need for a portico that goes nowhere, fake windows that merely increase height and block views, and three stories, each with extremely high ceilings, that exceed the height of the White House itself. The modern kitchen that now occupies the entire first floor could easily be placed below ground eliminating one floor. What is the function of a two story third floor? A one story third floor might easily meet any future need and would lower the building height.

Finally I question the extravagant size of the ballroom itself. How often do we need a ballroom that will hold 1500 people? Can any adjustments be made in room size to accommodate more modest sized groups in a friendlier setting? A democracy has no need to host numerous, ostentatious functions for the nobility like those of ancient Kings and Emperors. Our buildings belong to the people of the United States and should preserve our history. A president has no right to destroy and replace our heritage with a structure not approved by the American people, or their representatives in Congress, regardless of who pays for it.

Name: Mark Carle

Date: March 3, 2026 5:49:34 pm

I served as chair and member of the Lakeside Ohio, Historic Preservation and Design Review Board for many years. Our function was to regulate, maintain and honor the historic character and appearance of our community.

One of our most important regulations in conserving our historic character stated:

The size and scale of new additions and adjacent or related new construction and new building shall be in conformance with the prevailing size of other structures within the local neighborhood so as not to diminish or visually overpower either the original historic building or its immediate neighborhood.

Visually sensitive renovation to historic structures does not depend on location, whether it be Ohio or Washington. The proposed Whitehouse Ballroom violates all of the criteria for sensitive renovation. The proposed addition of the recreational ballroom not only visually overpowers the current White House structure and its surrounding buildings, it diminishes the history and work done in one of the most important buildings in the world. The sight and site of executive decisions for the United States should not be overwhelmed by a large party center.

Please ask for a more appropriate size and scale for the proposed addition.

Name: Lisa Boynton

Date: March 3, 2026 5:49:43 pm

Good afternoon,

This plan to build a ridiculously large ballroom is nothing more than a vanity project. The White House belongs to the people of this country and not an administration. The demolition of the East Wing should never have happened, but now that it has, it is up to us to prevent it from being built on this grand scale. It is not a private club and should never be treated as such.

The new building should be modeled on the size of the former East Wing to correct a grave error and prevent it from overshadowing the main building. Functional offices should be rebuilt for the First Lady and staff with a much smaller room for any entertaining. It should NOT be funded or built by private donors who may use this as a way to curry favor with the current administration.

GSA employees work for years as non-partisan stewards to maintain and protect these historic buildings in D.C. No president or administration is more important than them. No matter who is in office, they must go through what may be years of meetings, plans, and permits to ensure what is done is best to represent all of us and last for future generations. They do not have the right to do otherwise as they are only temporary occupants of the People's House. We must also remember it is a house and not a palace.

I implore you to pull back the reins on this project and greatly reduce the scale to what it previously was. As someone

who was born in D.C. and has grown up visiting these beautiful buildings and sharing them with my daughter, it crushes my soul to see what is happening.

Telling those in power, no, is not always easy, but is sometimes the best thing to do, as well as the most ethical. Please remember you must protect these historic buildings to right a wrong. It's not too late.

Best regards,
Lisa Mayr Boynton

Name: Mark Demmerle

Date: March 3, 2026 5:50:13 pm

David Scott Parker and Bill Bates present an excellent east wing and ballroom for the White House campus. The orientation of the design is sensitive to the planning of George Washington's designer Pierre Charles L'Enfant. The overall composition with regard to hierarchy, rhythm, proportion and scale are within context of the Historic White House architecture by Irish-born James Hoban (c. 1758-1831). The site plan as designed by the reputed figure of landscape architecture Frederick Law Olmstead (c.1822-1903) remains intact as originally designed. The design drawings presented by Parker and Bates were beautiful and I think hold great promise for the White House campus.

Early in the presentation I noted that the 22,000 SF footprint as proposed by trump's team generated 2.36 million CF!! Look no further! If you can't make it good, make it big!! I don't even have to see the drawings to know it's bad!

Classical design is a lot more than knowing an architrave from a pediment. If the government wants all federal buildings to be Classical it certainly does not show in the abomination Trump has dreamed up with the aid of his architectural consultants and design staff. It would be a colossal mistake to let this project continue.

My thanks and appreciation to Parker and Bates for their analysis of the Trump proposal and a positive solution to the most treasured landmark of our country.

Name: Laurie Hertzler

Date: March 3, 2026 5:51:44 pm

I strongly oppose the building of a ballroom to replace the historic east wing of the White House. The White House belongs to the American people and was destroyed without our consent. A large ostentatious ball room does not fit the character of our historic buildings or the values of our democracy. The East Wing must be rebuilt and restored as it was and paid for by the person responsible for it's illegal and wanton destruction.

Name: Doug Elliott

Date: March 3, 2026 5:52:24 pm

Dear Commissioners:

I write in opposition to Donald Trump's proposed ballroom. In taking unilateral action to demolish the East Wing, convicted felon Trump heinously vandalized one of America's most historic buildings. The White House belongs to the American public, not its temporary tenant, and Trump's lawless, unauthorized and unpermitted action is a grievous affront to that public.

Contrary to Trump's claims, the proposed ballroom is clearly not needed, as evidenced by the fact that no previous president has proposed such a thing. The gigantic proposed structure would dwarf the existing White House in size and do violence to its architectural integrity. Trump's grotesquely vulgar redecoration of the Oval Office and other White House spaces stands as a stark warning of the hideous monstrosity we can expect. If permitted, it will stand as a monument to a megalomaniac's ego and bad taste--until it is demolished, as it surely will be, by popular demand after the current tenant has vacated.

Claims that construction of the ballroom will be financed through private contributions are no consolation. Such contributions are little more than thinly veiled bribes paid by rent seeking corporations and individuals. Moreover, even if the taxpayers are not on the hook for the construction costs, surely they would be required to pay the high cost of

maintaining this white elephant, as well as the eventual cost of its demolition and the restoration of the historic site.

Finally, the unpermitted demolition proceeded without proper removal and disposal of hazardous materials. The environmental impact of the proposed construction must be thoroughly evaluated before any construction is permitted.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge you to reject the proposed ballroom.

Sincerely,
Doug Elliott

Name: Gerald Primm

Date: March 3, 2026 5:56:22 pm

The idea of ruining the appearance of the White House by attaching a huge, disproportionate ballroom in place of the east wing is ludicrous. Such a tasteless monstrosity will make the White House look like a fanciful farmhouse/barn combination. If Trump must have a ballroom it should either be built somewhere else or fit within the confines of the now demolished wing. The proportions of the White House should be restored. The proposed ballroom is an architectural nightmare.

Name: Rosemary Stoffel

Date: March 3, 2026 5:57:58 pm

I am opposed to the plan as proposed for the following reasons:

- it will abort the historic axial connection between buildings
- the Olmstead designed grounds would be forever adversely affected
- the design of the columns on the portico upstage the columns on the White House
- the White House is the People's House - please consider the overwhelming number of comments from The People in opposition to this proposed plan for an oversized ballroom.

Thank you.

Name: Caitlin Drewes

Date: March 3, 2026 5:58:20 pm

To Whom it may Concern,

I am horrified by the proposed East Wing Ballroom. The loss of the historic building was dramatic enough but the proposal to put in a completely out of proportion ballroom is outrageous. The drawings and renderings of the impact should make it clear to anyone that this will dwarf the white house and have a negative impact on the overall look of our treasured government home. It will distort and dwarf the beauty of the architecture.

We simply do NOT need 22,000 sq feet of ballroom. If the true intention is to fit 1000 people, we can do that with a 15,000 sq foot room.

Please reconsider the design! This is the people's house and needs to be treated as such. Having an enormous ballroom does not scream "people of America" it screams elitism.

Sincerely,
Caitlin Drewes

Name: MARGARET BACH

Date: March 3, 2026 5:58:34 pm

I am writing to urge the National Capital Planning Commission to reject the current plan for the ballroom addition to the White House due to the following concerns:

Scale -- the proposed ballroom and connecting colonnade are out of scale to the historic White House -- in height, volume and visual impact.

Context -- the proposed plan disrupts, forever, the important classically inspired plans of L'Enfant and Frederick Olmstead, a context that is part of our national legacy and must be protected.

Function -- the ballroom and kitchen functions, as currently designed, are far in excess of industry standard, with the resulting impact on scale and context.

Please send this proposal back to the drawing board -- so that the precious legacy of the White House and grounds, along with the historic context of our nation's capital, can be preserved and protected. It is within the Commission's power, as well as your sacred responsibility, to insist that the Secretary of Interior's Standards be applied to the Peoples' House.

Sincerely,

Margaret Bach

Santa Monica, California

Name: Claire Silberman

Date: March 3, 2026 5:58:48 pm

Please do not accept the current plan for the East Wing. It should never be allowed to overwhelm the main White House structure.

Thank you!

Name: George Sutton

Date: March 3, 2026 5:58:49 pm

This is just a self gratifying project for #47. Any other projects would have gone thru public discussion before any demolition. Stop the rapng of American history by destroying the White House complex . It is our house not his

Name: Debra Krajnak

Date: March 3, 2026 5:59:56 pm

The proposed construction of a ballroom to replace the East Wing is disgusting and must be stopped. Since when do King Trump and his billionaire friends dictate the design of Americans' White House? It's just another example of Trump's self-aggrandizement, and it's pathetic. The National Capital Planning Commission has the duty to stop the project whose size will dwarf the rest of the historic building. Please don't back down. Trump had no right to destroy the East Wing.

Name: Susan Stock

Date: March 3, 2026 6:02:22 pm

I understand that the east wing of the White House requires some renovation. However surely we can find a project that more matches the history of the building rather than the proposed changes. An elegant -not gaudy room is possible. Stop the gold leaf. Stop the marble. Make this the people's house as was intended. Find a way to achieve the end without destroying all the history of the building. The last thing we want to do is tear it apart in 3 years to build something appropriate.

Thank you.

Name: Luca Keefer

Date: March 3, 2026 6:02:48 pm

This project has been hastily and recklessly implemented. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to ensure this goes no further untethered and unchecked.

Name: Susan Hill-Dolan

Date: March 3, 2026 6:06:06 pm

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

As a longtime historic preservation professional and curator for a National Historic Landmark, as well as a member of my local Architectural Preservation District Commission in Ipswich, Massachusetts, I appreciate the opportunity to share my opinion and concern about the proposed East Wing Modernization Project and Ballroom addition to the White House.

Although it is difficult to know where to begin, I will start with my initial reaction to the imbalance of scale and proportion of the proposed design, in comparison to the White House. Inherent to classical, and classically inspired, architecture is the basic tenets of symmetry, balance, scale and proportion. The proposed design is of a size and mass that appears incompatible with the White House and thus would be incompatible with the Secretary of Interior Standards for the treatment of historic buildings. As curator for the mansion at Castle Hill on the Crane Estate, a National Historic Landmark and property of The Trustees of Reservations, we take great care to adhere to these standards. Its architect, David Adler of Chicago, was a great admirer of classical architecture. He strictly adhered to the principles of symmetry and proportion, both exterior and interior, giving his buildings a timeless elegance. Today, the Crane mansion remains an icon of American Country Place era architecture. This, like all of our country's National Historic Landmarks merits the highest level of care. At the top of the list should be the White House - the People's House - where, at the very least, we need to make sure that we abide by these Secretary of Interior Standards.

Additionally, I recently watched a webinar shown by the National Trust for Historic Preservation wherein two architects made the case for very thoughtful, sensible, and viable alternatives for East Wing Modernization project designs, including the Ballroom. These options were proposed based on the limited information shared with the public. Not only were their ideas more in sensitive to the White House and its surrounding grounds in terms of scale and balance, but they pointed to three very important reasons to why the current plan must be changed. I had been unaware of these three major design issues, but I found this information critical as to why we must rethink this project, especially in terms of its mass and scale. These include: 1) the distortion of the original 1791 design for the city of Washington DC by L'Enfant, as commissioned by George Washington, establishing axial street connections between the White House and the Capital; 2) the obstruction of the White House as designed in 1792 by Hoban; and the adverse effects on the new additions to the surrounding grounds as designed by late 19th century landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. Such adverse effects to all three of those nationally significant features would cause irreparable change to our nation's capital city. Perhaps most egregiously, we would lose the intended connection between the White House and the Capital Building, both physically and symbolically. To me, this would be a travesty, especially this year, as we celebrate our country's 250th anniversary.

So, with all due respect, I hope you will seriously consider this plea to modify the design plans for the East Wing and Ballroom, as currently laid out. As the People's House, our voices need to be heard and respected. As a National Historic Landmark, the White House deserves the care and respect as laid out by our Secretary of Interior Standards. And as a symbol of our nation, it deserves to be seen as a critical part of the overall design and scale of Washington, DC, as laid out by our first president during America's founding years.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Susan Hill Dolan

Name: Robyn Farschon

Date: March 3, 2026 6:06:14 pm

If the proposed size of this very gaudy and tall building add on is allowed to proceed the entire historical look of the people's house will be lost. I would vote for a building addition that was in proportion to the west wing only. In general, I would really like the building to be returned to what it was originally.

Name: Karen Edlefsen

Date: March 3, 2026 6:06:39 pm

After visits to the White House and its grounds and the Capitol over many years, I respectfully request that the current project for the East Wing be revised to ensure that the design respects the original intent of President George Washington and his appointed architect and garden designer. The scale of a new east wing needs to respect the symmetry and scale of The White House and other surrounding buildings. Sincerely, Karen Edlefsen

Name: Eileen Michaud

Date: March 3, 2026 6:08:21 pm

To the National Capitol Planning Commission,

My name is Eileen Michaud, and I am a trained urban planner and graduate student in Historic Preservation at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. I am writing to submit my opposition to the East Wing Modernization Project on account of its out-sized massing, disrespect for historical planning and urban design precedent, and non-functional design features that limit accessibility.

First, the proposed East Wing ballroom massing is nearly 3 times the original White House volume. This significant increase in volume of the East Wing throws the proportion of the White House building entirely out of scale. Importantly, this design choice flagrantly disregards the classical symmetry and proportionality that the White House is known for, which has been honored in past alterations and additions.

Second, the proposed East Wing does not reflect the historical planning principles of Washington DC, which is predicated on monumental view corridors. The proposed addition would block views from the White House to the Capitol Building, which has a symbolic purpose as a connection between 2 branches of our Federal government. The obstruction of this visual connection symbolizes a fracture between the branches and an isolation of the Executive Branch from the checks and balances that are key to upholding our democracy.

Finally, key design elements of the proposed East Wing are both impractical and outright exclusionary. The main portico is lacking any means of entrance or exit from the exterior to the interior and is not ADA-compliant. The only way to access the platform of the portico is via a grand staircase. It is an impractical sham of a structure that speaks volumes to the egotistical intent behind it, rather than serving the purpose to welcome the public into the People's House.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Name: John Abney

Date: March 3, 2026 6:08:28 pm

Thank you for this opportunity to express my deep concerns about this project that should have never been undertaken in the way that it was done. The plans for this massive ballroom that would dwarf the White House should be scrapped immediately and the normal process, with all the normal procedures should be followed. The White House does not belong to President Trump, it belongs to all of us.

Thank You,
John Abney

Name: Linda Hanratty

Date: March 3, 2026 6:08:59 pm

Construction of Trump's gigantic ballroom paid for with billionaire bribes must be stopped. It will dwarf the White House with its tacky exterior and interior. The White House is the people's house, not Trump's house. And his vanity ballroom project is not legal or wanted. Please stop construction now.

Name: Carol Turnbull

Date: March 3, 2026 6:09:37 pm

Trump tore the East Wing down "out of the blue," in a fit of pique, seemingly without informing the public or getting input.

His proposed ballroom is as UGLY and GAUDY as everything else he has put his imprint on :(It visually overwhelms the rest of the White House.

Why does a president get to tear down historical edifices, or build their preferred crap, in our beloved capital just because

they want to? Where would that end??

(It doesn't help my attitude to hear that he seemed to be more focused on bragging about his planned draperies, etc. than he was on the fact we just had service members killed in his war of choice.)

Please add me to the over 98% who OPPOSE this ballroom. Thank you.

Carol Turnbull

Name: Jennifer Black

Date: March 3, 2026 6:11:42 pm

I strongly oppose the building of a ballroom in place of the historic east wing of the White House for the following reasons:

- The size of the ballroom based on the current plans will be nearly THREE TIMES the size of the entire existing White House and will be a horrific eyesore. It will overshadow
- The estimated cost of \$300 million is outrageous and that taxpayer money would be better spent elsewhere on items that would benefit the taxpayers instead of the Washington elite.
- The historic east wing was destroyed with no approval, no permits and no notice to the American people.

The White House is the people's house. It does not belong to the current president, it belongs to the American people. The plans to build a ballroom should be scrapped and the east wing should be rebuilt and restored to its former design.

Name: Pam Brewer

Date: March 3, 2026 6:14:03 pm

This needs to stop. He tore it down not illegally. His taste in buildings is horrible and tacky. This is the people's house and he has no say on how it should be built. The ballroom is too big and too ugly. It has no class and does not represent the American people. He needs to be stopped. The East Wing should go back up the way it was. It was beautiful and graceful. And he needs to pay for it out of his own pocket. Since he has "made" 4 billion dollars this last year he can afford to build it back with his own money under supervision.

Please Please do not allow him to build this tacky ballroom that no one wants.

Pam

Name: Karen Gatz

Date: March 3, 2026 6:14:36 pm

I am very concerned about the proposed addition of an outsized ballroom to the White House and do not approve of the construction of the structure. The White House is the People's House. It should not be modified or permanently altered without public consent and congressional approval. The mission of The National Capital Planning Commission is "to preserve and enhance the extraordinary historical, cultural, and natural resources and federal assets of the National Capital Region." The significant, permanent change to the White House by the addition of a grand ballroom, which necessitates transforming the symmetry of the White House grounds and destroying the historical gardens, fails to preserve or enhance the beauty and history of the White House. Labeling the ballroom as an "East Wing Modernization Project" is a gross mischaracterization. It is a massive addition that will overshadow the White House and undercut the historical and symbolic meaning of the People's House. Its scale and design destroy the beauty and grace of the White House and scar the White House grounds and federal environs.

The lack of transparency for funding the ballroom should make this project rejected out of hand. The presidency should not be influenced by donors and the White House should not be privatized in this way. It is an insult to democracy and public service.

I do not approve of these changes, and I urge you to uphold your mission by withholding approval of this project.

Name: Susan Burnett-Hampson
Date: March 3, 2026 6:16:20 pm

As is, this addition is an abomination!!! The lack of respect for the requirements of such an undertaking is first an offense to all Americans...a total lack of regard for the understanding of the White House as the "People's House". Stop this maniac!!!

Anyone with even a speck of understanding for historical significance, simple architectural scale or any sense of aesthetics at all would never propose such a monstrosity!!!

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE save us from this garish, bizarre attempt at building a shrine to the most disgusting president in the history of our nation. The idea of adding a ballroom is perhaps a worthy one but this one is an abomination!

Name: Bob Jones
Date: March 3, 2026 6:16:28 pm

The White House is owned by the people, not by the current president. He is only a temporary occupant. The monstrous ballroom project, almost twice as big as a football field, should be denied, and the East wing rebuilt to its former condition.

Thank you very much.

Name: Suzanne Kinsman
Date: March 3, 2026 6:18:22 pm

This project is a disgrace to the country and to what the White House (The Peoples' House) itself stands for. Initiated with no congressional oversight, the size of the structure will overwhelm the executive residence. Removing Jackie's Rose Garden is literally erasing history. We do not need a "Mar-a-Lago" in Washington D.C. I am completely against this monstrosity being built.

Suzanne Kinsman

Name: Susan Guerrero
Date: March 3, 2026 6:19:32 pm

THINK JEWEL BOX, NOT BIG BOX

I am sure many commenters will tell you the proposed White House ballroom is too big. It is. It should never tower over the People's House, interfere with its time-honored view of the Capitol or change the shape of the graceful circular driveway. It can easily be reduced in size and still be a functional space.

But I have another idea. There is no reason the ballroom has to be connected to the White House. Put it somewhere else on the 18-acre grounds, or nearby.

In any event, the design should be in keeping with the republican simplicity of the White House proper and as pure as a Congregational church (no fake windows or stairs to no where). It should be elegant, not hulking: Think jewel box, not big box.

Name: Albert Papp
Date: March 3, 2026 6:20:42 pm

To the National Capital Planning Commission:

The current White House Ballroom design in its current form should not be approved. The proposed Ballroom addition is not designed to the scale of the White House, and it is severely out of balance with the White House structure and grounds.

Specifically:

1. Its sheer size is out of proportion to its functionality and to the existing structure. It dominates the White House.
2. Frederick Law Olmsted, America's greatest landscape architect, designed the White House grounds in 1935 with purposeful symmetry, which has remained intact ever since. The Ballroom design, as proposed, alters the grounds significantly and detracts from the majesty of the grounds.
3. The White House is designed with classical architecture. The proposed Ballroom does not fit within the classical architecture of the existing building. It will be out of character with the design of the White House.

The architecture and grounds of the White House have evolved over time, but each change has kept intact the fundamental character and scale of this culturally priceless American place. With a thoughtful redesign, a new Ballroom could potentially do the same.

Sincerely,
Albert Papp

Name: Nancy Rice

Date: March 3, 2026 6:20:47 pm

I feel very fortunate to have been able to visit Washington DC, in the spring of 2024. What a lovely city, so spacious and elegant, and of course the highlight of the trip was a visit to the White House itself.

I never thought about being patriotic before, it is just something you grow up with, pledging allegiance to the flag every morning at school, and learning American history - the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Suddenly, entering the White House, the historical meaning of the "People's House" became very clear. All of the weight of history was very evident as I walked through the rooms (including the former East Wing) which is sadly gone now. Realistically, no one is going to re-build the East Wing as it was, but when something is put in its place, it should be created carefully and sympathetically to mirror the style of the the remaining part of the White House.

Certainly the architecture must be in keeping with the White House itself and the new development must not overshadow the original building either.

I implore you all, to take some time to seriously consider what is being built and the history you will be creating for generations to come.

There are already many extravagant palaces, and hotels and ballrooms in the world. Why should we have a copy of Versailles or Buckingham Palace - these were already in existence when the White House was built, and that is not what our Founding Fathers envisioned for our new nation.

What was destroyed in haste, must not be rebuilt in the same way.

Name: Mark Barasz

Date: March 3, 2026 6:20:53 pm

I can not believe that any president could move ahead on a project like this without lots of reviews and input from Congress, historians, and Americans. The East Wing was destroyed before we the American People had a chance to say Aye or Nay. Please stop this project and start a process that is transparent and inclusive. If it is to be done in any manner that is agreed upon, then the Congress should appropriate the funds necessary and private donations should NOT be an excuse to not have the American people's input into OUR WHITE HOUSE!.

Name: Stefanie Palushock

Date: March 3, 2026 6:21:08 pm

I am a common, ordinary, citizen who was disappointed when to my surprise one day in October 2025, I saw on the news that the East Wing had been demolished, contrary to assurances just a few months prior that any new construction (i.e., ballroom project) would not interfere with the existing White House structure. I then discovered that a lawsuit was filed, alleging that plans were not submitted to the appropriate authorities for approval and otherwise bypassed, and that certain environmental, code, and/or zoning permissions may not have been sought. This is very disappointing to me, particularly as it concerns historical preservation as we approach our country's 250-year anniversary. I believe that guidelines and laws are put into place for all to follow. I am curious as to whether the natural landmarks dedicated to our former presidents and first ladies became part of the debris and treated like trash. I always thought of the White House as one, if not the most, respected national landmark. If this project pushes through while disregarding the proper process, will the

negativity surrounding it become part of the history of this landmark? If the guidelines are not followed, will our most respected landmark always carry these scars that are visible to those who remember and cherish the history of this symbol of our democracy? I hope that part of the "modernization" plan is to replace (as best as it can) the memorials of the presidents and first ladies whose monuments were desecrated. I am also concerned for the precedent this would set for future demolition and construction of the White House. What will be next? Further, I do believe that Congress should be involved with the approval process for significant changes to "the people's house" for several reasons, among which being because although we as a country are being assured that this ballroom is not going to cost us a cent (because it is being built entirely by donations), I am doubtful that future expenses, maintenance, improvements, renovations, etc. will not become the taxpayer's burden. Moreover, all of the costs, labor, staffing, catering, etc. associated with future events that will be held in a grand ballroom that seats 1000 will be substantial. And what unforeseen impacts will this project have later down the road, say, for example, if there are environmental impacts that were not considered if those plans were not submitted for detailed review? As a common American citizen, I respectfully submit my comments disapproving of this project. Thank you for your time.

Name: Greg Grunzel

Date: March 3, 2026 6:24:13 pm

I am against this project because it is just another example acting like a king, building a 'glorious ballroom where his sycophantic minions can kiss his ring, or someplace else. It's another waste of taxpayers' money, which could be better spent on more important subjects, like the environment, or paying National Park workers.

Name: Mary Woollen

Date: March 3, 2026 6:24:51 pm

I have reviewed the webinar and did so with an open mind- I am not trapped in the past. What I see planned for the East Wing is nothing short of an abomination. It looks like it should be in Las Vegas, not adjacent to the White House. Which by the way- is the Peoples' House and has always been respected as such. The size, proportionality, fake doors, excessive capacity-- all a reflection of one man who seems to need artificial aggrandizement.

PLEASE RECONSIDER THIS PROJECT. It is NOT timeless, it is a stain and a reflection of a time in history that we will likely reflect upon as one of deep pain and disruption.

Name: Donald Gross

Date: March 3, 2026 6:25:43 pm

The size of the proposed white house ballroom overwhelms the white house, It is also not accessible from the south entrance which is fake. Also, the size of Ballroom is 47% larger than the industry standard. This project also, must be approved by the NCPC.

Name: Conrad Sanden

Date: March 3, 2026 6:27:43 pm

The new replacement structure should not overshadow the existing East Wing size and footprint. The people's house is a precious resource and must be respected by all our citizens.

Name: Polly Freeman

Date: March 3, 2026 6:27:59 pm

The proposed modernization of the East Wing/ballroom expansion is completely out of scale to the White House. The ballroom would be 3x the size of the WH? That looks really lopsided and contradicts the DO Interior's specifications that additions and alterations should not destroy historic features and SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS. Furthermore, the White House is a classical building. A key tenet of classicism is basic symmetry. The proposed construction project would make the WH completely unsymmetrical. I strongly oppose the design as proposed. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Name: Alisa Deitz

Date: March 3, 2026 6:29:59 pm

I believe that this project has been blown way out of proportion. Any updates and changes need to consider the size and historic value of the original and existing building. This is not a palace, this is the people's house. Regardless of who foots the bill, the new construction needs to be modest, environmentally sound and it should not stick out from what exists.

Name: Peter Fowler

Date: March 3, 2026 6:31:10 pm

Please respect the history and integrity of the White House site by not allowing the peoples house to be overshadowed by a Trump vanity project. The east wing should be restored on appropriate scale and mass befitting the space. A ballroom is necessary but not one this large and overwhelming to the space.

Name: Marcelle Morris

Date: March 3, 2026 6:31:16 pm

This is an absurd, unnecessary addition of ridiculous scale. There is no way to put the genie back in the bottle, but any reduction in the scale of this monstrosity would be better than nothing.

Name: Andrea Gaffney

Date: March 3, 2026 6:31:34 pm

The proposed redevelopment of the East Wing is out of scale to its context and will overshadow the actual WHITE HOUSE as it will be more massive in scale and extend forward of the central house, thereby being the first part of the building the eye will see down the perspective of the national landscape from the Jefferson Memorial across the National Mall. The disfigurement of the oval ellipsis walkway by the protruding of the building insults anyone with good design sense. And the interruption of the oval space will also cause the viewer to look at the ballroom before appreciating the historic White House. President Trump may wish to impress a monarchic-style stamp upon the democratic landscape of DC, but this ballroom should not be allowed to overshadow the 250 years of democracy that is represented by the White House along with all of the other National Monuments to democracy that are tastefully and collectively approved through an appropriate process and sit within the National Mall landscape. The loss of trees to the east (and there is no guarantee that they will survive transplant) and destruction of the Kennedy Rose Garden is already too much. Don't let this ballroom trump the beauty, grandeur, and significance of the central White House. Bigger is not better in this instance.

Name: Sami Gray

Date: March 3, 2026 6:31:38 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design.

Name: Nancy Renfrow

Date: March 3, 2026 6:31:51 pm

Comments:

I feel that the proposed replacement of the East Wing is incompatible and incongruous to the White House, the People's House.

The enormous scale of the ballroom overshadows the focal point, the White House.

The placement of the new structure blocks a very important and symbolic visual link to the Capitol.

I do not understand the purpose of the fake doors. Why have a portico with no access thus without a purpose and that hides the Palladian windows which are foundational elements of Classical architecture.

The new design should respect and protect the legacy that has been preserved for the American people.

Name: Marianne Makar

Date: March 3, 2026 6:31:58 pm

I strongly disagree with any changes to the White House without going through the proper legal channels and steps. Pres Trump has already disregarded those steps by destroying the East Wing and developing his own plans for a ballroom without appropriate planning and time for input.

Theoretically, I have no problem with the idea of updating/modernizing/enlarging/improving the White House. But not like this.

Thank you.

Name: Linda Renkwitz

Date: March 3, 2026 6:35:38 pm

The plans for the White House Ballroom are an insult to all Americans. It turns the People's House into a venue for billionaires. The plans are ugly, tasteless and pointless, and make the USA into a laughing stock around the world.. The White House should be a place of restraint and simple beauty, where all are welcome.. The ballroom is nothing more than the gilded cheap copy of the events center in a three star hotel. Historic trees, the East Wing, and Jackie Kennedy's Garden have been destroyed without any thought or consideration. I weep for the monstrosity that this administration will leave behind. How can a tenant do this to property that is not theirs?

Name: Carla Knorowski

Date: March 3, 2026 6:35:40 pm

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on the proposed design of the White House East Wing ballroom project. During this semi quincentennial of our becoming these United States of America, it is important to not just celebrate and commemorate this milestone numerically, but even more so, the iconic history which has taken place in those 250 years and the representations and manifestations of that history as they have taken form. No two individuals understood this better than the Father of our Country George Washington, and the man he selected as architect of our nation's capital, Pierre Charles L'Enfant.

Together, these two leaders and Revolutionary War heroes strategically, thoughtfully and mindfully designed what our nation's capital city, Washington, DC would architecturally become. Because they were veterans of the War of Independence, they intimately understood that for which they fought to achieve—a free and fully sovereign Republic. They understood how important and vital it was to symbolically tell the history of that struggle and the fledgling nation it birthed. They chose to do this in part through its architecture and urban planning. It is evident throughout the capital.

Pennsylvania Avenue inextricably links both literally and figuratively, the White House and the Capitol--the Executive and Legislative Branches. Because of the Classic symmetry L'Enfant painstakingly infused into the designs, American history and symbolism shines through. The East Wing Ballroom, were its current design plans approved, would drastically interrupt this historic symmetry in essence erasing its symbolism and in-part our nation's great foundational history of architecture and urban planning. The colossal size of the ballroom's north portico, which only serves a decorative purpose, would henceforth block the views of the White House from the Capitol and vice versa. The utility, strength and beauty of L'Enfant's classic symmetrical design would be disrupted, lost to history; its integrity defiled and dishonored.

This holds true for the type and size of the planned porticoes, particularly the north one, which if built to its current design specifications would dwarf the White House, the most important home in our nation and most probably the most recognizable building in the world. To make the ballroom (which is only a wing)—almost three times as large as the White House proper, would be a travesty. To have the White House rest in the shadow of a ballroom, even its own, is akin to having the American flag fly lower than any other flag flown alongside it. The White House proper, not its wings, like

the American flag, should stand above all others. The current ballroom design as it stands does not accentuate the White House, it diminishes it. And to reconfigure and break up a portion of the White House drive as proposed, is to lose a real piece of history. More than two centuries of visitors-U.S. and global statesmen and women, historic figures, military leaders and everyday Americans from all walks of life have walked or rode on the drive—have followed its curves to and from the executive mansion. To significantly alter it as proposed, is to alter a historic artifact and breaks up the symmetry of the design.

Together, let us celebrate and commemorate our 250 years of freedom and democracy by preserving, not diminishing and/or destroying our rich architectural heritage and symbolic representations of our history. A ballroom can be built to standard specifications without turning our backs on Washington, L'Enfant and our cherished American history. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Carla Knorowski, Ph.D.
Trustee Emerita and Former President U.S. Naval War College Foundation
Former President & CEO, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation
Former Ad hoc Member, National Park Service Lincoln Memorial Co-Design Restoration Project

Name: Jacquelyn Donlon
Date: March 3, 2026 6:35:56 pm

The beauty of the White House is grounded in its symmetry. Pleasing to the eye, it also reflects the symmetry of our nation's guiding principle and ethos - all is equal under the law.

Trump's plans to destroy this classical and spiritual tenet is reflective of his ethos - we are not equal and the grotesque proportions of his ballroom plan illustrates his overwhelming greed and pomposity. If built, this ballroom will reveal the new corrupt soul of our America.

Name: Jane Meyer
Date: March 3, 2026 6:38:06 pm

I am strongly opposed to this project. It is gross, disgusting, unnecessary, inappropriate, illegal, and just another money laundering, bribery, self-enriching scam for Trump and his family. Another way for various businesses to bribe him and avoid his retribution schemes.

It is neither needed, nor wanted by the majority of the public, including me.

I am horrified that he ripped down the East Wing illegally, and could not be stopped.

He purposely opened the area above the secure location where the president and other important government officials sheltered during attacks such as the one on 9/11/2001.

In the process he revealed to the world where that 'undisclosed location' was and rendered it unusable now or in the future.

The East Wing should be restored to an updated version of what it was before, and NOT turned into a gaudy ballroom. What he has done to the rest of the white house with his lying plaques and faux gold glue-ons is also disgusting, but not as hard to fix by future presidents as his proposed ballroom monstrosity.

I urge you to stop the ballroom project and replace it with something that true architects and historical experts propose, and not what he and his board of cronies are pushing through.

What he did by tearing it down was heart-breaking to many of us in the country, on top of all the other cruel and corrupt actions he has taken. It was just one of many, but especially painful after he ripped up the rose-garden, paved it over, then took over and ruined the Kennedy center. It appears that he hates this country so much that he wants to destroy everything that was created by the Kennedy's or anyone before him.

He has his own ballroom in Mar-A-Lago which he goes to every week on our taxpayer dollars; please don't let him ruin the white house any more than he already has.

Thank you for allowing me to give my input.

Name: Julie Harrison
Date: March 3, 2026 6:38:56 pm

Please do not allow Trump to ruin the beautiful White House with this so called ballroom.

Name: Minta Mullins

Date: March 3, 2026 6:41:34 pm

Hello. I'm writing to lend my voice to the recommendations set forth by The National Trust for Historic Preservation in regards to the current grotesque proposal.

Please consider reducing the overall mass, scaling down the structure to avoid overwhelming the 55,000-square-foot mansion, and ensuring better architectural alignment with the existing, symmetrical East Wing. The proposed ballroom is nearly three times the size of the White House and significantly larger than the South Portico. Aside from being an eyesore and an embarrassment to our American legacy, WHY would a space that big be necessary??

Alternative Proposals: The National Trust, along with experts, recommends alternatives that preserve the East Wing, rather than demolishing it for a new, larger structure. Proposals focus on creating a structure that adheres to the Secretary of the Interior's standards, ensuring additions do not overwhelm or clash with the historic building. Tearing down The East Wing is very upsetting, but if there is any possibility of rectifying the situation, I support the above suggestions.

Thanks for reading.
Minta

Name: Rebecca Monroe

Date: March 3, 2026 6:41:42 pm

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed East Wing for The People's House (aka The White House): Here are my main concerns:

- 1) George Washington and Pierre Charles L'Enfant's urban plan creates a visual axial connection between the White House and the Capitol. Under the proposed plan, the ballroom will break this beautiful (and symbolic) link.
 - 2) Hoban's neoclassical architecture is one based on balance and symmetry. The proposal is lopsided in scale, a party space overshadowing the President's residence in every dimension. Even the columns don't match the original.
 - 3) The design is also not functional; the portico's doors are fake, and the outdoor space is unusable. The connector colonnade does not actually have windows. The famous Palladian window would be engulfed.
 - 4) Adverse rerouting of Olmsted's landscape design for the drive would be required; it would no longer be symmetrical.
- Thank you for your time and consideration.

Name: Cathy Tipton

Date: March 3, 2026 6:43:52 pm

Do not allow this monstrosity to proceed. The design is an affront to every reasonable person. No one should be permitted to do what this person has done. Take a stand and protect our heritage.

Name: Lucinda McGovern

Date: March 3, 2026 6:43:53 pm

The "Modernization" project should have to follow guidelines for other nationally historic buildings, namely, it should only be allowed to recreate the exterior of what was preexisting (and was removed without justification).

First of all, neither the White House nor the capital of the United States needs a giant ballroom.

Secondly, modernization does not mean expanding nor does it mean building from the ground up.

Thirdly, this is a terrible time to be using taxpayer funds for a project that does not have the approval of the American public and will not benefit the majority of U.S. citizens.

A hole in the ground is a more relevant monument to misplaced ambition than an enormously expensive, useless structure.

Thank you.

Name: Eleanor Flicker

Date: March 3, 2026 6:44:32 pm

The proposed ballroom by the Trump administration is nearly three times the size of the White House. The addition would be an unmitigated disaster aesthetically and it will destroy the traditional architecture of the building. The East Wing Modernization project is a vanity gift to Donald J. Trump by himself, for himself. The East Wing was destroyed without the permission of Congress or the American people. The Ballroom is funded by billionaire friends of Trump and Corporate interests in exchange for implied favors. It is an affront to the past ethical traditions of past Presidents, who preserved the principals of modesty over embarrassing flamboyancy and decadence. Office of the President. I implore that this project not be approved and not go forward.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Flicker



Name: Joan Prior

Date: March 3, 2026 6:44:39 pm

The White House is an American icon known throughout the entire world. I speak for all Americans when I say we look at the White House with pride, respect, affection and pleasure.

The proposed east wing ballroom is an affront to us all by casting a hulking shadow over our beautiful White House. It is a monstrosity which should be revised and re-designed to reduce the impact of this offensive structure.

Name: Julia Foley

Date: March 3, 2026 6:44:59 pm

The addition of a formal ballroom to the White House is undemocratic. Ballrooms are for medieval castles or fine hotels where elites rub elbows, not for a place that is supposed to be the symbol of the free world. It is a complete and utter waste of taxpayer money.

Name: Bob Farrell

Date: March 3, 2026 6:45:17 pm

I respectfully request that the National Capital Planning Commission carefully evaluate any proposed addition to the White House grounds with close attention to historic preservation standards, architectural integrity, security implications, total costs to taxpayers, and strict compliance with all applicable federal laws and regulations.

The White House is both a working executive residence and a nationally significant historic landmark. Any structural expansion should be fully consistent with established preservation laws, planning requirements, and environmental review processes. Adherence to existing statutes and transparent public review are essential to maintaining public trust. In addition to upfront construction expenses, the Commission should consider long-term operational, maintenance, and security costs that would ultimately be borne by taxpayers. A thorough, lawful, and transparent review will help ensure responsible stewardship of this historic public property.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Danna Wiggins

Date: March 3, 2026 6:48:45 pm

I am opposed to the current plan for the East Wing ballroom because it lacks visual and functional balance. The changes will imbalance the architectural Classicism that is so important to the original plan and beauty of the building. Equally important; the axial connection that connects the two branches of government visually and symbolically will be broken.

Name: Robert Blomquist

Date: March 3, 2026 6:50:17 pm

Thank you for reading my comments.

The East Wing of the White House should not have been summarily demolished without review or necessary approvals sought. This is not a modernization project, rather a razing of American history.

The plans to build a ballroom need external consultation, a historical design in keeping with the White House, and public review to ensure the People's House is in keeping with the People's desires, rather than something crass, gaudy and overpowering, as the publicly available plans seem to indicate. Although I am not an architect, I have been appalled by the explosion of gold-plated decor in the Oval office and overpowering design for the proposed ballroom.

Although a ballroom to host state dinners would be useful to this and future administrations, there needs to be room for an architectural design for a bold, beautiful and innovative ballroom that is in keeping with the White House complex, that does NOT reflect Gilded Age impulses of the current inhabitant of the White House.

Please take action to review the East Wing plans before construction begins so that the plans are in keeping with what remains of the White House neoclassical complex.

Thank you.

Name: Erin Berg

Date: March 3, 2026 6:50:45 pm

Please see comments attached, submitted on behalf of Rethos: Places Reimagined.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Susan Barlow

Date: March 3, 2026 6:51:01 pm

The proposed project is out scale and proportion to Washington DC. The current Administration needs to seek opinions from preservation architects who have an understanding of history, scale, proportion. The demolition of the East Wing is shocking, and the proposed gargantuan structure is shocking.

Name: James Bahr

Date: March 3, 2026 6:52:49 pm

I fully support the construction of a ballroom where the east wing used to be. People suffering from TDS will never support any proposals from this president. Future occupants of the white house will be grateful for the additional multi-use space. It is embarrassing to have to entertain foreign heads of state outdoors under temporary heated tents. Please approve this project.

Name: Bruce Scott

Date: March 3, 2026 6:53:08 pm

I am strongly opposed to this project. I've visited Washington many times over my life of seven decades. It is too large for the location, not consistent with the White House's architectural heritage, and unnecessary because of the ready availability of similar event spaces, public and private, such as the Kennedy Center. That the panel considering this proposal was chosen for the purpose of approving this plan angers me.

Name: Ethel Eaton

Date: March 3, 2026 6:55:55 pm

I am an archaeologist and a member of the Archaeological Society of Virginia and Preservation Virginia. I support the goal of the East Wing Modernization Project. I understand and appreciate the need for a larger more efficient space to meet and entertain large groups of people. However, the current design does not appropriately contribute to the sense of place of the White House. As well as being the most recognizable building in the United States, the White House is a National Historic Landmark and a National Park. I respectfully urge the National Capitol Planning Commission to give more careful thought to the history of this area in the design.

When visiting Washington, D. C. I am experiencing history – never mind the traffic. I enjoy being in a place that President George Washington planned. In 1789 George Washington ordered the boundary of the future capital city to be marked with 40 boundary stones. On the way into the District of Columbia, I have often stopped to visit the SW-9 Intermediate Boundary Stone, still in place in Arlington, Virginia. The east side of the stone is engraved “Virginia” and the north side “1791”, the year Benjamin Banneker helped Major Pierre Charles L’Enfant identified the boundaries of the new capitol city. Born free, Benjamin Banneker was one of the first black civil servants of the new nation.

L’Enfant’s original design 1791 design for Washington, D.C. included a network of broad diagonal axes superimposed over the more traditional east-west and north-south streets. The most important axis is Pennsylvania Avenue, designed to provide a direct link between the legislative and executive branches of the new government, the Capitol and the White House at the request of George Washington. Unfortunately, as planned, the proposed modification would block and restrict the view of the White House from the Capitol steps looking northwest up Pennsylvania Avenue is one of the most important views and relationships in L’Enfant’s plan.

Despite past modifications, the White House has a balanced classical design based on James Hogan’s 1792 design. As a student I learned about classical architecture and had the opportunity to see examples while digging archaeological sites in Italy. In the classical tradition the central main structure should also be the largest. Unfortunately, the current modification as planned will be three times larger than the White house itself. Moreover, the columns of the portico of the White House as well as the columns of the portico of the Capitol are Ionic, while the columns of the proposed modification are Corinthian. Corinthian columns are more decorative and should be on the main building, not on one of its additions. I also do not understand why the south portico of the proposed modification provides no access to the interior. The stairs have no function and of course are not ADA accessible.

The 58-acre park of the Capitol grounds was landscaped by Frederick Law Olm in a major project from 1874 to 1892. The goal of his design was to create a natural landscape highlighting the Capitol Building. Olstead designed the symmetrical drive leading up to the South Portico of the White House, including the principle of classical symmetry. Unfortunately, the proposed modification requires a detour to be created to direct traffic around the modification. The size of the modification should be carefully reconsidered to continue Olmstead’s legacy.

In summary, the overall size of the proposed East Wing Modification Project should be reduced in scale and careful reconsideration of the design should include more appropriate balancing of the goal of the modification to meet current needs with the national importance of the history of the area.

Thank you for offering the opportunity to comment on this important project.

Name: Bethany Roszko

Date: March 3, 2026 6:56:12 pm

The whole process for this 'renovation' is Demo First, Ask Permission Later. This is The People's House, not the president's so please account for the People's input before any next steps.

Also, the scale overwhelms the White House and needs to be corrected after consulting Historical Preservation experts.

Name: Karen Easterly-Behrens

Date: March 3, 2026 6:56:37 pm

I was born and raised in Washington DC. My family has many generations of presence in the area. The pride I have felt about our country including the folks who contributed so much to the start of this great experiment and the growth of our government makes me hold history in high regard.

Tearing down the east wing with such a lack of respect for the historic relevance was appalling. Proceeding with this out of character representation of a Monarchy is distasteful and disrespectful to the very foundation of our country and the values that bring us together. Building a “Ballroom” is not forward thinking. It is not future proofing our country and supporting our values.

We need to be very careful to represent the true values of our country , the founders and those who come after us.

Thank you for considering my comments,
Karen Easterly-Behrens (Markovich)

Name: Maureen Howard

Date: March 3, 2026 6:56:56 pm

In regards to the proposed East Wing ballroom I am of the strong opinion that the White House does not need a gigantic building looking as if it could swallow the original part of the White House in one mouthful. I believe that the East Wing should be returned to its original state and should not have ever been torn down in the first place. This is a historic building that belongs to the American people and it should reflect our history and architecture — and taste.

Name: Elizabeth Thorstenson

Date: March 3, 2026 6:57:37 pm

Thank you for the opportunity to comment regarding the proposed East Wing Modernization Project. As a professional working in the fields of Landscape Architecture and Historic Preservation, I appreciate the immense responsibility associated with any intervention to the White House complex, one of our most significant historic resources in the United States. It is a site that carries not only architectural importance, but symbolic weight for our democracy and our national identity. For these reasons, I am deeply concerned that the project, as proposed, does not meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Buildings, and will result in clear and lasting adverse effects. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for building additions require new construction to be compatible with the historic building's massing, size, scale, and architectural features, while remaining clearly differentiated. Additions should preserve the historic building's integrity, avoid destroying significant materials, and, if removed in the future, leave the original structure unimpaired. And of important note is the guidance that additions should generally be smaller and less visible than the original, typically located on rear or secondary elevations.

From a preservation standpoint, scale, proportion, historic viewsheds, and integrity of setting are not incidental considerations, they are fundamental. The current East Wing Modernization Project proposal threatens these core qualities in several ways:

- 1.) The proposed ballroom's square footage far exceeds even the upper end of industry standards for occupancy, resulting in a space whose scale is disproportionate to its intended use. This level of overbuilding is not only unnecessary, but risks creating interiors that feel vacant and out of character.
- 2.) The massing of the new structure would overshadow the remaining historic portions of the White House, undermining the deliberate and carefully balanced proportions that have defined the building since its earliest iterations.
- 3.) The axial view from the White House toward the U.S. Capitol along Pennsylvania Avenue, an intentional element of L'Enfant's foundational plan for Washington D.C., would be compromised. This view is not simply aesthetic; it represents the symbolic relationship between the executive and legislative branches of our government.
- 4.) The proposed portico columns diverge from the established architectural language of the White House, disrupting the visual coherence and classical harmony that are essential to its historic character.
- 5.) The portico itself, being inaccessible from the interior and set below the main floor, lacks functional purpose, making the additional square footage wasteful and out of alignment with preservation principles that prioritize minimal, necessary intervention.
- 6.) The floor-to-ceiling height ratios exceed those of the White House, creating a discordant internal volume and further contributing to an overall sense of imbalance.
- 7.) Sitting further above grade exacerbates the new ballroom and colonnade appearing out of scale and out of proportion, disrupting the symmetry between the East and West Wings, and creating a visual imbalance that weighs the composition heavily toward the west.
- 8.) The project's building footprint would disrupt the historic landscape design by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. (well recognized as a founder of American Landscape Architecture), whose work is integral to the White House grounds' national significance. Landscape is not merely a backdrop; it is part of the property's historic fabric.

9.) Above all, the White House is the most recognized and cherished building in the United States. It embodies more than two centuries of presidential history, democratic continuity, and cultural memory. Any intervention must therefore be approached with the utmost restraint, respect, and adherence to historic preservation standards. Future generations deserve to inherit a White House whose architectural integrity and symbolic role remain intact.

For these reasons, I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to require a more sensitive, preservation focused alternative, one that meets programmatic needs without compromising the historic, cultural, and symbolic significance.

Thank you for your consideration.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Ursula Britton

Date: March 3, 2026 6:59:13 pm

The proposed ballroom is ghastly, but what else to expect from the ghastly occupant of the Oval Office? No, no, no to this project! Everything about it smacks of Trump's vulgarity.

Name: Daniel Leone

Date: March 3, 2026 6:59:16 pm

I am totally against this proposal as it is not consistent with our other national treasures. Please do not approve it. Thank you. Respectfully yours, Daniel J Leone

Name: Roberta Tracy

Date: March 3, 2026 7:00:39 pm

I am writing to object to Donald Trump's illegal destruction of the East Wing of the White House and the proposal to replace it with an illegal and self-aggrandizing 90,000 square foot "ballroom".

Since the destruction of the East Wing, valid concerns have been raised about the structural damage the construction of a 90,000 square foot structure could cause to the historic building due to the massive size of the ballroom and its close proximity to the White House. It has subsequently been announced that to create continuity among the structures, more changes would be required to the West Wing and potentially the White House itself.

The White House is owned by the American people. Over 56% of Americans object not only to the demolition of the East Wing, but also plans to replace it with Donald Trump's over-sized, unwanted, unnecessary, and incredibly tasteless and trashy "ballroom". As one of the 56%, I want the East Wing reconstructed exactly as it was.

Further, there are credible concerns that what is being built underneath the "ballroom" is not just a bigger and better bunker, but a sophisticated state-of-the-art AI data collection, surveillance, and AI warfare center. Building such a facility underneath the White House is credible as it would fall under the protection of the Executive Office and would be classified, protected, and exempt from oversight.

Now, in addition to historic preservation concerns, there is the concern of a potential government and corporate conspiracy to build a technological surveillance system without federal oversight, Congressional knowledge and authority, or the consent of the American people.

Construction of the "ballroom" needs to be stopped until the "ballroom" has gone through the legally required process and concerns and questions about what is being constructed underneath the "ballroom" have been placed before Congress for approval and consent from the American people has been received.

Name: Mark Grayson

Date: March 3, 2026 7:00:39 pm

It is impossible to overstate our contempt for the current plans for upgrading the ballroom at the White House. Not only

do they sever the L'Enfant Axis connecting the White House to the US Capitol, with all the political implications of that disruption forever emblazoned on our minds, the sheer volume of the addition and size of its architectural details actually dwarfs the White House, making it seem as if the core purpose of the presidency is entertainment! The destruction of the historic grounds created by Frederick Law Olmstead is also an unforgivable desecration.

A sensible redraft of the plans is in order here.

Mark Grayson and Sarah Houghton (daughter of the former Hon. Amory Houghton, Jr.)

Name: Jason Eala

Date: March 3, 2026 7:02:50 pm

I feel this project should be halted and the White House East Wing rebuilt to its original specs. I feel that if Trump had gone about this the right way, it could've been designed in a way that complements the building. But instead, Trump went about it w/o preserving the historical value of what the White House represents The People's House. Please stop any further damage to the White House and return it to what the people of the USA and its visitors remember it as being.

Name: Lisa Brenskelle

Date: March 3, 2026 7:03:17 pm

It is wildly inappropriate for a president to unilaterally opt to destroy a wing of the White House. It does not belong to him. If he wants to make major changes, there is a process to follow. The East Wing should be completely restored, and the proper process followed to consider any possible changes. The funds from the donors to the ballroom should be repurposed to completely restore the East Wing to its former state.

Name: Susie Sorkin

Date: March 3, 2026 7:03:18 pm

I want to add my concern about the size/scope and lack of respect for historical context and traditions of the proposed ballroom. I reiterate that comments made by the National Trust for Historic Preservation:

Historic preservation is a vital expression of the American story. Protecting our history connects communities, bridges generations, and strengthens public understanding. The White House is perhaps the most significant historic site in the United States. Before our historic places are permanently altered or lost, the American public should have an opportunity both to be heard, and to shape the decisions that affect our shared national heritage.

A National Historic Landmark and a National Park, the White House has been the home to our Presidents since 1800. Owned by the American people and stewarded by the National Park Service, the White House was designed by Irish architect James Hoban, whose winning design was selected by President George Washington in a competition for the honor of designing the home of the American president, and demonstrates Georgian and neoclassical architectural principles.

To this end, any proposed new addition to the White House complex should accommodate and respect the primary historic importance of the original Executive Residence. To do so here, the ballroom addition should be subordinate in scale to the Executive Residence. We appreciate the submission of plans that continue to revise the design of the addition. That being said, having reviewed the revised plans, we continue to recommend several modifications to the proposed project, including:

Reduce Overall Size and Visibility. The size, volume, and massing of the proposed new construction (90,000 square feet) should be reduced or disguised (such as by placing portions underground, as recommended in the 2000 Comprehensive Design Plan) so the new building appears smaller than the Executive Residence itself (55,000 square feet). Its height should also be substantially lower than the Executive Residence.

Reduce Footprint and Protect Key Views. The footprint of the proposed building should not extend past the existing south-facing façade of the historic Treasury Building, nor further interrupt the views of the Executive Residence from Pennsylvania Avenue.

Respect the Established Classical Composition of the White House Complex. The new addition should retain the carefully balanced classical design of the White House complex with its two smaller, lower, and substantially symmetrical East and West Wings.

Preserve the Historic East Façade of the Executive Residence. The connection of the colonnade to the Executive Residence should protect and preserve the original historic materials of the east façade of the Executive Residence and should not cover or demolish the existing fenestration and detailing of the east façade.

Ensure that the Proposed South-facing Portico Is Subordinate in Scale to the White House South Portico. The proposed portico on the south façade should be smaller and less grand in scale than the existing portico on the south façade of the Executive Residence.

We respectfully urge the NCPC to consider these recommendations. Doing so will help ensure that the project both honors the exceptional historic significance of the White House complex and acknowledges the investment that the American people have in the preservation of this beloved place.

Sincerely,

Susie Sorkin

Name: LAUREN HALLINAN

Date: March 3, 2026 7:03:19 pm

A gaudy grotesquerie. This "East Wing Modernization Project," aka the Ballroom, fails to meet national or D>C. historic preservation standards; it's too large and far out of proportion with the White House. It's un-American in its Luis XIV ornamentation and overall design It's a ridiculous embarrassment. Just like the gilded Oval Office, but multiply by order of 300 million.

Name: Carol Street

Date: March 3, 2026 7:03:53 pm

The “East Wing Modernization Project” should be halted. Proper review actions were not only not taken, but were flagrantly ignored. This administration has shown that they do not want to follow the rules, but the White House is bigger than this administration and should be protected. It’s bad enough that the Trump administration has paved over the Rose Garden to create a Mar-a-Lago style patio. There are many reasons to halt construction and force a redesign of the ballroom, particularly that ballroom that is so out of scale to the White House, isn’t complementary to the rest of the building, and reflects the gross taste of one individual. This doesn’t represent American ideals in any way.

Name: Anne Pagano

Date: March 3, 2026 7:05:16 pm

I am deeply unhappy with the proposed White House ballroom. Its enormous size feels completely out of proportion to the historic scale of the White House and overwhelms the existing architecture. Rather than complementing the building, it appears to dominate the space and diminishes the elegance and balance of the original design. From the public approach, it obscures cherished views of the White House that have long symbolized openness and tradition. The heavy use of gold detailing strikes me as gaudy and inconsistent with the understated dignity that defines the White House. I am devastated.

Name: Katie Taylor

Date: March 3, 2026 7:06:00 pm

I want to start off by saying that I am not opposed to the idea of an official White House ballroom for guests to attend, this is a perfectly logical and understandable amenity to request for the property. The mistake of dire proportions that is being presented by the architects of the proposed current ballroom plan flies in the face of the historical continuity we have maintained until now honoring the wishes and plans of our Founding Fathers and those men who shaped Washington D.C. and the White House grounds as we know it: James Hoban, Frederick Olmsted, and Pierre L'Enfant. At risk, due to the proposed scale of this ballroom, is interrupting the impeccable symbolism of visually tying the capital buildings to the White House and in keeping with any sense of scale. The proposed scale gives the ballroom dominance to the property (is that the message of the capital to its citizens and the world? Entertaining?), obscures the view of the White House down Pennsylvania Ave from the Capital buildings, disrupts the symmetrical pathways on the grounds, and

when examined closely exposes that the enormous scale is purposeless. The proposed attendance and seating goals for the ballroom CAN be accomplished without these negatives features and at a scale that is in keeping with tradition. Everyone can benefit from building a new ballroom and keep the historical integrity of the property and urban planning of Washington D.C.

There is no RUSH TO THIS DECISION. The tearing down of the East Wing has made it feel like an emergency and like unfinished business that needs to be quickly buttoned up but that was the decision made by the administration and the consequences of acting out of impulse without long term thoughtful plans or considerations. Let it stay as is until it is ready to be rebuilt properly. This is a major decision, an absolutely crucial decision that will effect the impact of THE most recognizable house in America and the house that symbolizes America to the global community. We cannot get pressured into approving this unthoughtful, deeply negatively impactful, and disrespectful afterthought of an architectural rendering.

I think with time and discussion the powers that be making this decisions ultimately can come to a place of approving a viable, beautiful ballroom AND be proud of an historically accurate and thoughtful architectural vision at the same time.

Thank you for your time and please vote NO on this current proposed ballroom modification. It makes no sense to do so.

Name: Sharon Ciccarelli

Date: March 3, 2026 7:06:50 pm

I am strongly urging you to stop the destruction of the East Wing of the White House, one of our national treasures. The East Wing has significant historical value, especially as the site where First Ladies since Eleanor Roosevelt have worked on their many contributions to our country. To have one man destroy this area, essentially on a whim without going through proper channels is a travesty and goes contrary to regulations in place to protect such buildings.

I am asking you to stop the destruction and to order reconstruction of the East Wing to its historical state. This is our house - it doesn't belong to the current president and we say no to this desecration.

Name: Karen Carmean

Date: March 3, 2026 7:09:25 pm

Please house the unhoused, feed and hungry and provide health care to us all.

Remember the East Wing of the White House? Remember the giant ballroom that the tech billionaires have agreed to fund in its place? The National Trust for Historic Preservation is making a gallant effort to stop this. And we can help.

Thanks to the National Trust, we have until March 4 to submit comments about the ballroom to the National Capital Planning Commission. You can make a comment through the link below (click on Submit Comment). PLEASE NOTE, the project is called East Wing Modernization on the pull down menu.

Anara Guard's comment on this is beautiful. She gave me permission to post it here, if anyone wants to use her language.

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

<https://www.ncpc.gov/participate/guidelines/>

(Photo: PBS)

Name: Gary Shigenaka

Date: March 3, 2026 7:09:30 pm

Ugly as fuck. An abomination and an insult.

Name: James Scholten

Date: March 3, 2026 7:10:03 pm

This “Ballroom” is a MONSTROSITY! Architects’ renderings look like it would be much more at home in Hitler & Speer’s Nazi Berlin than in the USA.

Do not let this tribute to EVIL be built.

Name: Wilda Williams

Date: March 3, 2026 7:10:25 pm

There's "needed" and there's "overkill", and the proposed White House East Wing design is definitely overkill. The proposal in question will forever overwhelm and alter the design for Washington D.C., including sight lines from the Capitol to the White House, as commissioned by George Washington and carried out by architect Pierre L’Enfante. These sight lines have remained untouched for over 200 years—until now. The building housing the ballroom and connecting structure are so huge (at least 3 times as large as the original structure), they dwarf the White House. In our 250th year as a nation, I urge the government to develop an alternative design that better fits with the historic design while addressing modernization needs. Honor our history and don’t cater to the egotistical desires of a wannabe dictator.

Name: Rolf Lee

Date: March 3, 2026 7:13:23 pm

To whom it may concern:

That the East Wing project has commenced without proper review is disgraceful. That it continues unabated is shameful. That this project and other undertakings of this executive branch knowingly exceed the limits of executive authority is criminal. If any of you have the power to stop the destruction of this portion of our national heritage please do so.

Sincerely,

Rolf Lee

Name: Joe Blaze

Date: March 3, 2026 7:16:31 pm

While there may be significant opportunities to improve the security and utility of the White House by excavating where the former East Wing existed, the proposed 'above surface' design of the proposed 'ballroom' is disgusting. The 'gilded box' design is suitable only for ostentatious displays of wealth and power. Before building a structure based on this flawed proposed design, establishing a clear purpose for such a structure which benefits the American people is necessary. After a suitable purpose is determined and widely favored by many Americans, design proposals from multiple architects and engineers should be encouraged. The voices of more than one man should determine the outcome.

Name: Dee Lowe

Date: March 3, 2026 7:18:09 pm

The White House is The Peoples House not the Presidents Palace. Throwing a lot of money and a grandiose plan at a project does not necessarily result in a tasteful and meaningful or necessary improvement. That is certainly the case with the current plan for the East Wing “modernization”. I think it would be more accurately described as an abomination. The east wing should be restored to its original design financed by President Trump.

I would like to end with a question. What’s with every surface of the White House being covered in gold? TACKY!

Name: Kristin Bedell

Date: March 3, 2026 7:18:50 pm

I am a citizen of the United States living in Efland, North Carolina, and I am writing to express my deep disappointment and anger regarding the proposed ballroom as part of the East Wing Modernization Project.

1. The proposed ballroom is significantly beyond industry standards. This not only disrupts L'Enfant's original plan for the capital of the United States, commissioned by George Washington himself, it destroys the balance of Hoban's original design for the People's House and the beauty and symmetry of Fredrick Law Olmsted's design for the grounds. Furthermore, it destroys the historic Palladian window on the East wing. This is a deep injury to our nation's history and to our inheritance as Americans as well as a betrayal of classical design that relies on balance and moderation.

2. The proposed ballroom does not reflect the character of the buildings surrounding it. The White House is supposed to be the People's House, in contrast to the extravagance of Versailles and the European castles of the 18th century, but the proposed ballroom dwarfs the actual White House, and the portico is larger even than that of the Treasury. . Again, classical design requires balance and moderation; fitting for a building that was supposed to represent the humility and honor of being granted power in a democracy. A truly classical design would respect balance and moderation as part of an understanding that power derives from the people. Yet the proposed ballroom blocks views of the White House from the very people to whom it belongs.

3. So much of the proposed ballroom design is wasted, useless, inaccessible space that serves no purpose. The portico is literally inaccessible, and the design itself is not compliant with ADA standards. The kitchen is above ground, unnecessarily, and has ceilings nearly twice those of my home. This is an affront to American taxpayers. Our taxes pay for upkeep, and having so much unneeded, unused, or inaccessible space increases the costs to us, to our children, and to future generations. Given that we are in the midst of a war and do not have money available for SNAP or health care, paying for wasted space is a slap in our faces. Indeed, building a ballroom at this time, with American soldiers dying overseas and people struggling to make ends meet here, feels disgraceful and disrespectful.

4. The proposed ballroom is a missed opportunity. This could have been an opportunity, like the one that resulted in Hoban's original design for the White House, to have a national conversation about how to represent ourselves as a country and how to tell the story of our past, present, and future. The architecture could have been selected through a competitive process, showcasing the best of America's architects. Instead, it looks like a monstrosity hallucinated by ChatGPT. Frankly, it is an embarrassment of a design.

I urge you to consider the effects of this design on the historical plan for the city of Washington, D. C. as well as on the American people. A ballroom built to industry standards without the ridiculous portico could at least moderate some of the problems with balance, wastefulness, and inaccessibility while still accommodating 1,000 guests. The ballroom as currently proposed will be a laughingstock that ruins the beauty of Washington, D. C. for generations to come. Vote against the current plans.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kristin Bedell

Name: Jordaan Williams

Date: March 3, 2026 7:19:42 pm

I am writing to oppose the proposed White House ballroom and East Wing replacement in the strongest possible terms.

The East Wing was torn down in October 2025 without public notice, without submitted plans, and without the approval of this Commission or any other oversight body. The public wasn't told it was happening until excavators were already on site. That is not how you treat a National Historic Landmark. That is not how you treat the American people.

A 90,000-square-foot ballroom — nearly double the size of the White House itself — is not a modernization. It is an imposition. It will permanently overwhelm the visual and architectural identity of the most iconic building in the country. Planning commissioners themselves have said the scale feels "overwhelming." The National Trust for Historic Preservation has sued to stop it. A federal judge has warned that ongoing construction could cause irreversible damage before the courts can even act.

The argument that demolition didn't require Commission review is a legal loophole being exploited to bulldoze a process that exists specifically to protect places like this one. If the Commission cannot review demolition, but the demolition dictates the entire scale and footprint of what replaces it, then the review process has been rendered meaningless.

This is the People's House. It belongs to all Americans — not to the preferences of any one administration. I urge this

Commission to halt further construction, demand full transparency on plans, funding, and asbestos abatement, and conduct a genuine, independent review before this damage becomes permanent and irreversible.

Name: Maddie Colombo

Date: March 3, 2026 7:20:48 pm

I understand that past presidents have made alterations to the White House. But in the face of current overhauls, we need to make a stand about the limits any president can make. The White House belongs to the American people, not to any individual. Changes should be limited to maintenance and upkeep, and necessary upgrades (plumbing, electricity, wifi, etc.). Frivolous personal demolitions and additions (ballroom) should go through a strict series of reviews and authorizations to determine if the change is necessary, or would alter the National Building too much. The rules should be clear, in written form, stating exactly how much the White House can be altered. At the bottom of all this is the idea that it's not the president's property: it is Ours, and therefore should reflect the tone of what President Lincoln stated: Of the People, By the People, and For the People.

Name: Elisa Donati-Klunis

Date: March 3, 2026 7:21:18 pm

I watched the NTHP presentation on the East Wing Modernization Project and feel a need, as a citizen of this country for 70 years, to comment. Both David Scott Parker's and Bill Bates' visuals and explanations made sense for SERIOUS CONSIDERATION for a much smaller and more sensitive design. The White House, nay, the People's House, should not be dwarfed by an oversized and poorly designed ballroom. Please consider the history and the impact this behemoth will have on the White House grounds. I have been to DC several times and can't imagine that anyone would allow this to be built in the currently proposed extravagant size and manner.

Thank you for listening to the people.

Sincerely,

Elisa Donati-Klunis

Name: Kathlyn Hendricks

Date: March 3, 2026 7:22:52 pm

As an elder, I have been actively participating in political activism since the 1960s. I have been grieving the erosion of the laws and traditions that represent we, the people, including the completely lawless actions of the current administration in demolishing the East Wing. I strongly urge whatever committees and legislators to stop this illegal and frankly gross vanity project.

Name: Claudia Morgan

Date: March 3, 2026 7:23:09 pm

The people's house should not be disfigured by an out of proportion ballroom.

Name: Kay Nieset

Date: March 3, 2026 7:23:33 pm

I am against rebuilding the east wing of the White House as a garish ballroom. Our White House is a place of dignity - the people's house - should be treated as such. Come up with a new plan that looks respectable and doesn't cost a ridiculous sum of money. It should never have been bulldozed in the first place.

Name: Meg Singleton

Date: March 3, 2026 7:25:11 pm

The proposed ballroom looks too large, doesn't match other buildings, doesn't give deference to the White House that is supposed to be the central home of our country's leader.

Can't get to the ballroom from the kitchen? Not ADA accessible? Fake doors? Fake windows? The proportions look awful. These look like amateur mistakes, and I have to wonder how many other major but not as obvious mistakes will crop up.

Historical symbolism is important to this country. In a symbolic way the inability to see from capital to white house is exactly what this president has done to collaboration and communication between two branches that are supposed to be coequal.

I expect the White House itself will be destroyed next. Wanton, illegal, and clearly done in such a way that the architects of this destruction knew they would not otherwise be allowed to do this.

Name: Jacques van Montfrans

Date: March 3, 2026 7:25:35 pm

National Capital Planning Commissioners:

I strongly oppose the East Wing Modernization Project for the following reasons. I am a resident of Yorktown, Virginia. Our town is steeped in history and surrounded by historic Williamsburg and Jamestown. Historical elements of the area are hallowed reminders of the hard-fought origins of our democracy. Perhaps no other building in our nation represents the culmination of that struggle than "The People's House" built in the late 18th century and located on the site chosen by our first president, George Washington. The vision for that space and subsequent architectural design is desecrated by the East Wing Modernization Project, the scale of which is far too excessive and extravagant, and much of the space is adorned with fake entrances, doors and windows which serve no practical purpose.

Lastly, this project is being launched outside of the normal approval process. It lacks consent by Congress and most importantly, the citizens of the nation. It is fraught with so many issues, and no president during their short term in office should be able to make such consequential architectural changes to the White House complex without following required protocols.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important topic.

Jacques van Montfrans
Yorktown, VA

Name: Patrick Coyle

Date: March 3, 2026 7:26:06 pm

I am opposed to the ostentatious proposed project. Very inappropriate that the demolition proceeded without seeing what was proposed.

Name: Helen Rahder

Date: March 3, 2026 7:27:14 pm

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on the replacement of the White House East Wing with the Trump-proposed ballroom.

The most important lesson shared by NTHP that has stuck with us here locally in Richard Nixon's home town of Whittier, California, is phrase: "PLACE MATTERS." We have used this mantra often and it couldn't be more imperative at this moment.

The White House does not belong to one person or one president. All of the previous additions and renovations have had purpose, scale, and relevance to the people's house without damaging the "sense of place" that the White House and its grounds inspire.

The destruction of the historic East Wing and its Jefferson-inspired connecting colonnade was heart-breaking and a desecration of the people's---and it happened without any public input or consideration. That action hurt everyone, was done without any deference to the history of the site, and turned the White House grounds into a construction site. The

project, without the kind vision necessary to protect the existing structures, has put the entire site into a state of confusion and does not have the support of the preservation community.

The proposed structure will overwhelm the site, making the White House subservient to the new building. If this project gets approved without appropriate mitigation, it will forever alter the simplicity and purpose of the Founders' intentions. The size, scale, mass, purpose, location, fenestration, and materials are not in keeping with the original purpose of having a home for the sitting president while also providing functionality for the people's work to be done.

If this project can be built to suit the whim's of one person, what's to prevent a future president from bulldozing the whole house and replacing it with a ferris wheel or a sports stadium? At what point do the people have something to say about their house?

If there is anything else we can do to help reduce the impacts of the proposed project, please let us know.

Thank you for including us in this process.

Sincerely,
Helen M. Rahder
Executive Director, Whittier Conservancy
Former Maryor-pro-tem, City of Whittier, CA

Name: Janis Nowlan

Date: March 3, 2026 7:27:32 pm

I am a strong supporter of historic preservation, yet I am not opposed to change. That said . . .

There should be no remodeling of "The People's Properties" without stringent and legitimate review. Donald J. Trump has already crossed the line by demolishing the East Wing and moving forward with his own plans. Although he says taxpayers won't be liable for the costs, it is not his property. His billionaire donors should also be held accountable. They have contributed to an illegal action on a property that belongs to the public. I do not wish to wax nostalgic. If the East Wing or any other part of MY/OUR White House needs remodeling, the correct path is clear. Shame on Trump and everyone who colluded with him. Please stop this crime and bring them to justice.

Name: M Zire

Date: March 3, 2026 7:28:14 pm

Oh, hell no. Do not allow this desecration of OUR House to take place. Signed, We The People.

Name: Catherine McCarty

Date: March 3, 2026 7:29:29 pm

I strenuously object to this proposed ballroom addition to the White House, aka the "People's House."

First of all, the entire East Wing was destroyed without notice, permits, or any of the other requirements of any building project, much less arguably the most important building in our country.

Leaving that aside, we are then presented with a plan for a structure that is so far out of proportion for the site that it makes the WH look like a dollhouse. The architectural plans for this new monstrosity are more akin to something an imperial, authoritarian regime would build, not the democracy of the United States. In every sense it is an affront to the principles of our founders and our American spirit. Is this image what we really want for our country?

Do we need a ballroom that will house at least 1,000 people? Absolutely not - what sheer expense is being wasted for something that is not only not needed but will cost the American taxpayers a fortune to maintain in the future once it is built. How often would something of this size be used? Judging from history, State dinners are few and far between. This building is more a paean to the man who intends to build it than to our Democratic principles.

If this President insists on a ballroom, then I beg the NCPC to approve plans for something far more suited to the site it will stand on. Otherwise, the American people will be stuck with an enormous, distasteful, architecturally wrong edifice

on this most precious site.

Thank you

Name: Joanne Kerbavaz

Date: March 3, 2026 7:30:33 pm

Please do not approve the proposed 90,000 square foot ballroom project. The proposed structure is not appropriate for this location. The fact that this project may receive external financing is not sufficient to justify the construction. Even if external funding supports elements of the development, it is probably that on-going operation would require public funding. The project purpose, design, size, and costs should be completely understood prior to any approvals. Any changes to such a significant historic building should not be decided solely by the current President, and should require far more than the cursory review provided prior to demolition of the existing East Wing.

Name: Edward Belfar

Date: March 3, 2026 7:32:19 pm

I do not think that the proposed ballroom should be built. Instead, I would recommend that the rubble from the demolished East Wing be left just where it is. Like the fragments of the Berlin Wall that still stand in that city, the East Wing demolition site could serve as a warning to future generations.

Yours very truly,

Edward Belfar

Name: William Gavazzi

Date: March 3, 2026 7:32:21 pm

The East wing no longer met modern requirements for federal buildings and needed to be replaced. The office of the President regardless of political party, needs a place where events may be hosted while efficiently protecting the President, Vice President and members of the cabinet. The former East wing could not be efficiently updated to meet federal building requirements. The proposed building can serve multiple requirements while improving the security of the President. The building will blend in with the existing adjacent green space once landscaped to modern federal building standards. Landscaping will further enhance security. The visual image that is currently being presented should be revised to show the final landscaped building.

Name: Ronald Blum

Date: March 3, 2026 7:33:56 pm

In my opinion the naming of what was a unilateral decision to tear down an existing wing of the White House without ANY application for licenses or approval from historical and/or architectural review boards alone should disqualify this proposal.

The fact that the proposed "modernization" is totally out of proportion and scale to the existing structures should disqualify this proposal.

The proposed structure is also much larger than is necessary for its intended use.

It is your job to monitor such proposals to assure that the resulting projects will be considered well executed by those who follow.

Rushing to appease an ego rather than insisting on a more appropriate solution as suggested by authorities in History and Architecture will end in an inferior product for which you will be considered, in large part, responsible.

Careful decisions made by thoughtful people have resulted in many glorious buildings in Washington. Let's not suffer a mistake.

Name: Julie Vecchio

Date: March 3, 2026 7:36:41 pm

Now that the east wing of the White House has been razed, it should be replaced in a reasoned and responsible manner. The new east wing should be fiscally responsible. It will be built using our collective tax money. It should reflect the people (all people) of the country, including those who have been marginalized for centuries. It should be welcoming. This area has historically been the place where dignitaries from other countries first entered the White House. All of these considerations should be top of the considerations when coming up with a new design. The proposed ballroom fits none of these requirements. Please act within the best interest of all Americans.

Name: Janice Farringer

Date: March 3, 2026 7:39:30 pm

The proposed ballroom is misnamed here as the East Wing Modernization Project. The East Wing was destroyed overnight by the president. What is being proposed is an entirely new building; a ballroom that no one but the president wants. His many corporate donors will not doubt win favor by their contributions. This is no reason to approve such a huge building that will overwhelm the proportions of our historic White House, which is by the way, The People's House, not Trump's Mar-a-lago North.. I understand that you who sit on this committee have you own reasons to approve the desecration of the White House, but I hope you read the comments from the people of America. It is part of your job on the committee to read them even if you choose to vote otherwise. I hope your grandchildren ask you why you voted the way you are expected to vote in order to keep one man happy. I am sure history will not treat you kindly.

Name: Edward Estes

Date: March 3, 2026 7:42:18 pm

The proposed White House Ballroom addition represents an inappropriate intervention in one of our nation's most important and symbolically charged landmarks. The clear design modifications undermine the carefully balanced classical composition of the White House and disregard the spirit of the Olmsted Plan, which has long guided the harmony between architecture and landscape on the campus.

I urge the NCPC to reject this proposal and instead insist on any future interventions being modest, contextually sensitive, and rigorously aligned with the established classical character and historic planning framework of the White House grounds.

Name: Cindy Hickman

Date: March 3, 2026 7:42:43 pm

How disheartening to see the East Wing being demolished several months ago. Shocking would be an understatement. After the public learned of the Trump administrations intention with regard to plans for the ballroom it became even more shocking.

There was no public input, no design reviews, no warning.

The overall design of the ballroom is ostentatious and not at all in keeping with the classical design and scale of the White House.

The enormous size overpowers the White House and blocks the full view, along with altering the Olmsted designed drive and siting.

If a ballroom is necessary then procedures, process and protocol should be followed to include public input and a thorough design review to create an appropriately scaled structure with the East Wing rebuilt.

Name: Chris Meier

Date: March 3, 2026 7:45:39 pm

The White House, including its East Wing, is a historic building, belonging to the people of the United States, and is lent to and occupied by its President. The President does not have the right to make architectural changes to the White House without the permission of the appropriate authorities, including but not limited to planning commissions, review boards,

and safety commissions. Prior to execution, plans must be made for appropriate disposal of debris to protect the public from contaminants. Architectural commissions, including historians, must approve all plans to assure that any changes to the White House meld with its original design and compliment it. The President must comply with the building codes of the city and follow all necessary laws and regulations. The President is not above these laws. He does not make decisions about architectural changes to public property, such as the White House.

Name: Pamela Germain

Date: March 3, 2026 7:46:13 pm

The obscene size of the proposed East Wing Modernization Project that entails building a monstrous and unneeded ballroom, is an abomination to American history and the classical beauty of our nation's Capital. The size overshadows the purpose of the White House, which exists to be seat of the Executive Branch of our government and is the "people's" not the President's, White House.

The proposal obfuscates and destroys the classic balance and symmetry of the White House and utterly obviates the longstanding, historic perfection of all the architectural designs by Olmstead, L'Enfant, and Hoban for no good reason. This includes the beauty of the vistas and vision baked into the street grid pattern of DC. Besides the size, the fake portico is not needed and useless. The proposed ballroom completely dwarfs and overshadows the people's White House for the vanity of one size-obsessed, nonpermanent, current resident who has also destroyed the beauty and innate dignity with ridiculous "golden" additions to the oval office.

I consider the proposed ballroom size and design as a rape of the history, the beauty, and the significance of our beloved White House.

This project should not be approved or allowed.

Name: Janna Zuber

Date: March 3, 2026 7:47:42 pm

Please rebuild the East Wing back to the way it was. The white house belongs to the people, not the occupant. Tump's plan for this grandiose gilded ballroom is an insult to We The People!

Name: william wood

Date: March 3, 2026 7:48:15 pm

This project warrants a more deliberative approach. The scale and detail of the modernization is an affront to our White House. There is no design sensitivity, or creativity in this design. It is all heavy-handed glitz.

Open up the project design to skilled professional architects who take pride in their work.

Name: Rocco Marano

Date: March 3, 2026 7:48:28 pm

I am not an architect. I am just an American citizen who saw the White House, "The People's House" desecrated by the President of the United States, Donald Trump. I don't have a problem with him wanting a ballroom that can host more guests than is currently available in the White House. I have been to events where we were in tents on the lawn.

Before the demolition of the East Wing, Trump stated that the new ballroom would not interfere with the existing structure and would be built "near it but not touching it," emphasizing his respect for the historic building. However, this claim was contradicted when the entire East Wing was ultimately demolished to make way for the ballroom project. THAT IS MY CONCERN! I realize he follows the principal that it's better to ask for forgiveness than permission. So now, he's going to the National Capital Planning Commission for approval. Well it's too late for the East Wing; isn't it? From what I've read the ball room will overshadow the White House. If you can do anything about that, please do so. If not then this whole review is just a sham.

Name: Linda Williams

Date: March 3, 2026 7:48:37 pm

The destruction of the East Wing without permission is NOT a “Modernization Project”. It is an affront to the people of the United States. While we all agree that a larger enclosed meeting place is needed, this is NOT the way to accomplish that. We can’t go back to what was there, but please, let’s not go forward with the proposed monstrosity. Please take the advice of knowledgeable experts and design something appropriate to the site.

Name: Catherine Egelhoff

Date: March 3, 2026 7:49:12 pm

Please restore the Historic East Wing. The People do not want an ostentatious ballroom.

Name: Lynne Mangold

Date: March 3, 2026 7:49:48 pm

Our White House has stood as a visible seat of our Democracy. Not only is it an historic building, but it has been protected over its lifetime. While renovation has taken place to keep up with the times, those renovations followed a process. Plans were submitted, discussed and approved. The current demolition was done at the whim of one person...to create a Ballroom. Let many other projects built in the past by this person...it is an insult to our country. This is not a Monarchy. Unfortunately, if said ballroom is completed it will change the face of our Nation...and like many of his prior projects be abandoned.

Please do not approve plans that will hide Our White House. Thank you for your consideration

Name: Jill Shaddock

Date: March 3, 2026 7:49:57 pm

Hi

The East Wing should never have been torn down.

The current administration should not be allowed to touch that area further. It should either be restored similar to its former version or it should be TASTEFULLY rebuilt to fit in with the esthetics of the rest of the Whitehouse and area. This needs to be done by INDEPENDENT people. And not anyone related to or hired by the current administration.

Thank you

Name: David Miller

Date: March 3, 2026 7:50:06 pm

This project is an abomination and has no justification for being built other than appeasing the chief executive's ego. The structure will overpower the Executive Mansion and the White House grounds.

Name: Melissa Hall

Date: March 3, 2026 7:52:33 pm

All I can say is to echo one of my all time favorite movie lines, from a time when the American experience was so much more clearly defined and united: “Ballrooms! Ballrooms! We don’t need no stinking Ballrooms!”

We are not an aristocracy. We don’t need ANY PLACE in DC that’s not open and serving every American except for the modest private quarters of the president and his family. Period.

Name: GAIL E HUARD

Date: March 3, 2026 7:53:25 pm

Trump's ballroom is a golden mess. Stop him..

Name: alan fleming

Date: March 3, 2026 7:54:25 pm

Please find attached pdf

[Attachment](#)

Name: Geoff Ruth

Date: March 3, 2026 7:55:20 pm

The proposed new ballroom is an abomination, dominating the White House building physically and wholly out of style and spirit with the rest of the building. The ballroom itself is the architectural equivalent of a ransom note, having no stylistic consistency, but all covered with a veneer of schmaltzy gold and decorative tchotchkes. It makes Vegas look like minimalist. It makes Disneyland look quiet and reserved. It is a complete aesthetic failure, with its only potential upside being that of parallelism, for it mirrors the broader trainwreck that is the Trump administration.

Reject this horror story of a proposed building.

Name: Charlene Woodcock

Date: March 3, 2026 7:55:53 pm

Many members of the U.S. public including myself are outraged that this president presumed to order, illegally, the destruction of the existing East Wing of the People's House to make way for an outrageously, absurdly disproportionate building to house a gigantic ballroom and needlessly huge kitchen.

To enclose this huge volume of space for very rare occasional use, will still require ongoing maintenance, ongoing heating, and cooling, caretaking staff.

So grossly disproportionate a building for purposes of entertainment of 1500 people would sit unused for most of the time. It could not be used for gatherings of fewer people since it would dwarf them and make guests

This plan as it now exists blocks the sightline designed by L'Enfant, commissioned by George Washington, the axial, visual connection between the Capitol and the White House. The arrogance of disregard for this most basic element in the original planning of our country's capitol is unacceptable.

This attack on the People's House is an attack on the taxpaying U.S. public and a grotesque manifestation of the ever increasing wealth divide in the U.S.

Name: Monica Leppma

Date: March 3, 2026 7:56:09 pm

The White House is an important historic property. The proposed ballroom is out of scale. It is tragic that the East Wing was demolished without any public discussion.

Name: Jonathan Chahin

Date: March 3, 2026 7:56:28 pm

I am submitting this comment in strong opposition to the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House complex. The White House is a National Historic Landmark owned by the American people, not a personal asset to be remodeled at a sitting president's whim (especially in the case of the current president, whose artistic tastes have proven to be tacky and tasteless time and time again). As the National Trust for Historic Preservation has rightly noted, the sheer massing and height of the proposed structure would overwhelm the White House itself, which is only 55,000 square feet, and would permanently disrupt the carefully balanced classical design that has defined this building since its construction began in 1792. What is being proposed is not a thoughtful modernization. It is an architectural imposition

that subordinates one of the most symbolically significant structures in the world to the aesthetic preferences and entertainment ambitions of one individual. Compounding the design harm is the deeply troubling process by which this project has advanced: demolition of the historic East Wing was carried out before plans were ever filed with the NCPD, bypassing legally mandated public review and excluding the very experts and citizens who have a right, and in many cases, a legal entitlement to weigh in. The project is supposedly going to be privately financed at an estimated \$400 million with no congressional authorization, raising serious questions about whose interests this structure truly serves. A ballroom of this scale attached to the People's House does not serve the public; it serves the president and his cabal of chaos and corruption. Alternatives do exist. As the National Park Service's own 2000 Comprehensive Design Plan acknowledged, additional event space could be accommodated in underground structures or even just by using less imposing and architecturally appropriate designs that preserve the integrity of these historic grounds. I urge the Commission to REJECT the current proposal and demand a design that respects the architectural legacy, legal process, and public trust that the White House is meant to represent. Thank you for your time.

Name: Dave McClean

Date: March 3, 2026 7:56:31 pm

This project is a disgrace to the American people and the house that we OWN. No single president or person should be allowed to rip it apart and rebuild it with no congressional oversight or public input PRIOR to the start of said project. The level of disrespect being shown to the public is appalling. So, no I do not support this project in any way, shape, or form.

Name: Laura Brigs

Date: March 3, 2026 7:57:18 pm

Hello

I am deeply troubled by President Trump's demolition of the East Wing. The White House is the People's House and he has no right no destroy it without consent. The United States does not need a flashy, gold covered ballroom when citizens are struggling to afford healthcare and rent and groceries and childcare. The East Wing Modernization Project is in poor taste.

Thank you for accepting written comments.

Name: Deirdre Kim

Date: March 3, 2026 7:57:57 pm

After reviewing the presentation about the proposed Ballroom/East Wing Modernization Project I have to strongly oppose Mr. Trumps plan for at 90,000 sq foot addition.

- The main/primary building is the White House where Presidents and their families live. His proposed ballroom will dwarf the primary building and is inappropriate for a ballroom addition. It is out of scale and inconsistent with design to the main building.

- The proposed Portico appears to be for visual purposed only and not usable which is ridiculous.

- The ceiling heights of the ballroom is so high that the sound echos in a room that size will be intolerable.

- Using the industry standard of 10-15 feet per person the total size of the ballroom should be no larger than 15,000 sq. feet.

Not to mention that the number of times that the ballroom will be used for 1,000 people seems rare. How would the room be used for smaller events...folding walls?

- The lower level, which is made up of blocked windows, should be underground and the entire height of the building should be more in line with the existing building.

Please reject the current planned 90,000 square foot monstrosity and only approve plans for a more appropriate and balanced design.

Name: Mary Chambers

Date: March 3, 2026 7:59:07 pm

Thank you for the opportunity to comment concerning the proposed East Wing of the White House Modernization

Project. I am a private citizen commenting from a deep personal regard for the historic emblems of our country. My comments are as follows:

The currently proposed footprint of greater than 20,000 square feet should be downsized to the high industry standard for the planned rate of occupancy, i.e. 1000 persons. This would place the ballroom size at 15,000 square feet accomplishing both the desired occupancy and allowing preservation of some important features of the campus. Specifically, this would allow preservation of the historically intended and clearly meaningful line of sight between the White House and the Capitol Building along Pennsylvania Ave.

It would further preserve the view of the White House itself from Pennsylvania Ave which is so meaningful to citizens who are lucky enough to visit the campus and which is an iconic feature of the existing campus. Lastly it would help to preserve the overall campus landscape and the intended proportionality of the campus structures.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to this most loved and iconic symbol of this great nation.

Name: Angela Allred

Date: March 3, 2026 7:59:08 pm

As a tax paying citizen of the United States, I would like the design process for the proposed East Wing ballroom and colonnade to take into account the history of Washington and the surrounding buildings. The scale of the building should be in symmetry with the White House. This would indicate a small building than has been proposed. When I have seen renderings of both the current proposal vs a rendering that fits the symmetry of the surrounding buildings, the renderings that shrink the footprint of the building enhance the entire area. Additionally, any construction should take into account ADA access, which it sounds like the current proposal does not.

Lastly, as a taxpayer it is ultimately my money that is being spent on this new construction. I do not want funds going toward size just for size sake. This building should serve a function and adding extra columns, patios that are not accessible, fake doors, etc. is not a good use of our resources.

This building belongs to the people, and therefore the building should reflect the history of the city and not a single leader.

Thank you for your time.

Name: Charles House

Date: March 3, 2026 7:59:51 pm

At 3 times the size of the White House itself. 2.36 million cubic feet is still not big enough to hold Donald Trump's ego. This is a slap in the face to the American people and a tasteless defacement of a treasured national monument. Shameful that this is even up for consideration.

Name: Cheryl Duvall

Date: March 3, 2026 8:00:13 pm

As a former licensed interior designer in the District of Columbia, with more than 44 years in the architecture and commercial design industry, I am writing to say I am vehemently opposed to the proposed ballroom design. The proposed monstrous addition ignores universally acknowledged principles of good design, especially scale and proportion, and will minimize the importance of the White House itself, by dwarfing it in comparison. Additionally, the addition will forever alter the historically significant and revered design of our nation's capital itself, as designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant in 1791. Maintaining the sight lines from the Capitol to the White House is imperative, not just for the sake of symbolism but also for inviting a human-scaled approach by pedestrians and visitors to our nation's capital. Most importantly, the ballroom addition could be accomplished without interrupting sight lines and by adhering to time-tested design principles. Bigger is not better. Fake doors, exceedingly large columns, oversized kitchens (at 2.5 industry standards), and purpose-less porticos: these have no place in the East Wing Modification plans. Let's respect our nation's legacy and design an addition that is worthy of our heritage.

My Background and Credentials

I have recently retired from a 44-year career in the architecture and commercial interior design industry. Most of my clients were in the Mid-Atlantic region, and I had an office for several years at 818 Connecticut Avenue in Washington DC. I served as Global President of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) in the early 1990s, was made a

Fellow of IIDA in 1993, and I am currently an Emeritus member. I now reside in Annapolis Maryland and am a frequent visitor to our nation's capital.

Name: Judith Reisman

Date: March 3, 2026 8:01:13 pm

Please try to recapture as much of our history in this East Wing project as you can. We do not need a huge "golden" ballroom. There are plenty of other places that do not have to be a fake tribute to a president. Thank you, Judith Reisman
Tucson, AZ

Name: Thomas Danner

Date: March 3, 2026 8:01:46 pm

Please limit the size of the ballroom so as to not dominate the White House and change the visual sight line to the Capital.

Name: Deb Briggs

Date: March 3, 2026 8:01:59 pm

Please put a stop to the grotesque 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House. This is a horrible use of taxpayer dollars for no better reason than that Mr. Trump imagines it will endure after he dies. Save us the trouble of bulldozing it. Don't build it in the first place.

Name: John Edwards

Date: March 3, 2026 8:02:14 pm

Given the Executive Office's preference for classical design and composition, the proposed design for the new east wing ballroom fails to demonstrate a number of fundamental tenets of classical theory that would significantly improve the proposal if adopted.

The most significant of these is the lack of harmonious scale between the proposed structure and the existing White House complex, White House grounds, and neighboring Department of the Treasury building. The proposed building as a whole is over-scaled in relation to its context, reflecting a lack of proportion in both its massing and detailing, even when taking into consideration the capacity it seeks to accommodate. Relative to the floor heights of the main levels of both the White House and the Treasury, the heights of the corresponding main level and attic levels of the proposed ballroom massing are clearly out of scale. This is exacerbated by the extent that the structure sits above grade; depressing the lower level into the existing grade would go a long way toward improving the building's scale as well as relating to the landscape and existing connecting colonnade floor levels leading to the White House proper. The alternative massing suggested recently by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, for example, accommodates the ballroom's functional needs while being scaled appropriately to both the White House and the Treasury, at the same time also preserving the axial view of the White House proper from the end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

The lack of appropriate contextual scale is most apparent in the proposed design of both the ballroom's south and east porticos. The south portico, in particular, is massively out of scale to the south porticos of both the White House and the Treasury. In addition, the south portico serves no purpose, functionally or aesthetically, as there is no connection to the ballroom interior on either level, and it is significantly raised above the surrounding grade. As a result, it is non-functional and non-accessible for use from both the exterior and as overflow from the interior. The east portico is similarly out of scale, particularly to the even larger structure but smaller portico of the immediately adjacent Treasury building.

The problem with scale continues with the proposed additions to the connecting colonnade, the over-scaled upper level of which fundamentally upsets the classical sense of balance with the corresponding colonnade to the West Wing. The over-sized and largely non-functional staircase from the colonnade to the South Lawn exacerbates this lack of balance. Nothing in the proposed connecting structure could not be housed in the new ballroom structure itself. From a functional and security perspective, using the proposed east portico as the primary entrance for guests significantly diminishes the need for additional access from the White House proper, making the obtrusive and imbalanced proposed upper level to the connecting colonnade largely unnecessary (linked as the original East Wing was at the colonnade's existing level to the lower level of the White House proper).

Finally, apart from the built structure itself, the proposed development intrudes unnecessarily and adversely into the historic Frederick Law Olmstead design of the South Lawn. Properly scaled, a ballroom addition (particularly with removal of the non-functional and over-sized south portico) would easily accommodate both the classical symmetry of the South Lawn design and the functional needs of the ballroom use. In short, adhering more faithfully to the fundamental tenets of classical design and contextual relationships would accommodate the legitimate functional needs of a modern ceremonial hub while preserving and respecting the harmonious historical built and landscape legacy of the 225-year old White House complex.

John K. Edwards, Assoc. AIA, Principal/Assoc. Partner, Bonstra Haresign Architects
Member, Committee of 100 on the Federal City
Member, National Architectural Accrediting Board

Name: Adrienne Grey

Date: March 3, 2026 8:04:48 pm

I write to protest ANY defilement of the White House structure and grounds by the current Administration. I am sickened by the unauthorized demolition and grotesque "redecorating" that has already taken place. I hope only for the full restoration of the East Wing and every other public and private space throughout Washington DC to its original state before the vile occupant calling himself "President" took it upon himself to desecrate our nation's cherished institutional symbols by marking them like a dog marks a tree.

Name: Ann Mobley

Date: March 3, 2026 8:05:37 pm

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to urge you to put rational constraints on the planned East Wing "ballroom." As designed, it is so far out of scale as to be not only an eyesore but an interruption of the symmetry, scale and symbolism of our national buildings.

If the project were reconsidered to take into account industry standards to accommodate 1000 people, putting the kitchen for example, below street level, and removing the east portico, which as planned serves no useful purpose, the volume of the building could be decreased sufficiently to preserve Olmstead's grounds, and to preserve the visual connection between the capital building and the White House as originally conceived by L'Enfant.

Our Washington DC belongs to the people and it is historically significant as well as symbolically significant. Please consider all of these matters and more to prevent this huge, disruptive building from going in and instead honor the significance of this addition by requiring scale and volume that will create a beautiful exterior, not to mention a functional interior, for use by generations to come.

Thank you,
Ann Mobley

Name: Catherine Brown

Date: March 3, 2026 8:06:50 pm

This project design should be disapproved for aesthetic and legal reasons.

1. It is aesthetically inappropriate in size and scale. It is far too big as an appendage to the White House.
2. It is aesthetically inconsistent with our national norms, which deliberately do not glorify the home of the President but rather project a sense of modesty appropriate to our federal system and the Constitution's allocation of responsibilities.
3. The expenditures on the project are unlawful. The White House complex is US Government property that is under the purview of the laws of the United States. Altering it this significantly by use of private funds instead of pursuant to a lawful appropriation by Congress is inconsistent with Congress's Constitutional authority to appropriate funds and thereby to determine the budget of the Executive Branch.
4. The enormous size of the ballroom is inappropriate for state dinners which are inherently "intimate" affairs of a few hundred people - a size that maintains the state dinner's sense of exclusivity and its meaningfulness as a vehicle to honor a visiting head of state.
5. The enormous size the ballroom has been but cannot in fact or law be justified by reference to inaugural balls.

Inaugural events must by law be funded privately by the incoming President. The ballroom would have to be rented to an inaugural committee to somehow deal with this restriction on just of public funds/facilities for inaugural events.

6. A ballroom of the proposed size cannot possibly be used often enough to its full capacity to justify the damage to our national aesthetics or the cost and size of the proposal.

7. Maintenance of the ballroom and the entire structure will require the expenditure of funds for the indefinite future. There is no known provision to cover these costs, which is yet another reason why a construction project of this magnitude needs to be approved by Congress and cannot be undertaken unilaterally by the President.

Name: Aimee Gray

Date: March 3, 2026 8:08:15 pm

I wish to express my concerns about the proposed East Wing project for the White House. As an architect who works regularly on historic structures and facilitates the Historic Tax Credit work for many clients, I find the process and proposed design to be completely disregarding of the historic preservation process, L'Enfant's Plan for Washington DC, Olmstead's Plan for the Capital Grounds and the balanced classical design of the White House. No proper sense of scale has been considered. The wrong classical order is proposed for the columns, as the White House uses Ionic columns while Corinthian columns are proposed. The portico is inappropriate both in scale and location. The views of the White House from the Capital are blocked by the over scaled addition. This view is intentional and an important piece of our national history that will be permanently altered by this project. The spaces are out of scale and given inappropriate prominence. There is no good reason that the kitchen is not located below grade and the ballroom at grade level and connected to the portico. The false windows and doors are just bad design. Form should follow function. Overall, the project needs much more scrutiny from educated professionals before it should be constructed.

Name: Azulao Campbell

Date: March 3, 2026 8:08:18 pm

I oppose the spending of \$300-400 million on this project, even if all the money is raised by donations. Donations mean access to decision makers, it's a clear quid pro quo.

A ballroom is actually a good idea. But the WAY this project was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review, means that the project is not "modernization" but rather is the unlawful razing of American history. This project must be canceled, the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design -- using donation dollars, preferably from the president's own pockets which are very deep and this was a problem created by him personally -- and a proper process gone through to provide a reasonably sized and beautiful ballroom that fits the scale and concept of the White House.

Name: Holtan S

Date: March 3, 2026 8:09:27 pm

The proposed ballroom plan breaks with the rich history of the white house and the united states as a whole, and is a massive waste of taxpayer money for no public gain

Name: Squakee-Martha Collins

Date: March 3, 2026 8:09:46 pm

This Great layout areas of Washington DC buildings are not set up for a "Ballroom", White House is for our country and family.

Sadly, it's being treated like Donld J. Trump personal property, that is classless and trashy, something for the afterlife. He has no value of what governments bring and coming together about.

Name: Sarah Pence

Date: March 3, 2026 8:11:01 pm

Please do not move forward with this project. The American people want to preserve the historic building, not build a

ballroom. Any money for this project should be rerouted to protecting national parks and actually helping the American people.

Name: Ann Johnson

Date: March 3, 2026 8:11:03 pm

The People's House, aka the White House, has been partially destroyed and completely defaced by the current administration's vanity project. The White House does not need an oversized ballroom, which would dwarf the footprint of the once-stately building.

The funds collected for the ballroom construction have been extorted from billionaires in exchange for political favors. I have absolutely no confidence that those who have done the demolition will be paid for their work, because that is the historic pattern of the current president.

Please use whatever historical preservation statutes you can find to halt this desecration of the White House, and restore that which was ruined.

Name: Andrea Frank

Date: March 3, 2026 8:12:58 pm

I find this whole project to be absolutely appalling. In line, I suppose with the general philosophy of the GOP, is the loss of space for First Ladies' offices and work. The lack of ordinary processes is another point of ire. But the over all optics are horrendous for a nation that is of and for The People, because it appears the people are only those with money- lots and lots of money. So what if the kings and queens of the world and other leaders must sit on sofas where the president's grandchildren, or Steve Bannon may have taken a nap last week. This is the USA. Our power is in our unity and our ordinariness. Trump and this ballroom honor nothing of us. No doubt, too, Trump, the developer is oh so accustomed to budgeting fines into construction elements, the way corporations on realist investors often do when deciding to build on a protect wetland, for instance- mow it all down, fill the bog, dig holes, pour concrete... Do it fast enough and they'll have no choice but to let you finish the job, because once there isn't anything worth saving, the heart goes out of the resistance. The fines are generally petty. Trump is taking the heart out of the America we love- our national Parks, our national treasures and museums, our people, our dignity, our savings accounts...he is robbing us of hope and autonomy- and there-right in the center, the People's House. If you let him continue this unchecked, I for one will spend the rest of my life working to turn it all into the Obama green house and basketball courts. Think it can't be done? Better take another look at what has been done already.

Name: Barbara Powers

Date: March 3, 2026 8:13:34 pm

Dear Commission Members and Chair.

I am an architectural historian with forty-two years of experience in historic preservation in the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office. I am recently retired. My comments are submitted regarding the proposed East Wing Modernization Project. First of all, I am not writing in opposition to the idea of building a new ballroom facility as part of the White House property. However, the proposed new construction appears to be out of scale and will overwhelm the historic White House property and grounds. The size, scale, relationship to the historic White House and how the proposed ballroom connects to the historic property needs further consideration and work. The new ballroom/East Wing should respect the symmetry, balance, scale of the main White House portion of the property -- as the former East Wing and West Wing. Both of these later additions connected to the historic White House through low-scale colonnades -- allowing the historic White House to remain the dominate feature of the property. The proposed 2 story connector of the new East Wing to the White House either throws off the Neoclassical design, especially its symmetry and balance, of the White House and its additions or requires yet more new construction to match the 2-story connector on the West Wing side -- both 2-story connectors will further minimize the overall dominance of the main historic White House.

With more careful consideration to the scale, overall size, and relationship to the historic White House the proposed ballroom addition could be a handsome, well-designed 21st addition to the White House complex and one Americans could look to with pride and appreciation for its sensitivity and respectful design. Thank you for your careful consideration of this proposed project.

Name: Carolyn Singer

Date: March 3, 2026 8:15:50 pm

RE: STRONG OPPOSITION to the White House East Wing Modernization Project

I write in strong opposition to the White House East Wing Modernization Project, which includes the partially demolished historic East Wing to construct an out of scale and inappropriate 90,000-square-foot ballroom.

The White House is an irreplaceable National treasure. Its' history and architecture must be respected, protected, and preserved.

The East Wing must be rebuilt as it was originally constructed. We cannot let lawless actions stand.

The White House must represent the best of American preservation standards. It must not be destroyed by the whims of a single President not adhering to established procedure. He is not a king, he must follow established law.

We cannot tolerate:

- **Irreversible Destruction of Historic Fabric:** The East Wing, while updated over time, has stood for decades. Its demolition and replacement with a massive, ostentatious, and structurally incompatible addition destroys the architectural integrity of the ENTIRE complex.
- **Overwhelming Scale and Design:** The proposed 90,000-square-foot, multi-story structure is disproportionate to the Executive Residence itself. It will shatter the carefully balanced aesthetic of the East and West Wings, making the central, most historic part of the complex look diminished.
- **Bypassing of Public Oversight:** This project has moved forward with astonishing speed, bypassing standard, legally required federal reviews and public input processes. The decision to demolish the original structure before receiving final approval from relevant commissions (NCPC, CFA) is simply not acceptable and cannot be tolerated.
- **Loss of Cultural Heritage:** The destruction of the East Wing—which historically housed critical staff offices and the first lady's offices—removes a significant layer of presidential history.
- **Unclear Environmental/Health Impact:** The hurried demolition, which has already begun, has raised serious concerns regarding compliance with federal safety regulations and potential health risks related to asbestos during the destruction of this site.

The White House deserves stewardship, not a massive, privately funded remodeling that places private interest over public heritage/interest. The proposal to alter the landscape, destroy a historic wing, and install a structure that clashes with the existing architecture is an act of erasure, not progress.

I urge the Commission to reject this proposal in its current form and to stop the continued, irreversible alterations to the White House complex. The White House belongs to the American people, and its preservation must be ensured for generations to come.

We are a Nation of laws. Including laws governing the preservation of our historic structures. Do not let one ignorant man destroy the symbol of American history through his uncaring and self-centered actions. End this nonsense now.

Carolyn Singer

Name: Samuel Combs

Date: March 3, 2026 8:16:02 pm

The "East Wing Modernization Project" (an oxymoron since Trump tore it down completely!) is an Out-Of-Scale, Out-of-Place and Out-Of-Time atrocious fake historic building that should never be built and rather than going into detail about my objections, I will refer your Commission of sycophants of this despicable president, to my editorial in "The

Architect's Newspaper" at the link below published after the sycophantic US Commission of Fine Arts approved the "ballroom" without even seeing the final drawings of this ill conceived ballroom design. Additional news of my team of Historic Preservation Architects to dissuade any architect from working on this disaster of a project can be viewed on "The Architect's Newspaper" or other media such as The New York Times, The Washington Post along with many other news media outlets.:

<https://www.archpaper.com/2026/02/us-commission-fine-arts-cfa-president-trump-white-house-ballroom/>

Name: Dove Pressnall

Date: March 3, 2026 8:17:17 pm

Please do not allow Trump to continue to destroy the history and beauty of our White House. The planned Ballroom is an architectural monstrosity. It will not carry on the evolution of our country but rather reflect only Trump's legacy of ignoring people's needs and priorities while indulging corruption, greed, and horribly bad taste.

Name: Penny Simones

Date: March 3, 2026 8:19:49 pm

Please reconsider the changes proposed for the ballroom on the peoples house, the White House.

I believe the size of the ballroom is extreme, outrageous and far beyond what is necessary. The changes as proposed are not even handicap accessible. The portico is extravagant and serves no purpose - eliminate it. The ceiling height for all three floors is not acoustically pleasing and would appear vacuous. Can you tell me the purpose of the third floor?

This is the Peoples House not a private ballroom. The enlarged size of the east wing also interferes with the sightline of the main White House, where the emphasis should be. Washington DC was designed so that the sightline was visible from the US Capitol along Pennsylvania Avenue.

You must consider the damage being proposed to our historic building and contain the changes within reason.

Name: Lucy Clark

Date: March 3, 2026 8:21:24 pm

It is clear that current proposed design for the East Wing Modernization Project should be revised. The design negates many important and cherished legacies of our American culture and history integral to the existence of the White House.

By ignoring basic principles of sound architecture, harmonious landscape and historic symbolism , the current design seriously disregards the achievements of Pierre L'Enfant, Frederick Olmsted and James Hoban including the essential axial and visual connection to the US Capitol.

It is very disappointing to see that what has been brushed aside and potentially lost forever is being replaced in favor of a bloated gargantuan appendage with preference for over-powering the existing site.

Because there is general agreement for the need of a structure suitable for important occasions accommodating up to 1,000 people , there is now an opportunity to create an addition in keeping with the clean elegance of the White House and its grounds and to preserve the balance and symmetry of the whole area so carefully achieved by the original creators and beloved by the American people.

Name: Daniel Robb

Date: March 3, 2026 8:22:22 pm

I am appalled by the senseless destruction, without any review, of the East Wing of the White House, and by the present plans to build what seems to me a monstrosity wholly out of touch with the intention and spirit of the White House, which is the house of the American People.

Mr. Trump's vision for the new East Wing is vulgar, pompous, and ugly in its scale and emphasis on size and circus-like spectacle. The White House, as the home of all Presidents of the American people, not just one, should not be subject to the whims of one man whose residence there will end in less than three years. Nor should it be sullied in its grace and

stature by a person who seems not to understand that dignity, humility, hard work, and tradition are far more important than conspicuous displays of wealth and hubris.

Moreover, the funding of the proposed new wing of the White House being private is categorically not acceptable. Any donation accepted by the President for such a remodel would seem like, and so would be tantamount to, bribery for subsequent actions to be taken by the President in appreciation for said donation. The US government is not for sale, and must not seem like it is. If it seems like it is, then the vote, and democracy, has little meaning any longer.

Last, any extensive remodel like the one proposed must be overseen by the appropriate authorities - historical, zoning, health, conservation, and construction. Any builder worth his salt knows this, but it seems that appropriate authorizations have been abandoned, and that a lawless condition exists here, where one man is running rough shod over lawful process and permitting.

What, I wonder, happened to the the process of assessing the East Wing for historical value before it was flattened? Was there any process?

Is this still the US? Is this still a nation of laws? Or have we (you) ceded your legitimate and needed authority to a person who respects no law?

I ask that you halt this wholesale destruction of the White House forthwith, and halt the issue of any permits or approvals for construction of any new wing until the process has again been made legitimate, and all historical and other permits have been assessed and processed. Do not continue with the present charade that is enabling the present destruction and sullyng of the White House.

Thank you.

Daniel Robb

Name: Laura Goodwin

Date: March 3, 2026 8:22:48 pm

I am writing in opposition of how President Trump proceeded with demolition of the White House East Wing. He did not take the normal methods of permissions to move ahead with this project. He behaved as if this is his personal home. It is in fact the house of the people, the people of the United States of America . Trump did not seek out legal permissions for this project.

I am also upset of the process at which President Trump says the cost of the project will be covered. It should be transparent who the donors are for this building project, It should be transparent how much each donor is giving towards this project. As Trump has boasted it will be totally covered by donations then we the people should be aware of who is paying for this project and ensure not one part of our taxes are going towards this project.

The manner in which the East Wing was torn down and the proceeding planning is not the way a President of a Democracy behaves. It is the manner in which a autocratic ruler behaves.

Name: Carol Lubkowski

Date: March 3, 2026 8:22:56 pm

I oppose this project. First, it violates the Secretary of the Interior's principles for the treatment of a historic property. The proposed ballroom is three times the size of the White House, destroying the original spatial relationships of the property by undermining the balance of the buildings. In addition, the ballroom would eliminate the symmetry of Olmstead's original design for the driveway approaching the White House. THis symmetry has been preserved up until now.Second, it is an architectural mess. To give just one example, the portico is poorly designed. It does not connect to the interior of the building, and the doors shown on the drawings are fake. Furthermore, the 24 columns and their placement make the portico unusable for outdoor events, and obscure the view from the ballroom. That is 4000 square feet of wasted and useless space.

Name: Deana Leinhardt

Date: March 3, 2026 8:22:59 pm

I am writing to oppose spending \$300 million on the East Wing Modernization project. This proposal was initiated

without proper authorization, permits, or design review. The current design is over sized, out of place and imbalanced. The East Wing doesn't belong to the current president. It was never his to do with as he pleases. The East Wing belongs to the people of the United States of America and we the people were never consulted about the tear down, the design or rebuild. This illegal and unconstitutional project is an affront to our democracy and to law-abiding citizens. Our flag has fifty stars that represent ALL of the American people, not just one reality TV star.. at least not for now. Respectfully,
Deana Leinhardt

Name: Louise Anderson

Date: March 3, 2026 8:23:22 pm

Modernization of the now demolished East Wing doesn't require that the style, elegance and tradition of the White House be abandoned. The history and planning of Washington D.C. should be kept intact for future generations. The ballroom should be smaller and symmetrical to the White House and the grounds. Nothing in the design of the ballroom should be fake or pretentious.

The changes to the Peoples' House are NEVER a part of a legacy, regardless of who currently resides there.

Name: Jeffrey Thomas

Date: March 3, 2026 8:23:47 pm

I oppose the proposed construction of a massive gold ballroom in place of the east wing, Please downsize it to make it more fitting with the White House.
thanks
--J.T.

Name: Alexis Walker

Date: March 3, 2026 8:23:53 pm

The unauthorized destruction of the East Wing was an appalling act, even by the standards of this appalling president. It constitutes a senseless act of vandalism against our common American heritage.

Leave the construction site as it is now, please, without building the gaudy, tasteless ballroom under consideration. The gaping hole will be a reminder to us all of this dark period in our history, and, I hope, serve as a warning against repeating the tragic mistake the country made in voting him into office.

Name: Sherry Ewaskowitz

Date: March 3, 2026 8:24:51 pm

The East Wing must be rebuilt so the exterior will look exactly the same as before demolition. The White House is a proud symbol of our nation, and no one has the right to tear it down to build something to their own liking.

The President lives in the White House rent free. To let this demolition pass as OK is NOT OK and would set a bad precedent.

Good thing a lot of money has been donated because that is the money that should fund restoration. The White House is the People's House. No plaques for the like should be permitted, publicly acknowledging who made a donation, and potentially receive special favors.

Name: Robert Meyer

Date: March 3, 2026 8:25:52 pm

The demolition of the East Wing with no input from the public or Congress was a very dark moment in American history. We are a democracy, not a dictatorship. It's The People's House, not Donald Trump's. The new design is in terrible taste and does not reflect the stately dignity of the public servants who live and work there. Instead, the new design now

symbolizes greed and corruption, as reflected by the corporate money paying for the wing in exchange for even more access to this pay-to-play government. Stopping this project and restoring the White House to its original state would send a message that our country still holds the values of our founding fathers and that no one is above the law.

Name: Peggy O'Suna

Date: March 3, 2026 8:26:11 pm

Regarding changes to the East Wing area of the White House Presidential Residence, a taxpayer owned structure for the use of the elected president. The structure design as presented is out of balance with the original design commissioned by George Washington and obscures the sight-lines from the Capitol building. The landscaping planned by Olmsted becomes unbalanced by the alteration of the drive as necessitated by the size of the ballroom. The portico is oversized in relation to both the Treasury building and the White House, it serves no purpose having no doors and being overloaded with columns and takes up at least 4,000 square feet of space. The ceiling heights exceed definitions of splendor and proceed to cavernous, ungainly, and exceed the height of any in the White House. The service floor is above ground yet without windows and with 14' ceilings, placing the utility areas below ground level and providing lower ceiling height would reduce visual mass. Reducing sq. footage of the kitchen from 2.5 times industry standard would allow additional reduction in the mass of the proposed building. This is not a building for one president, it is a building for many future presidents as ELECTED by the people of the United States thus planning should continue in the hands of many not one.

Name: Donald Scafuri

Date: March 3, 2026 8:26:12 pm

I am writing as a concerned American who fervently treasures the tangible, historic, and symbolic value of the White House. As the Executive Office of the President, the structure itself, as well as the entire grounds on which it is built, embodies over 225 years of U.S. history. Like millions of Americans, I was horrified by the images of the historic East Wing being demolished. Horror quickly turned to a physically sickening feeling of anguish when we learned the reason was to make way for a monstrous, gaudy, hugely oversized ballroom. Such a structure has no place anywhere near the White House. It would be a visual and reputational travesty of historic proportions and an insult to our nation. Please, please, PLEASE do whatever is necessary to stop this destructive, ill-conceived plan!

Name: Christopher Phillips

Date: March 3, 2026 8:27:25 pm

If Mr. Trump is trying for his image of an American Versailles, with gold substituted for mirrors, excess for elegance, and suitable for the 1980s Carrington dynasty more than for any government reception, he couldn't do better than this gilded monument to American plutocracy - except perhaps to erect a replica of Trump Tower attached to the People's House.

Name: Jean Rose

Date: March 3, 2026 8:28:30 pm

The White House ballroom must be tastefully designed to respect the current building. It must be in scale with and not overwhelm the White House, and it should respect the classical composition that we all know and love.

Name: Mark Mather

Date: March 3, 2026 8:30:09 pm

The White House is not merely a residence or an event venue — it is a national symbol whose architectural integrity belongs to all Americans. Any addition to this complex must respect the carefully balanced proportions that have defined it for over two centuries.

The proposed East Wing ballroom, at roughly 22,000–25,000 square feet of event space within a 90,000-square-foot structure, would be disproportionately larger in footprint, height, and massing than any existing building in the White House complex — including the Executive Residence itself. As the Society of Architectural Historians has noted, a structure of this scale would overwhelm the central and most historically significant part of the complex. The White House's classical design has always drawn its power from restraint and balance. An addition that dwarfs the main residence does not complement the "People's House" — it competes with it.

The historic White House grounds reflect planning principles stretching back to L'Enfant's 1791 vision, expressed in a series of harmonious classical forms. A massively scaled ballroom disrupts this arrangement in ways that cannot be undone. Generations of Americans — and visitors from around the world — deserve to encounter a White House whose parts remain in dignified proportion to one another.

I urge the Commission to require design revisions that reduce the footprint and massing of the proposed East Wing so that it complements rather than overwhelms the Executive Residence. The goal should be an addition worthy of the building it serves — one that enhances the White House's grandeur without diminishing it.

Name: Scott McCready

Date: March 3, 2026 8:30:18 pm

The proposed East Wing Modernization Project represents a fundamentally inappropriate design response of dubious origin and questionable motivation. A \$400 million demolition and reconstruction of one of our nation's most historic structures—undertaken without clear oversight or compelling justification—is deeply troubling, particularly at a time when communities across the country face serious fiscal challenges related to infrastructure and public needs.

As if that were not concerning enough, the proposed design itself is sophomoric, gaudy, and gauche—an architectural gesture that feels strikingly unpatriotic in its disregard for the dignity and legacy of the existing structure. The project manages to convey both intellectual laziness in its design approach and an equally troubling lack of rigor in the arguments offered to justify it.

Name: Jacqueline Hartnack

Date: March 3, 2026 8:31:00 pm

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for your time to hear the public's comments regarding the East Wing Modernization Project ...aka the new ballroom.

While I agree that something more than a tent is needed for large state gatherings, the United States of American does not need a gigantic, gold, gilded ballroom. The White House should not be dwarfed by ANY structure. Certainly not one that will benefit very few people. While we have heard private funding will construct this monstrosity, cost isn't even the point. The White House is The People's House with working offices for The People. It is not a palace. The demolition was not done in a transparent way. If any other administration destroyed the East Wing without proper review, the outrage would be deafening ...as it should be.

I'm sure the wealthy donors will be perfectly happy with a smaller, less expensive structure. The size and opulence are only geared toward one man ...not what represents the donors desires or citizens of the United States.

Respectfully,
Jacqueline Hartnack

Name: Sharon Moran sallam

Date: March 3, 2026 8:31:05 pm

The White House is the people's house. Changing the structure to this extent, is unnecessary and grand standing. Making this structure permanent is Erasing our history how our founding fathers intended it to be. The money used to build this could be used to help Americans live an easier life by aiding in securing food, health insurance, shelter, resources .
Make the choice for the people!

Name: Krista Hamby

Date: March 3, 2026 8:31:37 pm

I am vehemently opposed to the East Wing project as it has been presented. It is an affront to the history and beauty of our Capitol and the People's House. The ballroom project as presented is a behemoth that has no place in the vicinity of

the White House. It is just disgusting, and unnecessary. Why is it so big??? Why is the third floor ceiling so high?? Why is the portico so huge, when it is not even usable, with no real doors??? Why is the ballroom space so large, as opposed to being built to industry standard for 1,000 people? This building should be kept to scale with the existing buildings, most specifically THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE. This building should also respect the original design of not only the White House, but the city of Washington DC as a whole, with appreciation for the well thought out and historical landscaping and sightlines that have been in existence for hundreds of years. It is extremely unfortunate that the East Wing was unceremoniously destroyed without regard and must now be replaced. I beseech you to replace it with a right sized building that reflects the classic style of the existing structure of the White House instead of the proposed monstrosity. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Karen Bayes

Date: March 3, 2026 8:32:49 pm

This original wing never should have been destroyed without input from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The White House and its contents. belong to the American people. Not the people who have the privilege of living there by the grace of the American citizens.

It is incredible how much money has been wasted because of the action that was taken and the presumption that one temporary occupant knows what's best.

Sadly, an American historical artifact has been destroyed, and the country really doesn't have the budget to replace what was removed. Given the increased cost of living American citizens are now facing and building materials, level of national discord, and decreasing levels of education, educational, medical, and social opportunity for American citizens, now is not the time to build something where the East Wing once stood.

Name: Douglas Stewart

Date: March 3, 2026 8:35:10 pm

Everything about this project is repulsive. Laws were ignored. Historic preservation was not considered. The planning and design process was skipped for expediency and to assure success in circumventing established rules. The White House does not need or require a "ballroom". The federal government has plenty of other buildings in D.C. to host large events. Please reject this project and quickly restore the East Wing.

Name: Margie Heller

Date: March 3, 2026 8:36:04 pm

Please consider a modest project that blends with the existing structure of the White House. Preferably something more functional than a ballroom, and more suited to the dignity of our national emblem.

Name: Judith Davidson

Date: March 3, 2026 8:37:46 pm

I was horrified that the East Wing was demolished on the whim of the President without public input. He has no sense of history or proportion. Bigger is better. He is an old man wanting to leave his stamp all over our nation's capital. This gawdy vanity project mirrors the old world capitals that the founders cast off. It is the People's House, not the Winter Palace. PLEASE either restore the East Wing, or tamp down this monstrosity. While your at it, we need the Rose Garden back too. Thank you.

Name: Clarissa Pearce

Date: March 3, 2026 8:37:54 pm

I am a US citizen and resident of Washington state. I oppose East Wing ballroom modernization project remodel in its current form because it raises serious concerns about preserving the historic character of one of our nation's most important landmarks. The White House is a National Historic Landmark and a national park, owned by the American people and stewarded by the National Park Service. It has been home to our presidents since 1800 and is perhaps the most significant historic site in the United States. Before nationally significant places are permanently altered, the public deserves an opportunity to be heard and to help shape decisions that affect our shared national heritage.

This is not simply a design preference — it is a matter of following legally required federal review processes. Major construction projects in Washington, D.C. must be reviewed by the National Capital Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, and receive congressional approval. Public participation is essential, and these safeguards exist to ensure transparency, accountability, and meaningful input from the American people.

I am also troubled by the project's scale, aesthetics, lack of funding transparency, and rising costs. Any major alteration to the White House should proceed only with full legal compliance, public oversight, and deep respect for its historic and symbolic importance. This grotesque and garish display of opulence and arrogance is tacky, and an embarrassment to the American people.

Name: Krys Holmes

Date: March 3, 2026 8:39:33 pm

The East Wing of the White House is a cultural and historic treasure owned by the people of the United States—not by the president. The proposed design celebrates grandeur, ego, and imperialism, and does not uphold the principles of nobility, equality, and democracy appropriate to White House architecture and design.

The legal process of public and professional input must be followed, and the East Wing must be rebuilt following a design that better fits with the historic spirit of the People's House, and with the cultural role the White House plays in America.

Please halt this egregious and aggressive attack on one of our symbols of democracy. The design this president has proposed is inappropriate, is offensive to America's heritage, and looks ridiculous.

I trust the historical preservation professionals on this committee will right these wrongs in a way that honors the building and its purpose and heritage.

Thank you for your work.

Name: George Dutton

Date: March 3, 2026 8:39:57 pm

The plans to replace what President Trump illegally tore down are appalling. They are an insult to the architectural integrity of the White House, they are a monument to bad taste, and they are a body blow to the history of this country. The President's gaudy bad taste and fetish for glitter and monumentality are an attack on this body politic. Under the circumstances, the only option is to force the President to rebuild the East Wing AS IT WAS down to the last detail. The Commission CANNOT let him get away with destroying parts of the National heritage on his own terms without facing consequences.

Name: Milton Pyron

Date: March 3, 2026 8:40:33 pm

This project is likely illegal, Donald Trump as president has no right to do this. Not to mention the funding appears to be through extortion from corporations, attempting to gain favor from Trump. There is no need for this excessively sized, wholly out of scale monstrosity's at this historic location. The building design is out of place, out of time, from a person with no sense of good design, or architecture. The design is historicist, nothing in common with a concept of architecture in the present. All Trump appears to want is this to be the biggest. The project should be stopped by Congress, if not, then by the courts.

Name: Hilary Carlson

Date: March 3, 2026 8:40:42 pm

I first saw the White House as a teen with my family and then often in the 1970' when I moved locally as a young married woman later for many years as my son went to college in DC, initially we could just show up at the East end door and go

in for a tour, and later long lines and later again almost impossible to get in for a tour. Over the 50-60 year period interior decorating may have changed. Landscaping changed and certainly security changed but it was always a classic, warm home you could imagine wanting to be your home and proud it was your Presidents home and workplace. We never envisioned that it should be a gold gilded home or ballroom to entertain others-it was to be the people's home where we allowed our president to reside. We do not think it appropriate to have a ballroom bigger than the home to entertain others. It will no longer feel like a home for "one of us who we've chosen as a leader for a few years" as opposed to a dictator who wants to look like a god and will be totally disconnected from the reality of the American people. How many of us have a "ballroom" or party room bigger than our home -all to entertain WHO????

Name: Elaine Cummings-Bullard

Date: March 3, 2026 8:41:26 pm

The President is using the destruction of the East Wing and the construction of a ballroom as another of his thinly veiled attempts to throw attention from him and his relationship with Jeffrey Epstein. Sadly, every citizen of the United States will bear the burden of correcting one of his disasters

Apparently, we will be building a ballroom. I hope and pray some common sense prevails and it is done tastefully and in the current style projected by our White House. It definitely does not need to cut off the view of the White House looking down Pennsylvania Avenue. I could go on and on, but everything was covered in the Zoom meeting many of us participated in last week.

I do thank you for your concentrated effort to remedy this ridiculously sad and very serious issue.

Elaine Cumings-Bullard

Name: Crystal Bell

Date: March 3, 2026 8:42:40 pm

This is not a modernization project. This is a demolition and new construction project and should be referred to by an accurate title. While the construction is allegedly being paid for by private donors, this massive expansion will cost American taxpayers billions. The operational costs, including utilities, maintenance, and staff, are paid for with tax dollars. State dinners are also paid for with our tax dollars. Adding a structure that is triple the size of the White House will significantly increase operational costs. This will drastically increase costs for taxpayers. The planned kitchen is 2.5 times larger than the industry standard required to serve 1,000 guests. That means it will be more costly than necessary to stock and operate, at greater cost to American taxpayers. The ballroom, as currently planned, will accommodate state dinners with 1,000-1,500 guests, more than twice as many as it can currently accommodate. That will mean more than twice the cost to taxpayers. Yet taxpayers will not receive any benefit from this project. The average American will not be attending the fancy dinners and events hosted in this planned addition. The soft diplomacy benefits and dealmaking that can happen at these events do not require a cavernous, enormous venue. Those things generally are best accomplished in more intimate settings. These increased costs to taxpayers will also show up beyond the building and grounds. For example, it will take more staff and resources to run background checks on a guest list of 1,000-1,500 than on a guest list of 300 or so. That is also paid for by tax dollars.

The scale of this addition is antithetical to the role of the White House complex and its occupants. Both are supposed to serve the American people, not provide a resort-like entertaining space for the very wealthy. Until now, American presidents have never needed to rely on opulence that mimicked European royal structures to impress anyone. The prestige of the title and honor of serving one's country were enough. It still should be.

Name: Darcell Brown

Date: March 3, 2026 8:44:49 pm

I think 90,000 ft will over power the presentation of The White House. 90,000 is not in proportion with the rest of The White House. An addition is fine but maybe on a smaller scale.

Thank you.

Name: Laurel Bern

Date: March 3, 2026 8:45:57 pm

Dear Members of the NCPC,

I am a classical interior designer based in Boston, Massachusetts, with more than thirty years of experience working with historically informed classical architecture and interiors. I would also like to thank the Commission for the careful attention you are giving to this important matter concerning the White House, one of the most historically significant examples of classical architecture in the United States.

I was deeply concerned by the demolition of the existing East Wing without meaningful oversight, and even more troubled by the currently proposed design for the new ballroom addition, which appears to be dramatically out of scale with the existing architecture and the historic character of the White House.

Last October, I wrote two detailed articles for my interior design blog examining the proposal and the broader historical context of the White House. These posts include historical research as well as my own conceptual alternative that respects the classical principles on which the building was founded:

<https://laurelberninteriors.com/the-new-white-house-ballroom-good-idea-or-a-colossal-mistake/> (blog post #1 and contains my schematic for a plan view in the classical manner.)

<https://laurelberninteriors.com/the-white-house-renovation-part-2-the-irreplaceable-loss-of-the-jko-garden-east-wing/> (blog post #2)

In my research, I also revisited Helen Taft's early-20th-century proposals for improving the White House grounds. While her ideas were ambitious, they point toward a more thoughtful approach to expansion than the oversized ballroom currently under consideration.

It is my understanding that the West Wing is also insufficient for modern needs. In response, I developed a schematic plan (attached as a PDF and shown in the first article) proposing two balanced auxiliary wings. Each would maintain a footprint no larger than the White House itself and would be architecturally complementary to the original structure.

In response, I developed a schematic plan (attached as a PDF and shown in the first article) proposing two balanced auxiliary wings. Each would maintain a footprint no larger than the White House itself and would be architecturally complementary to the original structure. I hope the Commission will take a moment to review the attached plan, as it illustrates how additional capacity could be achieved while preserving the historic proportions of the White House complex.

This approach preserves the essential axial relationships of the site, including the important sightlines toward the Capitol. The three circular forms shown on the South Lawn are symbolic of the three branches of government while also referencing the central White House and its two flanking wings. The design also incorporates a large circular terrace and fountain intended for outdoor events, which could function with or without a tent depending on the occasion.

One question that deserves careful consideration is the actual programmatic need for such a large ballroom. Aside from inaugurations, are there events that genuinely require seating for more than 500 guests? My research indicates that state dinners in recent decades have typically been smaller than that. If there is no practical need for a 1,000-seat banquet hall, it is difficult to justify constructing one.

Beyond questions of scale and function, there are also practical concerns. A room of this magnitude raises significant issues of acoustics and usability. If such a space is frequently only partially occupied, it risks becoming uncomfortable and ineffective for the types of events it is intended to host. Professional acoustic design would be essential.

Most importantly, from an architectural standpoint, the current proposal fails to respect the principles of classical design that define the White House itself. Classical architecture is fundamentally rooted in proportion—relationships derived from nature and often expressed through mathematical ratios such as the golden mean (1.618). When these principles are ignored, the result inevitably feels discordant with the historic structure it is meant to complement.

By contrast, a thoughtful design developed by a classically trained architectural firm—one that respects proportion, scale, and historical context—could produce an addition worthy of the White House and capable of enduring for centuries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laurel Bern , Boston, Massachusetts

[Attachment](#)

Name: Deborah Yochelson

Date: March 3, 2026 8:47:07 pm

This design appears oversized, blocky and very out-of-place to me. It feels more like a palace in some foreign land ruled by the aristocracy. There is nothing about it that would appeal to the common person. Very garish and flashy. Money would be better spent on something that the people of the United States would find appealing, and not just one person's vanity project.

Please decline this project's approval. A future leader will probably have to spend more money just to tear it down. Very embarrassing for the Country.

Name: Craig Somers

Date: March 3, 2026 8:47:16 pm

Public Comment on the Proposed Ballroom at the White House

The grounds of the White House are among the most historically significant cultural landscapes in the United States. The current composition of the South Lawn, gardens, and surrounding open space reflects over two centuries of evolving presidential history, landscape design, and national symbolism. Any proposal to introduce a large new structure—such as the proposed ballroom—should be approached with the utmost caution.

The historic landscape framework of the White House grounds is not accidental. Influential designers, including Pierre Charles L'Enfant, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., and Rachel Lambert Mellon, helped shape the spatial character of the grounds. Their work emphasized openness, carefully framed views, and a deliberate relationship between the executive residence and its surrounding landscape. These design principles established a landscape in which the residence remains visually and symbolically dominant within an intentionally open ceremonial setting.

The need for expanded hosting space at the White House is understandable given the demands of modern state functions and ceremonial events. However, the currently proposed ballroom is fundamentally incompatible with the historic character of the grounds. Its scale, massing, and permanence introduce a level of architectural presence that conflicts with the defining characteristics of the historic landscape—namely openness, restrained architectural intervention, and the primacy of the Executive Residence within the broader composition.

A particularly significant concern is the impact the proposed ballroom would have on the historic elliptical circulation path on the South Lawn. This path is a defining landscape feature that organizes movement and reinforces the spatial order of the grounds. The size and footprint of the proposed structure would require substantial alteration or displacement of this elliptical path. Such a modification would permanently impair a character-defining element of the landscape's spatial organization. Altering this circulation pattern would disrupt the historic geometry and carefully balanced relationship between the residence, the lawn, and the surrounding landscape—an arrangement that has remained central to the design of the grounds for generations.

The White House grounds form part of the historic landscape of President's Park and contribute to the monumental civic framework of Washington, D.C.. For more than two centuries, the landscape has been intentionally maintained as a largely open ceremonial setting. The proposed ballroom departs sharply from these long-standing design principles. Its size and architectural prominence would introduce a visually dominant structure into what has historically remained an open landscape, thereby eroding the spatial hierarchy and visual coherence that define the site. In preservation terms, the proposal represents a clear case of incompatibility with the historic character of the district.

There is also a broader preservation concern related to the potential loss of historic integrity. The White House grounds contribute to a nationally significant historic district listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register evaluates historic districts based on several aspects of integrity, including location, design, setting, feeling, and association. Introducing a large and visually dominant new structure into the core ceremonial landscape—particularly one that alters the historic circulation framework—risks compromising several of these integrity factors, including design, setting, and feeling. If such changes substantially diminish the district's integrity, the historic district could — and should

— ultimately face reevaluation and the possibility of removal from the National Register of Historic Places.

While additional hosting space may be appropriate, any new facility must be sensitive to the historic landscape and compatible with the established design framework of the grounds. A modestly scaled structure—carefully sited within existing service areas or designed with a low profile that preserves open views, historic circulation patterns, and landscape continuity—could potentially meet functional needs without compromising the historic character of the site.

The current proposal does not meet that standard. As designed, the ballroom represents an unnecessary and disproportionate intervention that is incompatible with the historic landscape of the White House grounds. Any future proposal should begin with the premise that preserving the integrity and historic spatial organization of this nationally significant cultural landscape is not merely desirable—it is essential.

Name: Steffani Peterson

Date: March 3, 2026 8:48:15 pm

The East Wing does not need to be modernized, in my opinion. Trumps plans to “modernize” seem over the top; garish. The plans are not worthy of our national treasure the White House, as well as, it being something the Founding Father’s would be appalled by. Only a king or wannabe king would desire such a thing. It is disgusting to me that he is even allowed to do this. My feeling is no way should this be allowed.

Name: IRENE GRAU

Date: March 3, 2026 8:48:53 pm

Trump lied to the American people about what he wanted to do for his "big, beautiful, ballroom." He said it would not affect the White House in any way and would be an addition, not a replacement. He arbitrarily and without the people's approval TORE THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE down. The Commission should NOT APPROVE the building of the monstrosity that is the ballroom. It is NOT a "modification," it is so much more than that and will create an eyesore and imbalance to what has historically been the White House with balanced east and west wings. I implore the committee to resist the pressure to approve this and insist on RESTORING the East Wing as it originally was designed. Trump had no right and authority to do what he did and he should not be rewarded for abusing his position. The White House is not HIS HOUSE. If he wants to change his house at Mar-a-Lago, that's his prerogative. But he does NOT have that right for THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE.

Name: Anna Donlan

Date: March 3, 2026 8:49:15 pm

This is embarrassing. Trump ruins everything he touches. The Trump towers are some of the ugliest buildings I've ever seen in my life. Don't let him do this to the white house.

Name: Angela DeFinis

Date: March 3, 2026 8:51:18 pm

I was born in Washington DC and grew up 6 blocks from the White House in the 1950's and 1960's. I visited the White House and other DC monuments and historic sites dozens of times in my youth. The White House helped form my love of history, architecture and historic preservation.

While my love of historic preservation began with the White House it continues to this day. I am a retired small business owner and currently a volunteer fundraiser for the Sedgwick Brooklin Historical Society in rural Sedgwick Maine. We are in the process of restoring the former Sedgwick First Baptist Church, an 1837 Greek Revival landmark placed in the National Register in 1973. We are carefully restoring this building not only to preserve the history of our town for future generations but also so that it can be repurposed as a much-needed community center.

Throughout this restoration project, I have become familiar with the elements of classical architecture and the critical importance of scale, balance and harmony to the integrity of an historic building.

The White House East Wing Modernization Project, including the proposed construction of a 90,000-square-foot

ballroom addition to the White House complex does not honor classical architectural design standards nor does it facilitate the harmonious integration with the existing White House building and grounds. The scale of the ballroom as proposed is ostentatious. It is not in harmonious balance with the existing structures. Because it is out of place physically on the most significant historic site in our country it cannot faithfully represent an authentic “next stage” of our country’s growth. It veers too far from our classical origins in scale, symmetry, balance and integrity.

I feel very strongly that this building in its current proposed form should not be approved or allowed to move forward. Destroying the entire East Wing erased decades of architectural and historic significance. It broke the bond of trust with the American people, especially those of us invested in our country’s history. What happens now, if done thoughtfully, may restore some sense of trust and pride in our leadership.

There are 3 critical historic documents which must be integrated into any future addition to the existing White House property. Honoring these 3 documents will show the American people that positive changes are possible if the blueprint of our past is honored and not obliterated.

The first document is the city plan by Pierre Charles L'Enfant a French American engineer who in 1791 and at the request of George Washington, designed the plan for the development of Washington, D.C. In this plan he included the axial connection between the White House and Congress along Pennsylvania Avenue. This axial connection shows the direct and symbolic link connecting the executive and legislative branches. If the current ballroom proposal is approved, this connection will be forever lost.

The second document is the design of the White House by James Hoban. The scale, balance and classical integrity of the building is visible in this document. But these elements are basically ignored by the proposed design of the new ballroom addition.

For example, the ballroom is 170% larger than the WH portico. The ballroom portico columns are 46 ft in height, taller than the WH itself!

The columns are Corinthian in classical style while the WH columns are Ionic. In classical design Corinthian columns would be reserved for the primary structure on a site. The White House is the most important structure on the site and in our country. Using Corinthian columns on a “wing” extension of the White House campus seeks to upstage the White House and purports to be “more important” than the Executive Mansion. That is not a message we want to convey about The People’s House.

The third document of historic significance is the landscape design of the White House campus by Frederick Law Olmstead. The symmetrical design and balance of the gardens and roadways are classical and intentional. If the new ballroom is built, the Olmstead design will be forever interrupted and instead of balanced proportions and symmetry there will be disruptions to the roads, gardens and grounds. With the demolition of the East Wing, we have already lost a significant number of historic trees on the site. If we are careful going forward, we can preserve the remaining mature landscape abundance.

Another concern that I have is the cost of building a structure of that scale that will not be used very often. Having events for 1,000 people is not typical for the White House. What happens during the rest of the time? Who is paying for the maintenance of an enormous building that is used infrequently? Heating and cooling an unused building to preserve the finishes is a waste of tax-payer money. American citizens do not want to shoulder this expense because we know that money can be used for other more important budget items.

Overall, this ballroom project is excessive and unnecessary. It obliterates our history. This building does not honor who we are. It is ostentatious, pretentious and vulgar. It looks like it belongs in Las Vegas where everything is “fake,” not in the center of our sophisticated nation’s capital where our history is real and respected.

The front façade and pediment are fake. The balcony is not usable; it is closed off. The front doors are fake. The windows are blocked off and not real. There is no access to the interior or other White House buildings, and it is not ADA accessible according to required building standards. The portico is not functional. It too is fake. A good percentage of this building is in fact, fake.

The White House is a National Historic Landmark and National Park, owned by the American people and stewarded by the National Park Service. It has been home to our presidents since 1800 and is perhaps the most significant historic site in the United States. Before nationally significant places are permanently altered, the public deserves an opportunity to be heard and to help shape decisions that affect our shared national heritage.

This is a legally required federal review process, and public participation is essential. Major construction projects in Washington, D.C. must be reviewed by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPCC) and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and RECEIVE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. These safeguards exist to ensure transparency, accountability, meaningful public input and most of all to ensure that our country preserves and protects our architectural heritage and history.

PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE THIS PROJECT IN ITS PROPOSED FORM. SEND IT BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD. THIS DESIGN IS WRONG FOR THE WHITE HOUSE CAMPUS, THE GREAT CITY OF WASHINGTON AND IT IS WRONG FOR OUR GREAT COUNTRY. WE DESERVE BETTER.

I support the following suggestions to revise the current design.

- Move non-public kitchen and service areas to lower level.
- Reduce the ballroom size to follow industry standards.
- Eliminate the non-accessible, non-usable, garish and expensive south portico.
- Make column style conform to the IONIC White House style.

These changes will:

- Reduce the volume of the proposed structure by over 38%.
- Significantly lessen harmful impacts on our historic executive presidential residence, the highly important axial relationship and views of the White House and US Capital.
- And remind us that this is The People's House!

Thank you for adding my comments to the public record.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Susan Kotta-Wait

Date: March 3, 2026 8:51:27 pm

Mr. Trump's attack on the White House Ballroom is an insult to the entire USA citizenry. Not only has he destroyed the existing building without authority, but he also propose to construct an inappropriate, non-proportional assault on the traditional architecture of the White House. His plan must be rejected.

Name: James McKnight

Date: March 3, 2026 8:51:28 pm

As a retired build/design architect, I am appalled by the process that this project has been allowed to proceed under. Adding on to such an historic building as the White House is much too important part of our nation's history to be left to the whims and instincts of a small group of relatively untrained individuals. It is important to halt the current process immediately and broaden the scope of the design team to include more expert guidance on appropriate historical architecture and an design aesthetic that more closely matches the current structure. Please vote to open up the design discussion for more input from a broader range of experts. Thank you.

Name: Douglas Perry

Date: March 3, 2026 8:51:29 pm

This is the most illegal, stupid, unwanted, un-necessary, project ever! A huge waste of money, that no one even knows from where it is all coming. In the end the tax payers ,who are already paying for the huge tax cuts for the rich, will also be on the hook for this golden monstrosity.

Name: Mary White

Date: March 3, 2026 8:51:48 pm

I am a U.S. citizen and object to Donald Trump's ego inspired and fueled White House east wing ballroom. I strenuously ask, plea, and support restoring the original East Wing of the People's House
Mary White



Name: Erica Ballingall

Date: March 3, 2026 8:52:15 pm

This so-called project is shockingly stupid. There are many terrible things this president has done that we Americans are forced to live with. I hate the destruction of the East Wing - done quick and careless, bulldozing something important and meaningful to make room for some pointlessly engorged, gold plated vanity mausoleum.

Name: Karen Shugru

Date: March 3, 2026 8:52:48 pm

I am disgusted by what is happening to our White House. It has already erased history, It is not an improvement project but rather an unnecessary gaudy monstrosity that will not comfortably fit in with its environment. Please have this project cancelled. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law is an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Pearl Lujano

Date: March 3, 2026 8:54:02 pm

This project is a disgrace. This government let a president without approval tear down part of a historic building. This is the PEOPLE'S house, not an extension of Mar a lago for Trump to do whatever he wants. I am so outraged. I am thankful my parents aren't alive to see this. All their trips to the east coast and DC. They would be devastated. The rebuild should NOT continue without a bipartisan committee that includes historians, architects, and people who are NOT Trump loyalists. It should take a majority approval for plans submitted to Congress. This needs checks and balances. MOST AMERICANS DID NOT WANT THIS. Stop this ballroom now!!

Name: Judith Harway

Date: March 3, 2026 8:54:29 pm

It is appalling that the Trump administration demolished a wing of the People's House and is replacing it with an architectural monstrosity that it out of proportion to the White House and absolutely unnecessary. The White House is not a monument to any President, particularly not a garish little wannabe king: it is a monument to American democracy and American traditions, and the American people reject Trump's ridiculous move to make the People's House his own little Versailles. The East Wing should never have been demolished in the first place. It needs to be restored as it formerly was. Period.

Name: Steve Lenik

Date: March 3, 2026 8:54:31 pm

This has been a poorly conceived idea from the start, since the demolition of the former East Wing which occurred without required consultation and review. The planned ballroom is like a circus tent, which fails to match the character of the White House grounds. The plans need to do more to explain how such a disproportionately large space will meet the needs of food service, water supplies, and restrooms. These plans should be rejected. As well, accepting funding from private donors in the current political environment presents a risk for corruption as donors expect something in return.

Name: Barbara Hebert

Date: March 3, 2026 8:54:55 pm

The White House is the people's house-it belongs to all of us. This treasure of our democracy should honor our history. While I understand modernizing the building, tearing down the entire East Wing and building a monstrous ballroom ruins all that history. The White House is dwarfed by the size and is virtually impossible to see. The angles and viewpoints to

the other monuments are destroyed and the entire historical perspective is ruined. Please stop this unnecessary destruction of our “people’s house.”

Name: Virginia Papan

Date: March 3, 2026 8:55:27 pm

The White House East Wing Modernization Project is too large and completely out of scale with a beautiful historic building. The plan was to seat 1,000 and the scale of the current project far exceeds the regular scope for this. The current plan looks like its for 1,500 people. It will be complete disproportionate to the existing structure and needs to be scaled back. If not scaled back it will destroy the current design and the historic appearance of the people's house. Please be reasonable and scale this back.

Name: Pamela Baird

Date: March 3, 2026 8:56:55 pm

The scale and location of the ballroom is inappropriate for the White House grounds. The building is much too large- larger than what is the standard for a ballroom intended for 1,000 guests. The building is too tall- what is the purpose of the third floor with a 19 foot ceiling?

The length of the building obscures the sight lines that were first laid out by the original planner of Washington, DC- French artist and engineer Pierre Charles L'Enfant in 1791. This plan was imaginative but the oversized new ballroom will forever alter the vision.

The size also interferes with the landscape plan design created by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. the circular drive will be modified in an unfortunate manner.

Lastly, the plans and details have not been released and explained to the American people. The plans are a tragic modification to a building that is an important part of our history- it deserves a better plan and explanation.

Do not approve the plans as presented.

Name: Karen Burrow

Date: March 3, 2026 8:56:56 pm

My mother was a tour guide in Washington, D.C. in the 1970's. She went through a rigorous training program, and was very proud to share her appreciation for the architecture of Washington, D.C. including the White House, with many tour groups.

She particularly admired classical architectural design, and I am writing on her behalf to comment on the proposed alterations to the East Wing of the White House.

I know that she would agree with me that there are alternatives to the current proposal that better protect the classical design of the current structure. The proposed scale, size, proportion, and massing are not in accordance with the main structure.

Classical architecture's symmetry is foremost in the main structure, whereas the East wing modernization is discordant. Another important feature of classical design is utility, and the new East wing portico design features doors that are for decoration only.

L'Enfant's plan, approved by President George Washington, would be disrupted, as the Capitol and the White House would no longer be visible along the same axis.

In addition, Olmsted's symmetrical drive would be disrupted.

For these and many other reasons, please consider other alternatives than the current East wing proposal to better protect the classical design features that have stood the test of time, and are part of what my mother so loved about the White House in her tours of Washington, D.C.

Name: Victor Pildes

Date: March 3, 2026 8:57:16 pm

The proposed design for the White House East Wing should be rejected and re-designed. It is way out of scale with the rest of the White House complex, completely dwarfing the other components of the complex.

Symbolically, a ballroom for state affairs should not be the dominant massing element of the People's House.

Additionally, the proposed design's over wrought gold decoration is incompatible with the elegant, classical materials of the original historic structure.

It would be a grave mistake to build the design as proposed and NCPC must reject it.

Name: Julie Quade

Date: March 3, 2026 8:57:58 pm

The East Wing new building should not overwhelm the main White House building just as the architect advised. The current design is too large and must be scaled back. There is no practical reason for such an excessively large space. The new building project must fit in with the distinguished surroundings and not stand out as a gaudy, obnoxious addition. The White House is our house. It does not belong to the president or to a political party or to wealthy corporations. Unfortunately, most citizens will never have the chance to step foot in this new building. Only the well connected, foreign visitors, politicians and the wealthy will see the inside. Most citizens are still angry that our East Wing was torn down without the proper approvals and oversight. Rules, laws and our Constitution must be followed by everyone, especially our leaders. We believe there are much more important matters our president should be concerned with than a ballroom. We the people have not been provided confirmation that the donated money has been collected, is in a secure account and will only be used for this project. We also have not been given trusted guarantees that favors will not be given to the corporations making these donations. We wish the administration would spend time working to improve our public schools, our libraries, to help our Veterans, to help All children, the elderly and to improve the lives of All human beings. Your actions show what your Priorities are. We can all do better and for our country to succeed, we all must work together for the benefit of everyone, not for the benefit of one or a few.

Name: Susan Riegler

Date: March 3, 2026 8:58:32 pm

I object to the remodeling proposal for the East Wing of the White House. The planned addition's architecture does not match the White House in design or scale. Its size will look ridiculous and will minimize the White House itself-a symbol of our democracy.

The addition is much too large for the space and will block other important buildings and views. Also, the expense of the construction will be enormous and totally unnecessary. A smaller, more economic East Wing addition should be built that will fit in and not overwhelm the White House.

Thank you.

Name: Marc Schabb

Date: March 3, 2026 8:58:37 pm

I believe the best course of action, from both a political and an artistic perspective, is to leave the East Wing Modernization project in its present state, as a fitting monument to the Trump Administration. The current hole in the ground perfectly symbolizes the administration's demolition of our American government and its underlying democratic system.

There is a school of thought describing World War II and the Holocaust as a form of performance art created by the aspiring artist Adolf Hitler (see the movie "Max", 2002). Future generations could find value in the ruin of the White House as a permanent memorial to Donald J. Trump.

Just take his nameplate off the facade of the Kennedy Center, place it over the excavation - and voila!

Name: Bob E

Date: March 3, 2026 8:59:09 pm

PLEASE STOP TRUMPS CONTINUED DESTRUCTION OF THE WHITE HOUSE TO BUILD A BALLROOM!!! HE SHOULD BE FORCED TO PAY OUT OF THE BILLIONS HE GRIFTED IN 2025, IN VIOLATION OF THE CONSTITUTION, TO REBUILD THE EAST WING OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLES WHITE HOUSE, TEAR UP THE CONCRETE AND REPLANT THE ROSE GARDEN AND ABSOLUTELY DENIED THE RIGHT TO BUILD A BALLROOM WHILE HIS REGIME HAS THROWN MILLIONS OFF OF HEALTH CARE AND CONTINUES TO DENY BLUE STATES FUNDING!!!

WE HAVE NEVER FACED AN ENEMY FROM WITHIN WHO DISPLAYS SUCH BLATANT DISREGARD FOR OUR CONSTITUTION AND THE RULE OF LAW!!!! STOP HIM NOW!!!

Name: Samantha Lyons

Date: March 3, 2026 8:59:34 pm

Trump gave no thought to bulldozing the East Wing without public or government input before even having a plan of what to build there. Now that the plan has been proposed, those with eyes can see the design is tasteless, tacky, and brash, just like Donald Trump. Resources should be spent to help feed and house families, not to construct a heinous ballroom in contravention of all laws and norms.

Name: Gary Riegler

Date: March 3, 2026 8:59:37 pm

I feel the public deserves to hear about the plans to change or alter the citizens White House which has been the home of our presidents since 1800 and fits into the original plans of Washington DC.

I object to the plans as presented for a massive 90,000 square foot building many times larger than the White House itself. To build a massive structure on the White House lawns for the sake of grandeur does not fit the idea of the White House as a home for our president. Because the plan will block the original sight line between the Capital steps and the White House it should not be allowed. This plan should be rejected and the alternate plan proposed be considered.

Thank you, Gary Riegler

Name: Leslie Dick

Date: March 3, 2026 8:59:43 pm

The biggest issue with the proposed East Wing is the scale of the new building. It blocks the view from the Capitol, it cuts into the circular driveway approach to the White House, and it blocks the view of the White House from certain vantage points. The enormous portico goes nowhere. Please reduce the size of the ballroom to the industry standard for 1000 guests. There is no need for this gigantic structure to disrupt and block the fundamental sightlines and symmetries that have existed for so many years. Please consider the alternatives very carefully and make sure that this project does not conflict with the fundamental design ideas of the White House and Washington DC. Thank you, best wishes, Leslie Dick

Name: Cindy Johnson

Date: March 3, 2026 9:00:20 pm

Please do not approve of this hastily and unthought-out plan to build something that distorts what the footprint of the White House complex should reflect. It will diminish the entire complex and reflect a vision that is not representative of how Americans view this meaningful place.

Name: Curtis Chan

Date: March 3, 2026 9:01:25 pm

I am vehemently against moving forward with the proposed modernization of the East Wing of the White House.

As a taxpayer and American citizen, I am absolutely shocked, appalled, angry, and disappointed at the demolition of the historic East Wing with little to none of the usual oversight and prior approval governing the changes to the White House and historic structures — specifically the United States Congress and appropriate planning commissions.

The president of the United States absolutely does not have full and unilateral authority to play HGTV with The People's House, and his misguided plans should not be allowed to move forward.

The proposed changes for a massive, gilded ballroom are not consistent with the historic character of the White House and the values of this country and its people. This ill-conceived, gaudy and tasteless project is purely driven by ego in an effort to remake as much of the White House in cheap gold.

In the name of Americans — past, present, and future — I urge the commission to reject the current plans for the "modernization" of the East Wing, and instead send this project back to the drawing board to be done the correct way — by engaging the proper stakeholders to design and build a replacement East Wing that will stand for generations to come.

Name: Chris Pintinics

Date: March 3, 2026 9:01:57 pm

It is so disappointing to lose the historic structure that was there with no regard for archiving what was there. The new structure is completely out of scale with the rest of the peoples house. It will also destroy the site and drive at the peoples house. I can only hope a thoughtful group can be assembled to re evaluate and rescale and redesign the project so as not to diminish the rest of the property. The people's voices should be heard for our most important structure.

Name: Karen Miller

Date: March 3, 2026 9:02:00 pm

I am writing to express concern about the proposed White House ballroom addition and its potential impact on the historic design framework of Washington, D.C.

The monumental core of our nation's capital was not created randomly. In 1791, President George Washington commissioned Pierre Charles L'Enfant to design a city whose physical layout would symbolize the structure of American democracy. The placement of the U.S. Capitol, the White House, and the grand avenues connecting them — particularly Pennsylvania Avenue — was deliberate. These elements form a carefully balanced civic landscape intended to express the relationship between the legislative and executive branches of government.

For more than two centuries, the scale and visual hierarchy of the White House complex have remained subordinate to that larger design vision. Additions to historic landmarks should respect this balance. A structure significantly larger than the Executive Residence itself raises legitimate concerns about compatibility, scale, and the preservation of important sightlines along Pennsylvania Avenue.

The long ceremonial view along Pennsylvania Avenue linking the Capitol and the White House is one of the most historically meaningful vistas in the nation's capital. Alterations to the White House complex should be evaluated carefully to ensure that this symbolic corridor — representing the connection between the legislative and executive branches — remains visually and historically intact.

Washington, D.C.'s historic plan — later reaffirmed through the McMillan Plan and protected through federal planning and preservation processes — is one of the most significant examples of monumental urban design in the world. Decisions affecting the White House grounds should therefore be guided not only by functional needs but also by a commitment to preserving this historic civic landscape.

The White House belongs not just to any administration, but to the American people and to the historic design legacy of the capital itself.

Name: Maria Herrera

Date: March 3, 2026 9:02:05 pm

Please pause this project - it is bad enough that the President unilaterally decided to demolish a piece of US history with

NO input, oversight, or proper review/procedures. How can the US approve taking millions of dollars from private interests to appease a narcissist who is flagrantly disregarding our Constitution and laws?

We cannot let him keep plastering his face and cheap, tacky, tasteless imprints all over the nation's capital.

If the East Wing turns into Mar-a-Lago 2, we will go down in the history books as sycophants and fools.

Name: Alan Goldsberry

Date: March 3, 2026 9:02:25 pm

I support the cautionary comments from the National Trust. The design needs to be in scale so it doesn't overwhelm the main structure. Also, the columns and decor need to follow architectural principles and not succumb to a desire to make the ballroom a golden palace. Retired Judge Goldsberry

Name: Nellie Horvath

Date: March 3, 2026 9:02:52 pm

I am absolutely opposed to the proposal to add such a large ballroom to the East Wing of the White House, whose mass would be nearly three times the original White House's volume! Not only would the size and scale make the original (remaining) part of the White House look immensely smaller, but it would also block the view of the White House from the Capitol steps. The historic planning and vision of the White House must be preserved! If there is to be a ballroom attached to it, it must be of an appropriate size and approved by not only the American people, but also the Committee for the Preservation of the White House and the White House Historical Association. It is the "people's house" after all.

Name: Barbara Salazar

Date: March 3, 2026 9:03:07 pm

This wing should be rebuilt exactly how it was! It had a real purpose, a ballroom is not "for the people" whereas the original site had historical significance and was actually used for various functions that could be of interest or benefit to everyone (various First Ladies offices were there and they supported a multitude of projects). It is appalling to me that anyone would think a ballroom is something we need.

Name: Susan Hunt

Date: March 3, 2026 9:04:22 pm

The proposed ballroom should not be built. Tearing down the East Wing was a travesty. It's too late to save it, but it's not too late to prevent the monstrosity from being built. It will dwarf the size of the White House and change the character of the people's house forever.

Aside from the aesthetics, there's the financial problem. No matter how it's paid for, the White House—and thereby the taxpayers of the United States—will be responsible for its upkeep long after the current White House residents have left. Even while it is just sitting there unused, there will be expenses associated with it.

And how many times will it be used? Once a month? Once a quarter? The East Wing was used on a daily basis to support functions associated with the operation of the Government. The proposed ballroom has no such purpose. Is entertaining dignitaries part of the function of government? Yes, but not in the same way that daily processes are.

Please, for the sake of all Americans, do not let this go forward.

Name: Barbara R Britton

Date: March 3, 2026 9:05:44 pm

To the Commission --

The very title of this project -- "East Wing Modernization" -- belies the actual intent of this grotesque undertaking. This is, in fact, nothing more than a Trump VANITY PROJECT -- just the most extreme and expensive of the many others that he has perpetrated upon us during his current tenure. Whether it would be paid for by public or private funds is beside the

point. The sheer scale of this ballroom, and its incompatibility with the architectural restraint of the White House, should render it "D.O.A." The Commission should reject it on these grounds.

Name: Laura Gannon-Murakami

Date: March 3, 2026 9:07:18 pm

March 4, 2026

To: Mr. William Scharf,
Chair National Capital Planning Commission
401 Ninth Street NW, Suite 500N
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Formal Opposition to the East Wing Modernization Project (NCPC File No. 8733)

Dear Chairman Scharf and Members of the Commission,

I am writing to formally submit my opposition to the proposed construction of the 90,000-square-foot "State Ballroom" as part of the White House East Wing Modernization Project.

As a citizen and stakeholder in our nation's heritage, I believe this project fundamentally misunderstands the purpose of the Executive Mansion. The White House is The People's House—it is a public monument and it belongs not to one person but to the American People.

1. The Addition is oversized with a Gaudy Design

The White House is not a Convention Center nor is it a Mar-Largo-Type wedding venue. The expansive size of the addition changes this symbol of class and democracy to a "gaudy showy" venue that celebrates only the wealthy in this country. Some care and thoughtful study should be done about the future needs of the White House. Do we really need a ballroom will it be used- 3-4 times a year? What are some other future needs of the White House? Perhaps a design where space can be converted for the few times a year a larger room.

2. The White House is an American Legacy that belongs to the People, Not an Individual

The White House belongs to every American, past and future. Any modification must prioritize the lasting legacy and be tastefully designed that transcends the personal whims or aesthetic of any single occupant. This project appears designed to serve the immediate entertainment preferences of one administration rather than the enduring needs of the Office of the Presidency. The design should be tasteful by today standard and be relevant for generations to come. No gaudy gold!

3. Procedural Failure and Lack of Transparency- a Negative Deceitful Legacy

The demolition of the historic East Wing in October 2025, prior to final NCPC approval and without a period for robust public debate, is a violation of the public trust- and frankly, is dishonest. Do we want to have this negative history be a part of our White House? This also sets a precedent that the "People's House" can be altered by whoever currently holds the keys, regardless of historic preservation laws. In addition, because the White House belongs to the People, private donations should not be accepted. Everyone knows that there is no such thing as a free lunch and we should not be indebted to the billionaires who are funding this.

Conclusion

I urge the Commission to reject the current above-ground plans for the State Ballroom. We must demand a redesign that is thoughtful, smaller in scale, respectful of the original 1792 proportions, and reflects the tasteful restraint that has defined the American Presidency since its inception.

The White House is a legacy to be protected and I hope your Commission has the courage to stand up and do the right thing for the People of the United States.

Sincerely,

Laura Gannon-Murakami
Shelburne, VT

Name: Beth Jakob

Date: March 3, 2026 9:09:13 pm

The renovation is extremely tacky. It is an embarrassment to our country. It is a monument to Trump's own gaudy tastes, whereas instead it should reflect subdued elegance that is more fitting for our democracy.

Name: Lois Alpert

Date: March 3, 2026 9:09:16 pm

I assume that East Wing Modernization Project refers to the ugly, tasteless oversize "ballroom" that the president is forcing on the american people after he tore down the graceful balanced historic East Wing in the dead of night without any review by the necessary agencies. Please shut down the Ballroom process immediately and let there be a thoughtful plan made by professional designers and persons who understand the proper procedures.

Thank you,
Lois Alpert

Name: Loretta Bradshaw

Date: March 3, 2026 9:09:26 pm

After watching the video created by the architects, I was able to understand the urgency to express my concerns about the plans for the East Wing Project. Based on facts and research presented, I feel the building plan is oversized for the capacity that was advised. The actual size of the building should not take away from the White House or any of the other historical buildings in the area. The East Wing should be rebuilt to its original design to restore the integrity of the White House. The ballroom should be downsized and the design should agree with the architectural elements of the White House. The White House should remain the main focus. It was suggested the service area of the ballroom could be underground as a means to help with the oversized original plan. I think that is a logical suggestion. Heights of ceilings on the original plan seem extreme and could be adjusted to help the new structure blend with the White House. Washington is filled with the history of America that should be preserved. No single person or administration should remove or destroy our history. The historic plans by James Hoban, L'Enfant and Olmsted were fascinating to me and are essential to the layout and beauty of the area. Please insist on preserving the history and integrity of the design of this project.
Thank you.

Name: Glenda White

Date: March 3, 2026 9:10:26 pm

This project is a travesty ; the east wing should be rebuilt as it was before it was knocked down without any authorization. This is the people's house, and the people did not choose to make any of these changes.
It's also an affront to humanity when this president unilaterally starts wars in which innocents are killed. Then he wants citizens and his cronies to pay millions for a new gaudy gilded ballroom. He needs to get his priorities straight: looking out for the welfare of American citizens and citizens of the world. Spend the millions on those who can't afford groceries or medical insurance thx to his disastrous policies.

Name: Claire Lary

Date: March 3, 2026 9:10:54 pm

I would like to register my dismay over the demolition without care of the East Wing of the White House, the People's House.

In replacing what has been lost, great care should be taken to ensure that the new East Wing should not be so large as to overpower the central structure. While modernization may have been needed and we should not be afraid to change and adapt to modern needs, the White House is high among our country's most important historical assets and symbols. It is

not, and should not become, a nightclub or gaudy event venue. It is special. The size, style and form of any addition should conform with reverence to the simplicity, grace and beauty of the original design.

Name: Maria Junco

Date: March 3, 2026 9:11:10 pm

Please rethink the design of the East Wing modernization. In its current version, it creates a lop sided clumsy form, greatly eclipsing the central portion which should be the primary focus. I hope the design is worked on it to bring it more in alignment with historic and aesthetic integrity. I do think the change recently done to the roof is much better.

Name: Ashley Foland

Date: March 3, 2026 9:11:48 pm

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed modernization of the East Wing on the White House. The White House is one of the most symbolically important architectural features in the United States and any modifications to the structure or site should therefore respect the historical design intent.

The proposed ballroom disrupts the architectural hierarchy and historic planning relationships that define the White House complex. The Executive Residence was designed within a classical framework in which the primary structure is intended to remain the dominant architectural element. The scale and massing of the proposed ballroom appear disproportionate and risk overwhelming the historic residence, diminishing its intended prominence.

The design also introduces Corinthian columns, the most ornate of the classical orders. Their use on a secondary structure creates visual competition with the columns of the Executive Residence rather than reinforcing its primacy. Such a prominent classical order should not be applied in a way that competes with the architectural language of the main building.

Additionally, the scale and footprint of the proposed addition significantly alter the historic site organization. The current proposal requires the South Drive to jog around the new structure, disrupting the symmetry and formal spatial relationships that historically defined the White House grounds. This alteration undermines the clarity and order of the historic site plan, which was intentionally composed with strong formal geometry.

The proposal also appears to compromise historic views and axial relationships that are fundamental to the planning of Washington, D.C. The visual and symbolic connection between Pennsylvania Avenue and the White House is a defining component of the city's historic urban design, and new construction within the complex should preserve—not obstruct—these sightlines.

Given the architectural and symbolic importance of the White House complex, any new construction should remain subordinate in scale, restrained in its classical expression, and respectful of the historic site geometry and axial planning relationships that define this nationally significant setting.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on one of America's most important historical features.

Name: Lisa Merz

Date: March 3, 2026 9:12:09 pm

Thank you for your time and information presented. I appreciate historic architecture and was appalled at the discretion of the White House with no advance information.

That being said, I agree that the historical symmetry MUST be honored, along with the views and axis as our forefathers planned.

If this means a smaller building, so be it. The building MUST be ADA compliant, without fake doors, etc....

Personally, I believe the east wing should be re-built exactly as it was, and the occupant fined for destroying it, without and regard for the history, and symbolism of the institution of the "People's House".

Please keep these decisions in line, and prohibit a MONSTROSITY to be built that brings attention and shame whenever

it is looked upon for its sheer opulence and gaudy appearance.

Thank you,
Lisa Merz - Fort Worth, Texas

Name: Nancy Steffens

Date: March 3, 2026 9:13:55 pm

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW the east wing ballroom project proceed. The White House is the house of the people of the United States. It is not President Trump's private property that he can make to his exact tastes. Gaudy, gold-plated decor of everything that he touches reeks of elitism and is not appropriate in the People's House.

It is obvious worldwide that this project with "private donors" are all part of the president's corrupt "pay to play" scheme that goes against everything that the original founders (and at least half of the current US citizens) believed/believe in.

Name: Katheryn H Krafft

Date: March 3, 2026 9:14:36 pm

[Attachment](#)

Name: Carolyn Chan

Date: March 3, 2026 9:17:05 pm

This is not a "modernization" project. It's a project to help a frail, old man with confidence issues feel validated, since he has already proved to be a bigoted racist. Please do not allow Donald Trump to continue believing he can do whatever he wants, including erasing our American history.

Name: Harriet Monks

Date: March 3, 2026 9:17:20 pm

This project is an insult and a disgrace to the American people. A complete violation to a historic building that belongs to the American people. It is abhorrent and must be stopped.

Name: Danielle Bratis-Smith

Date: March 3, 2026 9:17:25 pm

There are historically appropriate and less expensive alternatives to the "ballroom" project. Please consider the previous use of the space in the design as it was historically the space of the first lady or gentlemen. That history should be preserved. The design should fit the architecture and style of the White House.

Name: Joseph Rufo

Date: March 3, 2026 9:17:50 pm

I am against any renovation to the east wing into a ballroom, this is not a castle or mansion for the rich it is our people's house. We do not want a tacky ballroom but a tastefully constructed humble room which represents the common man. not a king!

Name: Julie Smith-Clementi AIA

Date: March 3, 2026 9:18:33 pm

The East Wing was demolished illegally. Any new project should work to return the character of the original building

with only a slight increase in scale. The area underneath the structure is a perfect opportunity to address the security and operation issues.

This proposal is obscene. The overall proportions of the footprint is too wide and too long. The overall building will overwhelm the existing structure of the White House. The ballroom is way too large, and should be on the ground level. It is too tall at 38'. Putting it upstairs makes the volume too large. 89,000 sq ft is insane! The cornice alignment is a smoke screen. The building is too tall!

I've been to events at the White House. The new ballroom does not show respect for the original scale of the main building, 1000 guests is too many. As an American citizen I do not want this addition to our house.

Name: Fred Lifton

Date: March 3, 2026 9:19:26 pm

Hello. I am very concerned about this Ballroom project. As a Ph.D in American Literature (Duke '95), I believe in respecting our history and our historical buildings. The proposed "ballroom" is an atrocity, an affront to everything our Country stands for. We do not build monuments to Kings in the People's House.

I oppose this project in the strongest possible terms. The East Wing should be rebuilt as the People's Wing and should continue to hold the Offices of the First Spouse, preferably re-using historical material (if any was saved in the illegal demolition).

thank you,

Dr. Fred Lifton

Name: Charles Bell

Date: March 3, 2026 9:20:08 pm

HORRIBLE ! Do NOT let this man ruin the PEOPLE'S HOUSE. This is disgusting !!

Name: Laurel Bern

Date: March 3, 2026 9:20:24 pm

Subject: Minor Historical Correction to My Earlier Submission

Dear Members of the NCPC,

I would like to note a small historical correction to my earlier message regarding White House improvement proposals in the late nineteenth century. The First Lady associated with those proposals was Caroline Harrison, not Helen Taft, as I mentioned.

My apologies for the oversight, and thank you again for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,
Laurel Bern

Name: Candice Gardner

Date: March 3, 2026 9:20:56 pm

The East Wing 'modernization,' aka 'destruction,' was an exercise foul play from day one. No one except the President wanted the East Wing destroyed. He deliberately violated the sanctity of the White House - the People's House - and its historical attachment to the American people to appease his insatiable ego. He desecrated the Rose Garden, the site of innumerable historical events, a point of continuity for people to associate with American leadership, and a monument to peace. In its place? A cheap, shoddy outdoor meeting place for his 'club' as he calls it.

The ballroom as proposed is a vulgar monstrosity. The project as designed must be torn up and trashed, and the people responsible for it should be fired, as well as apologize to the American people for their duplicity and bad judgement.

The East Wing must be redesigned and rebuilt in a manner aligned with pride in American values, aesthetics, and history, aligned in proportion with the White House itself. The current design is not only vulgar, it reeks with the corruption and decadence associated with it and its financing. Trump will be gone in 3 years, and Americans should not have to view a monument to his ego and poor judgement in perpetuity.

What a shame when leadership suffers self-inflicted wounds that also make the country suffer.

Name: Jim Cooper

Date: March 3, 2026 9:21:01 pm

In the words of this Commission, "The White House is a National Historic Landmark and National Park, owned by the American people".

Not owned by Donald Trump.

Not owned by friends Donald Trump has appointed to the Commission.

This project has been railroaded by Donald Trump and his cronies with no consultation or feedback from The American People. This is WRONG!

Stop this project and PUT IT BACK AS ORIGINAL.

Thank you.

Name: Valerie Emerson

Date: March 3, 2026 9:21:29 pm

I am adamantly opposed to the proposed addition of a ballroom to the East Wing of the White House. The proposed structure to replace the East Wing of the White House will ruin the balance and aesthetics of the entire building. As a historic building and the People's House the east wing of the building should be restored to the way it was before it was torn down!

Name: Elizabeth Dull

Date: March 3, 2026 9:21:43 pm

I strongly disapprove of the East Wing Modernization Project as currently proposed. I find it grossly out of scale with the White House and blatantly disrespectful of the architectural traditions of the White House and the symmetry of the Olmsted designed approaches to the north and south faces of the structure. The size of the addition is considerably inflated given the project's stated purposes. No secondary space needs a 19' ceiling as is proposed for the 3rd floor, for example. False doors and colonnades that do not allow access and block views make little sense architecturally or functionally.

In addition to the project's grandiose architectural pretensions, the project ignores and disrupts the traditional connection between White House and the Capitol, one that is visually and symbolically important and has been part of the plan of the city since its inception. I find this complete disregard of historical continuity on the part of the current President a snub at the very American history he claims to support.

Changes to the White House should be paid by tax payers--not donations private sources.

PS I also strongly disagree with the idea of a 250' arch. We are not the Roman Empire or Napoleonic France!

Name: Lyn Colenda

Date: March 3, 2026 9:23:30 pm

I object to the building of the proposed ballroom in the strongest terms possible. It does not matter if it is being paid for by private donations as the President alledges. The White House is the People's House. The President just resides there temporarily. Changes like this are required by law and convention to be proposed through proper channels and approved by the National Capital Planning Commission. It is horrendous that the President tore down the East Wing and modified

the Lincoln bathroom without prior approval.

As the plans have been presented, this building is going to be a disgrace. It is too large, completely destroying the look of the White House property. It is grossly out of proportion, as well as being at least 30% larger than any ballroom built for 1000 people needs to be.

It is poorly planned, poorly thought out, and will be an eyesore for the rest of time.

DO NOT approve this plan. Do your duty and insist on at least a scaling back in size and a modification to the overall building plan to be more appropriate as well as a better use of the space.

Name: Judy Stolen

Date: March 3, 2026 9:23:30 pm

The proposed 90,000Sq. ft ballroom is completely wrong for the site. It dwarfs the white house. While I can understand there might be a need for a larger space than we have had until now, I believe the size should be cut in half, both volume and height to be more in keeping with the white house.

Name: Christian Leon

Date: March 3, 2026 9:23:34 pm

Please see attached letter with comments from the Tampa Bay Community Design Center regarding the proposed East Wing Modernization Project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Carl Gish

Date: March 3, 2026 9:23:37 pm

I want to register my disapproval about the planned east wing expansion - the plans themselves and how the whole process and ram rodding of it has taken place. First the plans; they are not in keeping with the intent or design of the current historical structures. They are massively out of proportion and not in keeping with the mission of the White House to be "the people's house". A "ballroom" of this size is more suited to a massive hotel or conference center. The design itself feels gaudy and cheap in my opinion. And how the process has unfolded; it appears that the systems and processes and the stakeholders whose voices were intended to carry sway have been brushed aside to assuage our current president's ego. His role as president does not give him carte blanche to remake one of the most important historical buildings in the country to his liking. It's a gross (multiple meanings of the word) abuse of his power. What is the Planning Commission allowing it and abandoning its charter?

Name: Kenneth Smith

Date: March 3, 2026 9:24:06 pm

Dear Commission Members,

As a former member of the Reagan Administration, I've had the privilege of visiting the old East Wing to support Ms. Reagan's public service initiatives. On my many visits to the compound, I was always amazed at the history. This has always been "The Peoples House" and despite the fact that the President has hand picked you, the nation asks that you rise above that in your deliberations.

Americans are concerned that one person has determined the East Wing of the White House needed to be demolished to construct a ballroom and has moved unilaterally to that end. Government by/for the people is seriously at risk. If the President had campaigned on the need for this change, that might be different, but he did not.

1. Ballroom Need. Where is a need's assessment? How often will this facility even be used? Every day, week, month? Do Americans want this? Every President has a different vision of entertaining. No one wants an empty building sitting around. There is no past indication of this type of need from any President. Why can't other spaces in the District (like the

Building Museum) be used for rare large gatherings? Versailles type Ballrooms is not who we are.

2. Congressional Approval. As they should, Presidents have some authority to make modest cost modifications to the White House which do not materially change the basic appearance and/or can easily be returned to an original purpose or look. This project envisions a substantial change. Regardless of external donations, these are still government expenditures that for a project like this would normally be directed by Congress. How is Congress involved? The last major change of this nature was under Truman and with the exception of a Balcony, was focused on internal structural integrity to keep the house from imploding due to rot and adding modern electrical, plumbing and other internal systems. All of this major work was a result of an Act of Congress, something that is not present here.

3. Donor Ethics/Public Accountability. Who has actually donated and how much? Are all the names public? How many of the donors have critical issues currently or nearly in front of Federal regulatory or other bodies? As members of the NCPC, you have a fiduciary responsibility to the public to ensure the integrity of outside financing. What systems will you require to achieve that objective?

4. Design Flexibility. Does the design allow future Presidents to keep the structure but easily repurpose its use? Executive staff office space has been lacking for decades. Could this become the East Wing Executive Offices? How do you intend to ensure future Presidents can make changes that they deem needed?

5. Ongoing Maintenance. What are the anticipated taxpayer costs to maintain this facility, after construction? Prior to any approval on your part, this issue needs to be addressed. The concept of Total Ownership Cost seems to be missing and you would be derelict in your duties if not factored in.

6. Construction Oversight. Who will ensure quality construction, i.e., permits, etc.? How has this critical factor considered? Americans need to know which Agency will be responsible and it can't be the White House.

7. Need for Adequate time. Americans are concerned that Commission Members have cut off comments on March 4, 2026 and plan to consider them one day later on March 5, 2026 at the end of its normal agenda. No one believes this to be an adequate time for the Commission to adequately absorb the comments as it must legally do. Commission approvals without considering public comments puts it at significant risk.

Name: Bill truslow

Date: March 3, 2026 9:24:23 pm

This project is gaudy, ostentatious, nothing but a sop to trump's ego and not befitting of the dignity of the White House. please do not let this monstrosity be built.

Name: Susan Wilhite

Date: March 3, 2026 9:25:00 pm

It boggles the mind that this absurd endeavor is being given the time of day. Beyond the enormous size, its position in the DC grid system, and the non-functionality of it all, just the fact that we know nothing of the purpose of the 3rd floor makes this proposal a non-starter. There are already nefarious theories about the real purpose of the space below the floor. Even its private funding is...I can't even think of how to end this sentence. So corrupt.

This building is a monument. If they thought they could get away with building a 94-story gold-plated tower to impress certain world leaders, that would be on the table. Considering how infrequently it will be used for maximum purpose, and considering how weakened this country is becoming, and how much the world in general is ruptured, there is no justification at all for this plan.

When the East Wing was destroyed, I surveyed my friends on The Future of the White House Ballroom. The responses ranged from data center to co-working loft space/greenhouse to homeless/emergency shelter for when DC floods. Available for drag shows and tribal pow-wows when not otherwise in use.

Only one person in America desperately wants a gigantic White House ballroom. Not in this century. Not for Our House.

Name: Carrie Douglas

Date: March 3, 2026 9:25:42 pm

A win for preservationists in this battle to preserve the integrity of such a significant historic site as the White House will be recorded in American history as a key catalyst to forestall future efforts to circumvent adhering to preservation laws

and Standards established by the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Respect of laws and standards come before modernization.

Name: Jim Heath

Date: March 3, 2026 9:26:35 pm

The design submitted for the proposed White House ballroom, replacing the demolished East Wing, is deeply disappointing and unworthy of the historic character of the White House.

The East Wing was not simply empty space. For generations it formed part of the architectural balance and historic identity of the White House complex. Now that it has been removed, the responsibility to replace it with something worthy of the presidency and the American people is even greater.

The White House is not a private residence or a resort property. It is the symbolic home of the American people and one of the most recognized democratic institutions in the world. Any new structure attached to it must respect that history and reflect the nation it represents.

If a ballroom is to be constructed, it should remain architecturally subordinate to the historic White House and incorporate elements that reflect the breadth and diversity of the United States. A national gathering space should introduce visiting dignitaries and heads of state to the character of this country — its regions, its landscapes, and its people. Design elements could thoughtfully represent all fifty states or the major regions of the nation so that the room itself becomes a reflection of the United States.

The proposal currently presented resembles a luxury ballroom more suited to a private resort than to the grounds of the White House. The heavy emphasis on gold and ornamental opulence does not communicate the ideals of the American republic. Instead, it evokes the aesthetic of personal wealth and the kind of state display more often associated with autocratic governments.

The White House should project dignity, restraint, and national identity — not personal branding.

This decision should not be driven by the preferences of a single president or moment in time. It should be guided by what best represents the United States for the next century.

If a new structure is built on this historic ground, it must reflect the country itself — its people, its history, and the democratic ideals that define it. Anything less would be a disservice to the nation and to the generations of Americans who will inherit this place.

Name: Erin Sanders

Date: March 3, 2026 9:28:41 pm

Please reconsider the current design by moving non-public spaces to the lower level and removing the nonfunctional south portico. Olmstead had a vision - please keep that vision and the beauty of America's house while modernizing it and creating a ballroom for hosting events. Please keep to the standard formula for size needed for hosting events, current square footage shows that the ballroom can hold many more than 1,000 people. There is no need to have a ballroom that people get lost in. Scale this project down to fit within the footprint of what our history demands.

Name: Michael Vernier

Date: March 3, 2026 9:29:15 pm

The current design for the East Wing Modernization project is an ungainly design. It is massive in scale relative to its historical context and its architectural and landscape design. In addition to issues relevant to its scale, it lacks proportionality and symmetry relative to its surrounding buildings and urban design. It blocks traditional views of the White House and is full of dummy windows, doors and entrances. This is not an elegant design, but is one that discomforts human scale and veers to gigantism in political statement. The design revealed so far well suits the then Prince Charles' description of a proposed extension to London's National Gallery as "like a monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much-loved and elegant friend." The spirit of his comment encapsulates my view of this Modernization project. I would send the existing proposal back to the drawing room. Thank you for your consideration. Michael

Name: Patricia Catalano

Date: March 3, 2026 9:29:30 pm

I'm horrified by the underhanded and careless treatment of the historic east wing. But since it was demolished without any consideration, I would like to see a thoughtful and proportional building put in its place. I do not want some gaudy monstrosity horror placed there!

Thank you.

Name: Alison Blanton

Date: March 3, 2026 9:30:15 pm

As an architectural historian who wrote my thesis on the re-establishment of the L'Enfant Plan by Daniel Burnham and others in the early 20th century and began my career as a historic preservation consultant in DC 40 years ago, I am writing to implore the NCPC to follow your mission in the review of the proposed plans for the White House ballroom. It is imperative that the design be revised to conform with the guiding principles of Beaux Arts and Classical design.

1. Classical Design: the choice of the original (and subsequent) design of the White House to be based on Classical design was no coincidence. Our founding fathers were intentional in the reference to the democratic governments of Rome and Greece. The basic principles of this style are based on proportion and balance, and this has characterized the White House until the recent demolition. The scale of the new ballroom needs to be revised to complement and balance with the existing building.
2. The L'Enfant Plan: the axial relationship between the White House and the Capitol along Pennsylvania Avenue is also significant as it represents the critical relationship between these two branches of government that define our democracy. This should be maintained and NOT encroached on by the new ballroom.
3. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards are recognized as promoting best practices in the treatment of historic buildings and the White House deserves no less. As you are well aware, additions should be secondary to the original building and not overwhelm it.

While I recognize the need for a larger event space for the President, I wish that options had been explored thoroughly before the East Wing was irrevocably demolished. Now that a new wing for the ballroom must be built, it is critical that it be respectful of the design of the White House and all that it represents. I believe that some revisions could be made to reduce the scale and simplify the design to make it more compatible. Examples include reducing the floor-to-ceiling height of some levels, locating the service level underground, reducing the scale or deleting the portico, using Ionic rather than Corinthian capitals, etc.

Please do your job and apply the same standards that you have used in reviewing other projects proposed for DC in your review of the proposed design for the new East Wing ballroom. It is too late to avoid the demolition, but it is not too late to improve the design!

Name: Holly Lovejoy

Date: March 3, 2026 9:30:21 pm

The White House has always been a symbol of our collective nation, in a colloquial way it is our family home, a grand home to be sure. To tear down one wing of that beautiful structure and replace it with a gargantuan ballroom in glitzy gold is a crime against our humble beginnings. As one whose family has been here close to 400 years I am proud of our modest beginnings and detest the bold of later empire seekers. Please remember who we have come from and be proud of what we have become, not vainglorious or thirsty for acclaim without the character to deserve it.

Name: Mary-Ellen Dixon

Date: March 3, 2026 9:31:40 pm

[Attachment](#)

Name: Amy Hale

Date: March 3, 2026 9:31:49 pm

Please do not approve this Ballroom abomination. I am a native Washingtonian and object to the proposal. It is gross in size and style, There is no grace, elegance or dignity in it. It is not befitting our Nation's Capital. Restore the East Wing to its original beauty,

Name: Vilo Westwood

Date: March 3, 2026 9:33:04 pm

I am very distressed by the destruction of the East Wing. I am not an expert. I support the expertise of the Planning Commission to decide what can best be done now to mitigate the damage. I also support as few tax dollars as possible being spent.

Name: Jordan Humphreys

Date: March 3, 2026 9:33:09 pm

A modern ballroom that dwarfs and obscures the historic White House building deserves further review to ensure whatever is built aligns with the overall profile and stature of the People's House. We should prioritize the history and architecture of this building rather than simply creating something "bigger and better".

Name: Adam Waldron

Date: March 3, 2026 9:33:58 pm

Regardless of funding, I do not understand why our republic allowed the current president to abruptly raze a portion of the white house without any real planning or respect of our history. It is too late now to correct this, but what will be next? The MLK Memorial or the Vietnam Memorial?

How much is too much ?

Please grow a pair!

Name: Allan Jordan

Date: March 3, 2026 9:34:13 pm

Too big. It overpowers the historic building. It looks out of scale to the historic building. It needs to be smaller, less height so that the White House remains the main object with everything else secondary as the old East Wing was.

Name: Diane DaPolito

Date: March 3, 2026 9:34:20 pm

I am extremely saddened to see the East Wing of the White House torn down without input from the American people. The White House is "The People's House" and our input should be considered. I strongly oppose the planned ballroom and the dismantling of a building that has such historic significance. As this administration is attempting to gaslight and rewrite history, they are destroying a legacy of the First Ladies of our country. That's wrong and should not be allowed to move forward with a tacky, fake gold monstrosity. I think the East Wing should be rebuilt to its original specifications.

Name: Sally Brown

Date: March 3, 2026 9:34:34 pm

[Attachment](#)

Name: Susan Waldron

Date: March 3, 2026 9:35:19 pm

This is a huge waste of American Resources and it's trashy. This money could be spent fixing other DC parks that actually need help. It's giving "let them eat cake." No one wants this and no one asked for it. We do not live in a monarchy.

Name: Frances Bass

Date: March 3, 2026 9:35:59 pm

The proposal for the ballroom at the site of the former East Wing is a monstrosity. I am not an architect or artist, but even I can tell that it just looks wrong. It's way out of proportion to the rest of the site. It's completely out of scale. It's imbalanced. It looks absolutely ridiculous. Whoever has any control, please don't let this happen. It's shameful and stupid.

Name: Kathleen Geraghty

Date: March 3, 2026 9:37:03 pm

To Whom It May Concern:

The East Wing should never have been demolished without proper planning and approval. The extent of the damage that has already been done to the White House's historic design and structural integrity may as yet be unknown. And while that thoughtless destruction was shameful, the plan to put an oversized, tacky, gold-leaf 'band-aid' on it is even more grotesque. What's next? Brawndo trickling out of the drinking fountains?

The proposed design is vulgar and symbolic of this administration in general. How embarrassing that this debacle (and so many others) are coinciding with the 250th anniversary of our country. We are truly a nation in decline, held in a vise grip by a heinous tribe of professional felons, black-hearted sex offenders, and soulless opportunists.

It might be more prudent to burn the whole thing down and start over...

Name: Eileen OBrien

Date: March 3, 2026 9:37:06 pm

I think the planned ballroom is too large and ostentatious.
I am ashamed.

Name: Nancy Weinstock

Date: March 3, 2026 9:37:09 pm

The current Trump plan for the enormous ballroom & replacement for the now-destroyed East Wing is tasteless and graceless. If this is indeed built using that overscale, crass plan, I sincerely hope that a future Administration will back up, take a good long look at it, tear it down and start over.

Name: Jennifer Hart

Date: March 3, 2026 9:37:40 pm

I am appalled by the proposal for the new East Wing. The original modestly scaled Hoban designed centerpiece of our democracy would be overwhelmed by this new ill proportioned edifice.
The White House is the people's house and we do not want a gold gilded grandiose behemoth looming over "our house" !
Sadly, our democracy seems to be waning, and I feel this project represents the trending theocracy.

Name: Tami Shankle

Date: March 3, 2026 9:37:53 pm

I understand that past presidents have made alterations to the White House. But in the face of current overhauls, we need to make a stand about the limits any president can make. The White House belongs to the American people, not to any individual. Changes should be limited to maintenance and upkeep, and necessary upgrades (plumbing, electricity, wifi, etc.). Frivolous personal demolitions and additions (ballroom) should go through a strict series of reviews and authorizations to determine if the change is necessary, or would alter the National Building too much. The rules should be clear, in written form, stating exactly how much the White House can be altered. At the bottom of all this is the idea that it's not the president's property: it is Ours, and therefore should reflect the tone of what President Lincoln stated: Of the People, By the People, and For the People.

Name: Linda Robinson

Date: March 3, 2026 9:37:56 pm

This administration has little regard for the people. I'm amazed you are going through the motions of asking for comment. Your feeble President tore down a historical section of the Whitehouse without bothering to solicit input from anyone. I don't see why you are bothering with our input. You will just erect a gaudy faux gold encrusted monstrosity. I take comfort in knowing that anything he has built, changed or pissed on can be dismantled including the Fucking ballroom!

Name: Peggy Capobianco

Date: March 3, 2026 9:38:36 pm

I am appalled and completely opposed to this modernization project. Had it been just a modernization rather than a total destruction of the East wing I might feel differently. This was not a necessity and is a very big waste of money which is being spent just to assuage President Trump's ego. It will be an overblown over gilded monstrosity that will reflect as a sign of this tacky presidency.

Name: Ric Burgos

Date: March 3, 2026 9:39:16 pm

The destruction of the East Wing was a one-sided, forced action that violated policy, procedures and processes. Make something better than a gaudy ballroom for billionaires and foreign governments to "donate" to politicians, political parties and criminal politicians.

Name: Robert Garlt

Date: March 3, 2026 9:39:40 pm

With all due respect, We The People, the regular people, strongly and vehemently object to this vain attempt of President Trump to try and gold-plate his already tarnished legacy. Our most precious historical places, the very symbols of our liberty and freedom, do not need this tacky modernization. In fact, it is the current administration that sorely needs to consult tradition and our founding principals, and remember their sworn oaths - that should be the priority - their major definite purpose. This president is destroying our country one room at a time, and we have had enough! In fact, how long until the "ballroom" turns into a mosh pit, similar to the short-lived Board of Peace that has suddenly devolved into War with Iran? Enough, someone please stop this madman. Do your duty, look at the flag, read the constitution and object with the rest of us. Please.

Name: william dax

Date: March 3, 2026 9:40:26 pm

I oppose the proposed East Wing project. The fact that it seems to be proceeding without proper review is appalling. Please, please put a stop to this ridiculous monstrosity.

William Dax

Name: Glenda Flowers

Date: March 3, 2026 9:41:23 pm

This Project exemplifies a very WASTEFUL and unnecessary use of Funds that needs to be put toward housing, education, better working wages, health care, mental health, needs of Veterans, city transportation, Child Abuse Preventions and Jobs.

Name: Linda Comins

Date: March 3, 2026 9:42:30 pm

The design for this unnecessary ballroom is a travesty, ruining the historic sight lines of the White House. The East Wing should never have been demolished. The proposed ballroom is an ugly example of an ego gone wild. Construction of this monstrosity should be blocked and never allowed to occur.

Name: Ruth DeVine

Date: March 3, 2026 9:42:45 pm

Dear Committee,

Seeing the east wing demolished was a extremely sad loss of a historic building. I hope that the replacement will be a tasteful addition that compliments the current building. A giant structure is not appropriate to the original intended use of the building. If a huge ballroom is constructed please consider another location and let's see the money that was pledged before the American people are asked to pay for it.

Sincerely Ruth DeVine

Name: Noreen O'Connor

Date: March 3, 2026 9:44:44 pm

After reviewing the proposed plan to build a ballroom, I ask the commission to deny the current plans and require a redesign that respects the integrity of the historic White House building. The ballroom plans are not in scale with the White House, and in fact would overwhelm this beautiful and elegant historic structure with an addition that is larger than the entire White House. It is imperative that any addition to the White House be carefully and skillfully designed to complement the structure. There is no need to build a massive ballroom in any case. If an event is needed there are many ballrooms in DC that would suit. Such a huge building will destroy the design integrity of the White House. I am so upset that the wing has already been destroyed and that the current president seems to misunderstand that he does not own this building which belongs to the people.

Name: Conrad Pierce

Date: March 3, 2026 9:45:10 pm

Build that big beautiful ball room!

Name: Rebecca Glaudell

Date: March 3, 2026 9:45:27 pm

We don't need renovations of buildings, we need to rebuild our democracy. This is a waste of money and a shameful play to permanently scar the White House.

Name: Ricki Torsch

Date: March 3, 2026 9:46:05 pm

The planned size of the new east wing with a ballroom is ridiculous. This new wing is a monstrosity. There is no need for the new east wing to have a movie theater or a ballroom with seating for 999 people. The original plan for seating for 650 would be more than large enough. I urge you to reduce the footprint of the new east wing and keep this project tasteful.

Thank you.

Name: Larry H

Date: March 3, 2026 9:46:38 pm

I would like them not to build this ballroom. It will be way too big. We don't need it. I want the White House to stay the way it looks now.

Name: Robert Middleton

Date: March 3, 2026 9:47:07 pm

Dear Sir or Madame,

I find it interesting that you call it the "East Wing Modernization Project". Who asked for the East Wing to be modernized? This is a travesty. It was a historical treasure and should have been preserved, not turned into a cavernous ballroom. I am opposed to its style and it's size. If there were any way to rebuild what was there before it was suddenly destroyed, I would be in favor of rebuilding a right sized historical building in a traditional and appropriate style. Suffice it to say that I am not happy with these plans, I am angry. But I am also frustrated, because I know that I have zero influence and this administration just does not care about the little people like me.

Hoping for a miracle,

Robert

Name: Cynthia Camacho

Date: March 3, 2026 9:49:09 pm

The proposed project is appalling and a grotesque distortion of scale and form.

Name: Carol Kress

Date: March 3, 2026 9:49:21 pm

The proposed ballroom, as is planned, is wrong. Poorly designed. Not a reflection of the house of the people of the United States. Please delay so that a new plan can take its place.

Name: Dana Benedetto

Date: March 3, 2026 9:50:27 pm

the size and scope of the ballroom overpowers the White house. It does not fit with the current building and need to be scaled back.

Name: Alyssa Goss

Date: March 3, 2026 9:50:38 pm

The People's House is not the property of the president nor of any private corporation. President Trump no more had the right to demolish the East Wing than any renter has to demolish the building they reside in. Neither the current president nor any private corporation should have any say over the rebuilding of the East Wing. The National Trust for Historic Preservation should preside over the rebuilding and Donald Trump ought to pay for the damage he has caused to publicly owned historic property.

Name: David Loewenwarter

Date: March 3, 2026 9:50:42 pm

To whom it may concern:

With respect to the East Wing modernization plan such plan, in my opinion, should be developed to allow as much view of the People's House, The White House, as possible.

Although any President shall be permitted to hold and host extravagant dinners for guests of the President and Head's of State such facility should be built in accordance to and with the status quo of other historic Washington DC governmental buildings and construction and in no way should any construction overshadow the Whitehouse.

Thank you for your taking the time to read this. Good luck.

Sincerely,

David Loewenwarter

Name: Jeanette Spencer

Date: March 3, 2026 9:50:48 pm

I was shocked when I saw pictures of the historic White House building's East Wing demolished. The White House is an historic building with requirements as to the maintenance of the building that does not harm the integrity of the building. Please allow a thorough investigation and use of guidelines to protect this historic and beloved edifice. Thank you.

Name: Dennis Moyes

Date: March 3, 2026 9:51:12 pm

I find President Trump's proposed design for the East Wing Ballroom vulgar, oversized, and completely inappropriate for the site. Please consider a more restrained, well-proportioned, classical design as a companion to the White House.

Sincerely,

Dennis Moyes

Name: Elizabeth Pasqualini

Date: March 3, 2026 9:52:42 pm

To the Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I write to call for a call for thoughtful review, transparency, and meaningful public input regarding the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House complex. A change of this magnitude risks altering not only the physical fabric of the White House complex, but also its historic setting, landscape, and architectural integrity.

The White House is not simply a residence or event venue. It is a National Park Service-stewarded National Historic Landmark and one of the most symbolically significant places in the United States. Since 1800, it has served as the home of our presidents and stands as a living testament to the continuity of American democracy. It belongs not to any administration, but to the American people.

Before decisions are finalized, the public deserves:

- A clear articulation of need and purpose for the proposed addition.
- A comprehensive analysis of impacts to the historic fabric and landscape.
- Consideration of alternatives that may meet functional requirements with less impact.
- A robust, accessible public engagement process that meaningfully incorporates public feedback.

I urge the Commission to ensure that preservation standards are rigorously applied and that the public's voice is central in this process. And I urge the commission to affirm our collective responsibility to protect our shared national heritage.

Name: Cindi Smith-Dunham

Date: March 3, 2026 9:53:01 pm

I do not believe American needs a gaudy, monstrous ballroom. Trump has already made the Oval Office look like a whorehouse (how fitting). He demolished the East Wing without permission. I would prefer to see the East Wing rebuilt as functional and modernized office and meeting spaces, while retaining a design which is compatible with the White House. A ballroom is a wast of time, money, and is a simple vanity project of our idiot "president." Please do not do this. America does not need another ballroom. Thank you,

Name: Susan Peck

Date: March 3, 2026 9:53:11 pm

This vanity project should not be allowed. The proposed ballroom is out of scale with the rest of the White House and surrounding buildings and only serves the outrageous desires of one vainglorious man. He will undoubtedly want to name it after himself.

Name: LeOla Scott

Date: March 3, 2026 9:54:05 pm

I am submitting this statement knowing fully well that it will not be taken into consideration by this administration. It was a travesty for the east wing to be demolished. A big, beautiful ballroom is not what the people of this country want to see, especially now, and it is something less than 1% of the people will ever see... yet it belongs to the people. It does not belong to the president. It should not be a gaudy room and NO gold embellishments. Let's put this to the vote of the people. Thanks for considering this.

Name: Karen Connelly

Date: March 3, 2026 9:54:25 pm

I hope I am commenting on the correct topic , because the East Wing Modernization makes the complete destruction of a major portion of America's house sound almost palatable. I do not understand how a president who resides in the White House can take the liberty of creating a ballroom for millions of dollars that we the people whose house this is will never see.

This is not a castle nor is President Trump a King please put a stop to this craziness!

Name: David Withey

Date: March 3, 2026 9:54:39 pm

I found the initial plans for the ballroom shocking and, honestly, laughable. What a terrible monstrosity! I'm not all that surprised though - Trump's taste is cheap and gaudy. It's certainly going to make the White House landscape a lot less tasteful.

Name: Barbara S. Warnell

Date: March 3, 2026 9:55:30 pm

The East Wing Modernization project, which I assume is also the proposed new ball room and additional supporting areas.

I'm a commercial interior space planner and like many architects and interior designers we follow basic design principals. This is especially important when designing an addition and or modification to a historic structure, especially a structure as important, and historically significance as the White House, the People's House.

Basic Design Rule #1: All new additions must be compatible in design, proportion, materials, and scale with the historic structure and the site.

Basic Design Rule #2: All new additions must be designed to complement the historic structure or structures, must never be larger, taller or block the view of the original, historic structure, or structures.

Basic Design Rule #3: Similar to putting together a great outfit, like the first Lady's. Everything must work together. Large hiking boots and a fireman's helmet would never work on one of the first lady's outfits - just ask her?

Name: Jeanne Crouse

Date: March 3, 2026 9:55:36 pm

What Trump has done and is proposing to do to the East Wing demonstrates in physical form what he is doing to this country. He has no respect for rules, norms, and, most importantly, the Constitution. If you approve these horrible plans, history will not be kind to you. You're on the wrong side.

Name: Victor Brubaker

Date: March 3, 2026 9:56:38 pm

I think the addition is fine. I cannot believe that it took this long for the White House to have a formal meeting space. It's embarrassing to have had dignitaries gathering on the lawn.

Name: Edward Stierli

Date: March 3, 2026 9:56:46 pm

On behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association, please see our attached written comments regarding three projects being reviewed by NCPC during its March 5 meeting.

Thank you!

Ed Stierli

[Attachment](#)

Name: David Scott Parker

Date: March 3, 2026 9:58:28 pm

See letter attached as PDF below. Thank you.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Deborah Pile

Date: March 3, 2026 9:59:06 pm

Please see attached PDF

[Attachment](#)

Name: Lynn Ruggiero

Date: March 3, 2026 9:59:29 pm

I am begging that you stop this destructive project. The White House is the people's house, not one individual's dream, and Washington DC is our capital. People from the US and elsewhere often comment on the beauty of DC. What makes it so beautiful is the planned layout and proportioned classic style buildings that complement the whole. This proposed, and started via destruction of the East Wing, project will ruin our country's capital. The oversized and unneeded addition will spoil the proportionality of the White House and the DC overall plan. The planned axis to and from the Capitol Building and the White House will be blocked (is that planned irony?) .

History should be understood and preserved by generations that follow. Our capital was beautifully planned and encompasses our country's history. No one person has the right to destroy that. For the important protection of it, the

National Trust for Historic Preservation was developed. You now are being severely tested. I think it is VERY important that I, and fellow patriots (and lovers of art), have it on the record that I object to the ruinous plan for OUR house and our national capital.

The proposed scaling back of the change seems like a reasonable compromise to an unreasonable plan to destroy what we had.

Thank you for your preservation work.
Lynn Ruggiero Hyde Park NY

Name: Helen Moschapidakis
Date: March 3, 2026 10:02:46 pm

I am horrified by the plan to completely dwarf the White House with this planned monolith. Architecturally the planned design is a travesty, and perhaps even more importantly, the demolition of the East Wing and the plans for this humongous extension were undertaken illegally, without the approval of congress or the American people. Furthermore, by juxtaposing this enormous wing with the White House, which will appear tiny in comparison, the planned design lays bare the apparent priorities of this administration: glitzy galas are more important than the work of governing this country. It is an embarrassment at best, a trashing of American democratic sovereignty at worst.

Name: Adam Buckley
Date: March 3, 2026 10:03:35 pm

To Whom It May Concern

I spent 4 years living in DC. I loved the architecture and subtle elegance of the best capital city in the world. The proposed east wing renovation is an abomination of scale, lacking in any justification and is completely tasteless. It is anathema to the grandeur and elegance of the city, our federal buildings and monuments. This project needs to be stopped immediately as a waste of taxpayer money that showed a complete disregard for proper process (possibly illegal) and an esthetic that can only be described as mid 20th century nouveau riche trash.

Thank you for attention in this matter.

Name: Juliette Paradise
Date: March 3, 2026 10:04:19 pm

I strongly oppose President Trump's obliteration of the East Wing without the consent of Congress, the National Capital Planning Commission or the American public. The White House and its grounds are part of our national heritage, and you all do us a disservice by letting it be remade in the image of a Russian palace. We do not have kings in America so we have no need for gilded ballrooms. When foreign visitors arrive, they should be wowed by our seriousness, our integrity, and our commitment to the American people. A cheap and garish gold plated ballroom does not say that. It says, "we take bribes, we put lipstick on pigs, we are deeply unserious and therefore should not be taken seriously." Restore the East Wing and protect our heritage.

Name: Mary Dominiak
Date: March 3, 2026 10:04:47 pm

Like many others, I oppose the spending of \$300, \$400, or however many million — however raised — on this project, which was initiated without any of the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history to construct in its place a monstrosity that would dwarf the historic White House and mock its sober, republican roots as the People's House, not some king's or emperor's palace and court. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing restored to its former intent and appropriately reserved design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

History has its eyes on you, and will not be kind to those who seek to rewrite it to exclude the democratic principles on which this country, however imperfectly, was founded. We have no kings, and abide no autocrats.

Name: Tammie DeVooght Blaney

Date: March 3, 2026 10:04:49 pm

I have long admired and loved the White House and believe any additions need to match the scale that was visualized when it was built. I've read that there's a vision to have the new addition be a larger building than the White House. I so not want to see that happen. I hope the WH Association along with the National Trust for Historic Preservation work closely on this project to ensure it preserves the history of the country and represents the American people.

Name: Mandy Fogarty

Date: March 3, 2026 10:06:48 pm

I do not support the building of this giant, unnecessary ballroom on the east wing of the white house. Not only is it a huge waste of taxpayer dollars, it will ruin the historic quality of the people's house.

Name: John Sullivan

Date: March 3, 2026 10:07:29 pm

Following the paving over of the Rose Garden, I am saddened that yet another important piece of our history is being destroyed for the vanity and probable self-enrichment schemes of one person. I hope that this gauche playroom for the Epstein class will be demolished by a future administration and that the White House is returned to its former condition.

Name: Melissa Naulin

Date: March 3, 2026 10:08:33 pm

I write to express my strong opposition to the proposed design of a new building to replace the former White House East Wing and East Colonnade. As a member of the White House Curator's Office for almost 22 years, I cared for the important collection of fine and decorative arts and interpreted the building's history to the public. I am well versed in the history of its original creation and subsequent renovations. Since its very beginning, the President's House has been seen as an important symbol and representation of the United States. As such, its appearance and renovations have always been intensely negotiated by multiple parties representing different viewpoints. The members of the Commission of the District of Columbia compromised with President George Washington on the design of the original Executive Mansion, convincing him to eliminate an entire story from the house's plan when both time and money ran short. The United States was designed by its founders as a constitutional democracy with checks and balances to protect its citizens from abuses of power from any one person or group. This is why it has been so crucial that all past renovations of the White House have been joint projects between the chief executive, Congress, and professional builders. This administration has tried to cut out Congress's involvement in the question of vastly expanding the White House by personally fundraising the addition's costs from companies eager to curry favor with the president. This method reeks of bribery. The president has also eliminated the important voice of professional architects and designers in this matter by dismissing highly qualified and non-partisan members of the Commission of Fine Arts and appointing people whose only qualification is a willingness to blindly support the president's stated wishes.

The proposed East Wing addition to the White House is grossly out of scale with the original historic building. To erect the proposed design would be to diminish the integrity and historic importance of the original structure. Too many neighborhoods in the Washington, DC region have examples of houses that just do not look right after an owner prioritized space over aesthetics during a renovation. To make the White House – the most important residence in the entire country – into an architectural embarrassment demeans our entire country. By refusing to collaborate with Congress and professionals, President Trump is trying to force his aesthetic for all things grandiose and gaudy on a public that has overwhelmingly rejected his proposal. Every president is a temporary tenant who has free reign to redesign many spaces of the White House, including all of the private quarters and the Oval Office. No president however should be allowed to unilaterally destroy large sections of the White House and rebuild it in their desired taste. Congress and the Commission of Fine Arts have already abdicated their responsibility to advise on such a large-scale project; please do not follow their lead and bend the knee to a blatantly un-American effort to reshape The People's House into something that disrespects the American people. With proper time and planning, it is possible to design a replacement for the former East

Wing that can meet the president's stated goal of expanding entertaining space while also following respected architectural principles regarding the proper massing of an addition. This addition does not need to be done before President Trump leaves office. Rather, it needs to be done in a way that increases the house's functionality without sacrificing its integrity and aesthetics. We have already irretrievably lost the important history of the East Wing and the treasured Jacqueline Kennedy Garden. Please insist that what is built in their place honors the nation it represents rather than demean it.

Name: Andrea and Armand DiCarlo

Date: March 3, 2026 10:09:14 pm

Hello,

I am writing to let you know my thoughts about the East Wing Modernization Project.

First of all, President Trump went ahead and destroyed the East Wing without any permission of the Planning Commission and the approval of the American People. Even though the President has raised \$400,000 to create a ballroom of his choice, this is not the American way. He has no right to have done this and sends the wrong image of America. This is a distraction to what is really important here.

With all the cost cutting of Federal Staff, Medicare, USAIR, etc., this is not what is wanted and needed here.

I don't know if any thought has gone into the upkeep of this Ballroom. What does this \$400,000 cover? What about the upkeep of this monstrosity? What about heating, decorating, furnishing - let alone what this will cost to maintain this on a yearly basis and to actually put on events of 1000 people here. How often will it actually be used?

This will be a boondoggle...it will go over budget, be behind schedule and is completely unnecessary.

I trust the commission, at the very least, will do what it can to make this ballroom consistent with the design and intention of the White House as Americans would expect. And - to NOT name it the Trump Ballroom.

Thank you!

Name: Kathryn Sullivan

Date: March 3, 2026 10:10:29 pm

This is a totally unnecessary project. In destroying what was previously there, the current occupant of this address shows a careless disregard for history and tradition.

In so doing, the character and style of the White House will be altered in a style more befitting a Ottoman potentate. It is disgraceful.

Name: Constance Puleo

Date: March 3, 2026 10:10:51 pm

As an American, the demolition of the east wing is an outrage. The President's plan is not acceptable. Many things are wrong, but just the size of the new structure is incompatible in proportion to the White House. Please stop it from happening.

Name: Dionne Wood

Date: March 3, 2026 10:11:13 pm

That this charlatan could knock down 1/2 of the people's house without even a thought about the people in this country is disgusting. Replacing it with a gold plated monstrosity is a shining beacon of authoritarian aspirations and grift. This is repulsive and the people dissent.

Name: Melba Caliano

Date: March 3, 2026 10:11:31 pm

Opposed to the unwarranted, illegal, unpermitted destruction of the former East Wing of the White House.

Opposed to any architectural design supported by the current occupant of the White House. Said occupant has repeatedly demonstrated near-complete lack of knowledge of design principles; moreover, demonstrates a total fascination with gaudy, tasteless decoration-witness the current gilding of the Oval Office. Clearly an attempt through design, to assert a monarchical view of the US presidency.

Opposed to unilateral decision-making regarding the architectural status of an historical building, a building part of the historical fabric of American History.

Opposed to the absence of public comment, as well as the absence of consultation with generally accepted experts in the field of historical architecture and preservation. I comment as a decades-long preservationist with training, education, and practice in historical preservation in two major metropolitan regions of the US.

Name: Jennifer Hartenstine

Date: March 3, 2026 10:14:29 pm

I am strongly against the building of an over-sized ballroom in place of the hastily torn down east wing of the White House. The proposed monstrosity is architecturally disproportionate to the landscape, the space and the rest of the building. There are many alternative resolutions to accommodate the need for a ballroom. The cost is an unnecessary waste of funds - regardless of their derivation, and the entire project was rushed and serves as a distraction in an era where one is definitely not needed. Further, there is evidence that it too will be torn down by future administrations, causing further waste and distraction. I urge the administration to focus its time and effort on the many, many, many more pressing issues of the day.

Name: Pat Robinson

Date: March 3, 2026 10:14:45 pm

I am opposed to the planned east wing/new ballroom modernization project. The proposed building would detract from the grandeur of the White House, would impede traditional views and would actually dwarf the White House. The building would have more cubic feet than the White House, and would be taller. And the building as designed is not ADA accessible. The White House is both historical and has always been the People's House and to dwarf it is unpatriotic, especially for a building that the vast majority of Americans will never get to be in or see. The proposed building will forever block the view of the White House that has always been available for persons walking down Pennsylvania Avenue. And you are ignoring the history and meaning of the architectural designs of the White House.

Name: Madeline Linen

Date: March 3, 2026 10:14:55 pm

A piece of history not to be redone by an individual.....without taste

Name: Katy Wu

Date: March 3, 2026 10:15:19 pm

A president's gaudy pet project that serves only himself and the wealthy should not be approved and built with american tax dollars. I object to this "modernization project", it's a haphazard destruction of american history. Restore the east wing. -Katy

Name: Brian Strom

Date: March 3, 2026 10:16:29 pm

Any modifications/additions to the size, structure, use, and/or appearance of the people's (White) house should require approval of the people and taxpayers who will be obligated for the maintenance and upkeep of these modifications/additions being imposed upon them by the temporary occupants of this building/house. It doesn't belong to the president or his friends - it belongs to us all.

Name: Jeanne Gren

Date: March 3, 2026 10:17:16 pm

Trump's vision of an enormous golden ballroom is atrocious and an insult to the history of The White House. It has always been "The People's House" and the president should be a good steward of it's physical building and traditional values. Trump literally took a wrecking ball to destroy it - and figuratively has done the same to the governing principles on which this country was founded. I support a moratorium on any building project until a complete analysis is done, plans are in keeping with the original design, all permits are approved and public funding is appropriated. No private funding should be used to influence favors or bypass proper historical and environmental considerations.

It is fitting, that during this year, when we should be celebrating 250 years of growth and accomplishment as a nation, a pile of rubble will stand as a monument to this current administration.

Name: Norah OBrien

Date: March 3, 2026 10:17:17 pm

The fact that this project went underway without proper approval or public input is a disgrace. While the president resides there, it is the house of the people. These renovations should be approved by historic preservationists and not overridden by Trump I'm favor of his gilded tastes.

Name: William Weinstein

Date: March 3, 2026 10:18:12 pm

Everything about this project is wrong. It commenced without discussion or approval. It disgraces our national heritage. It's completely out of proportion. The remains of the building have been dumped unceremoniously and contemptuous on a Washington DC golf course frequented by actual Americans who actually work for a living, probably so Trump can deem it as qualifying for "slum clearance" and then repurpose it for a big-ticket country club. It's being financed by private donors who are seeking favors from Trump and family. The nation's architects have nothing but contempt for it. As with everything Trump touches, it's fool's gold. And that's just the beginning of my critique.

Shut this ugly project down and rebuild the East Wing with the original plans to modern standards.

Name: Elizabeth Klein

Date: March 3, 2026 10:22:09 pm

The White House is the people's house. It should not be a gaudy display of a single man's vanity. The East Wing should never have been destroyed without approval.

Name: MARCIA T SCHACHTER

Date: March 3, 2026 10:22:30 pm

My husband and I live at a Senior Facility in Independent Living. When I received this email with regard to the East Wing Renovation I decided to share it with one of the Activity Staff who enjoys doing lectures on subjects of interest to us older adults. He presented the Webinar today and all of the 15 people in attendance found the information very useful in allowing them to see that this is not a project that should ever have been attempted and would be nothing but an unattractive eyesore as an addition to the White House. We moved to this facility in Framingham, MA almost five years ago after spending 39 years in Florida, living in West Palm Beach, about 2 miles from Mar-a-Lago. The president knows full well, living in a National Registered Property, that he COULD NOT just tear down the East Wing, and with his ego bigger than he is, went about doing it anyway. In truth, whoever did the demolition also had to know that what he was doing was not Legal--he should be fined for this act against an Historical Registered Property. Both my husband and I are graduates of Pratt Institute, In Brooklyn, NY. He has a Masters in Urban Planning and I a Masters in Art Education. We wept as we watched the demolition in progress. And now having seen the out of proportion building that

would replace the symmetric buildings, we are even more upset as were the others watching today. There is no reason to allow this egomaniac to build such an unnecessary structure; there has been no need to have parties for 1000 or more at a time and certainly no need for the size of this structure. It's almost like saying that guests are more important than the Home of the President of the United States. It's just another excess which this person wants and doesn't care what the country thinks. Watching the Webinar also allowed us to see how it would totally change the access to either section of the buildings and both would suffer. It is both too large and an unnecessary addition to the present property and surely out of proportion to its surroundings. Personally, we would not like him to GET HIS WAY unless there is a need for more formal entertainment space, then something on a smaller scale would be more appropriate.

Respectfully, Marcia T. Schachter

Name: Avram Finkelstein

Date: March 3, 2026 10:22:39 pm

I am a New Yorker. Donald Trump agreed to donate the bas relief panels from the Bonwit Teller facade to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to allow his construction of Trump Tower, but he destroyed them instead. Now, he's demolished part of the White House without any comment period, to build a ballroom.

The White House is the People's House, not his. He is president, not the People's real estate developer. We have never needed a ballroom at the White House, and it's antithetical to the nature of America. We live in a democracy, not a monarchy. There are multiple facilities for rent in D.C. should a ball ever be needed.

I'm furious and appalled that he pulled this stunt, and he should never be allowed to proceed with this vanity project. It would be an permanent embarrassment to our nation.

Sincerely
Avram Finkelstein

[Attachment](#)

Name: Kim Knight

Date: March 3, 2026 10:22:53 pm

I respectfully oppose the East Wing modernization project due to serious concerns about the lack of oversight, the absence of meaningful public input, and the failure to prioritize historic preservation.

This project was initiated without adequate notice to the public and without providing stakeholders a meaningful opportunity to review, question, or comment before work began. Decisions of this magnitude, especially involving a historically significant structure, should never move forward behind closed doors. Beginning the project without transparent process and public engagement undermines public trust and sets a troubling precedent.

There is also insufficient clarity regarding independent oversight. What formal review processes were followed? What preservation standards are being applied? Who is ensuring accountability? Without transparent documentation and independent evaluation, the public has no way to assess whether the project complies with established historic preservation principles.

While certain plans may have been approved by a committee, the currently proposed designs appear out of proportion with the surrounding campus and inconsistent with the established architectural character. A project affecting a site of this significance should reflect restraint, continuity, and contextual sensitivity. Instead, the overall process appears to be moving at an accelerated pace. Given the long-term implications, one must reasonably ask: Why the urgency? What compels such haste when thoughtful deliberation and broader review would better serve the public interest?

Most importantly, modernization must not come at the expense of historical integrity. The East Wing of the White House has already been demolished, and that loss cannot be undone. However, what happens next matters profoundly. The White House is more than the residence or workspace of any one president or administration—it is a national symbol that belongs to the American people across generations. As plans move forward, the focus must be on thoughtful, proportionate, and preservation-minded design that respects the architectural character and historic continuity of the campus. Those entrusted with these decisions should be guided by long-term stewardship and enduring significance, not

urgency or short-term priorities.

For these reasons, I urge that this project be halted immediately. Work should be paused, the full scope disclosed, and a proper public review process initiated. The East Wing should be restored to its prior condition unless and until a transparent, accountable, and preservation-focused plan is presented and approved through an open process.

Public buildings of historic importance deserve public process. Until that standard is met, this project should not proceed.

Name: Elizabeth Miller

Date: March 3, 2026 10:23:24 pm

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge the National Capital Planning Commission to ensure that any redesign of the White House East Wing—particularly the proposed ballroom addition—is evaluated with exceptional care, restraint, and respect for the architectural legacy of the White House.

The White House is not simply a residence or event venue; it is a National Historic Landmark and one of the most recognizable civic structures in the world. Changes to its form therefore carry extraordinary cultural and symbolic significance. Major alterations should uphold the architectural harmony, proportion, and historic dignity that have evolved through more than two centuries of careful stewardship.

While the need for a larger, secure space for state functions is understandable, the scale and architectural implications of a large ballroom addition raise legitimate questions about how such a structure would affect the visual and historical balance of the White House complex.

In evaluating this proposal, I respectfully ask the Commission to ensure that several guiding principles remain central to the review process:

1. Respect the historic composition of the White House complex.

The Executive Mansion is globally recognized for its restrained classical architecture and balanced proportions. Any new construction should remain visually subordinate to the historic residence rather than competing with it in scale or presence.

2. Avoid creating a structure that overwhelms the historic building.

Historically, additions to the White House complex have been discreet and deferential. Expansions that dominate the composition risk undermining the architectural clarity that has defined the White House for generations.

3. Ensure the highest level of design excellence and public transparency.

Because the White House belongs to the American people, major changes should involve rigorous review, thoughtful design leadership, and transparent public engagement.

4. Pursue alternatives that integrate more harmoniously with the historic architecture.

If additional event capacity is necessary, design solutions should prioritize architectural continuity, careful siting, and strategies that minimize visual impact on the historic structure and its setting.

The National Capital Planning Commission plays a vital role in safeguarding the long-term character of Washington's most important civic landmarks. I respectfully ask the Commission to ensure that any final design reflects the enduring architectural values of the White House: balance, dignity, restraint, and continuity with the past.

Future generations should inherit a White House that reflects thoughtful stewardship rather than short-term architectural experimentation.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Miller
Cypress, TX

Name: Betty Giorgi

Date: March 3, 2026 10:24:31 pm

Why was the destruction of the east wing done without any discussion or formal presentation of the plans? This should be a decision that is done with care, time and transparency. This is the people's house not Trump's palace. Was this done with architectural and contractor bids? Why is this funded by private investors who may expect special privileges?

Name: Jessica Morgan

Date: March 3, 2026 10:24:53 pm

As a student of history, I was taught at one of the country's most respected schools of Architecture that the most tasteless and vulgar monuments are commensurate with the scale of inelegance and vulgarity of the administration that imagines them. These are the qualities that define the lack of any redeeming features whatsoever in the proposed East Wing Modernization Project. Please save a discerning citizenry from this disaster. Vote NO.

Thank you, Jessica Morgan

Name: Joann Colombo

Date: March 3, 2026 10:25:17 pm

Please allow the American people to have input on the changes made to the White House which is owned by them!

Name: Katharine Cannon-Eger

Date: March 3, 2026 10:26:10 pm

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony. I have been involved with historic preservation and restoration projects in Hawaii for 50 years. Years ago, I had family who resided in Washington DC and have visited there many times. The present plan for the addition of a ballroom adjacent to the White House appears to be out of classical balance. The drawings presented overshadow the historic residence and the axial connection to other historic buildings is disrupted. As currently designed, the overlarge structure would block a pedestrian's view of the White House. The height and bulk would eclipse the White House and historic landscape.

The unusable portico offers no access to the proposed building let alone any ADA access.

There are ways to site and size the proposed ballroom/east wing so the resulting building is more in line with industry standards for square footage to accommodate the desired number of guests. A suitably sized lower profile building could fit in with the historic setting while still providing for future office space, meeting, and entertaining needs.

Thank you,

Katharine Cannon-Eger

Hilo, Hawaii

Name: Carolyn Gutjahr

Date: March 3, 2026 10:27:35 pm

I am writing to express my devastation at the destruction of the East Wing of the White House and my serious concerns about the planned ballroom addition to the building. The White House is the People's House. The people were not consulted about the wrecking of a wing of a classical building that is a signature piece of our nation's historic civic architecture and a symbol of our democracy. Nor were the people consulted about the need and design for a massive ballroom wing to their house. In addition, the required permitting, demolition, and review processes were not conducted prior to the demolition of the East Wing and in the design process for the ballroom. The proposed ballroom design is much larger than design standards for a ballroom to accommodate 1,000 people; the kitchen and support spaces are larger than industry standards; and the massive portico is nonfunctional and not accessible from the interior of the ballroom. The grace, symmetry, and elegant design constraint of the historic classical White House as well as its relationship to the surrounding landscape, buildings, and street layout will be destroyed by the massive ballroom addition. As a city planner, I am further dismayed by the fact that the axial, visual, and symbolic connections of the White House and the Capitol along Pennsylvania Avenue would be destroyed by the ballroom addition as would the design of the landscape and historic drive of the White House grounds. Our capital city – including the connections between the White House and the Capitol – was designed by Pierre L'Efant in 1791 under commission from President George Washington. The landscape design of the White House grounds in the 1930s was by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted under commission from President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The history and beauty of the White House and its grounds and the relationship of the White House to the surrounding built environment should not be destroyed by the addition of a ballroom that is excessive in scale and not fully functional as designed. Failing the rebuilding of the East Wing that was razed, a more modest, redesigned ballroom structure that is not only architecturally sympathetic to the White House but consistent with design standards for ballrooms and support spaces and sensitive to its setting would serve the stated purpose while respecting the history of our country, our historic buildings, and celebrated historic civic design. Bigger isn't better, and the role of the President of the US, regardless of their background, is not sole arbiter of good taste.

Name: Brian Cascarano
Date: March 3, 2026 10:27:56 pm

I oppose President Trump's plans for a White House ballroom for the following reasons:

1. The reported demolition of the East Wing of the White House without proper permits, statutory review, and public oversight represents a direct affront to established federal planning procedures. No project of this magnitude should proceed outside the lawful approval process.
2. The proposed ballroom's scale is wholly incompatible with the architectural proportions and historic character of the White House complex. A structure that materially dwarfs the existing building would permanently compromise one of the nation's most recognized civic landmarks.
3. The White House is not a private estate; it is a public trust. Any alteration must comply with long-standing historic preservation standards designed to protect irreplaceable national assets for future generations.
4. The absence of transparent disclosure regarding funding sources, contracting processes, and long-term operational impacts raises serious ethical and governance concerns. Public architecture demands public accountability.
5. Advancing demolition and new construction without meaningful public engagement undermines democratic norms. Decisions affecting the symbolic center of the executive branch must be subject to scrutiny, deliberation, and lawful review—not unilateral action.

I urge the Commission to enforce all applicable planning, preservation, and review requirements and to reject any proposal that fails to meet established legal and historic standards.

Name: Paula Richardson
Date: March 3, 2026 10:28:00 pm

This is a much needed upgrade and I can't wait to see it! What a marvelous contribution that will enhance the White House!

Name: Kathleen Sheldon
Date: March 3, 2026 10:28:47 pm

This is an abomination to our nation. This was our people's house, built by slaves, and now torn down by a mad man. The design for the East Wing "Modernization" Project is tacky and disgusting. It is also probably illegal.

Name: Molly Daggett
Date: March 3, 2026 10:30:09 pm

Even referring to this massive boondoggle as a "modernization project" is a complete misnomer. A more appropriate title would be "East Wing Destruction Project." It has been horrifying to watch the destruction of a revered building which was steeped in history. The plans for a monstrous ballroom are in no way in line with the architecture and historical preservation of the rest of this structure, The People's House. You should not allow this tacky, gaudy and ridiculous project to move forward as proposed. It is not in keeping with history or democracy.

Name: Paula Carmichael
Date: March 3, 2026 10:30:26 pm

Please reject the grotesque proposed ballroom. It is far too large, cloddy, and would mar the iconic and inspiring White House classic look. Plus, it would reward a man who threw aside the sensible rules for changing buildings that belong to all Americans.

Thank you

Name: Laura Nelson
Date: March 3, 2026 10:30:35 pm

Please reject the proposed plan for a ridiculously incongruous addition to the White House. It is bad enough that the East Wing was demolished without public input - Americans should have a say about any addition to "their" house. Trump has appointed members with no architectural or historical experience who are completely unqualified to assess if the proposed addition is appropriately deferential to historical and architectural integrity. The White House is irreplaceable as a symbol of American democracy. Please protect it against the whims of a egomaniacal despot whose only intent is to venerate himself. If the project is headed for approval, please seek out a design that is more aligned with the original building.

Name: Sandra Moore

Date: March 3, 2026 10:31:04 pm

I oppose this project in every regard. I oppose spending \$300 million (or likely much more) on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design and environmental reviews. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. It would turn our once beautiful and historic East Wing into a huge, grotesque, gold-encrusted tribute to a pathetic, insecure man. I want this project canceled and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to allow this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans. Those who illegally tore down the East Wing, should be required to personally pay for rebuilding it to its original design.

Thank you for seeking public comment.

Name: Gail Shawe

Date: March 3, 2026 10:31:39 pm

Thank you for considering the architectural plans for the East Wing, and voicing your concerns. I believe this was done secretly and without respect for the White House as it was designed. Demolition of this historic House is a travesty..
Gail Shawe

Name: Michaela Sarro

Date: March 3, 2026 10:31:40 pm

Though there is little chance to actually completely halt the construction of the ballroom, for what it's worth, I and many other Americans just think it really isn't great timing. There's no need to make such an extravagant gesture in the wake of so many human rights violations at every level; it would be nice to live in a world where righting those wrongs takes precedent - from the President, no less - over tacking on something so lavish and audacious to a historic building.

Name: Barbara Barry

Date: March 3, 2026 10:32:07 pm

The proposed ballroom at the People's House is an affront to dignity and history. Under the direction of Donald Trump, this gaudy, tasteless spectacle feels less like a tribute to American heritage and more like a gilded vanity project. Its excess and ostentation mirror the very worst instincts of its champion—flash over substance, ego over stewardship. This is not thoughtful preservation. It is not refinement. It is not what the White House represents. It is a wretched plan, a costly mistake, and utterly unworthy of a place that belongs to the American people—not to one man's appetite for glitter and self-display.
Not at my house.

Name: Erik Hendrickson

Date: March 3, 2026 10:32:54 pm

I joined the National Park Service as a construction project manager, with a background in engineering. At the beginning, I was skeptical of historical architects and the values (and complexities) they brought to projects. But over time, I learned from talented, knowledgeable historical architects the importance of preserving our past. A more gifted writer would explain the values I was taught, and you would agree, and you would feel the emotion of what you know is true:

preservation of our built environment is meaningful to our identity as American citizens, and as people who care about thoughtful design, democratic principles, and doing right by the people who live here.

Decisions affecting the White House should be made by people of good character, and with subject matter expertise. The decisions should be made as a collaborative effort, following guidance from appropriate governing bodies.

I've learned countless stories about details of how buildings came to be, and the people behind the stories. Nothing I've learned from news reports regarding the East Wing is consistent with good principles of architecture or historical architecture. Based on my career experience, a new start with good people is needed.

Name: Isabelle Harley

Date: March 3, 2026 10:34:18 pm

The plans for the "Modernization of the East Wing" are a stain on our national character. The style, if you can call it a style, is without restraint and does not belong in the People's House. I ask that you reject these plans which have had the effect of dividing our nation. It is also in very poor taste to build a ballroom while there is so much strife in our country and around the world. Please-put a halt to this eyesore and this unilateral decision. Stamp out the Gilded Age Revival and bring back the dignity of the Executive Branch by denying the construction of a ballroom for the elite.

Name: Rick Moore

Date: March 3, 2026 10:34:53 pm

I completely oppose this project! I oppose spending \$300 million (or much more) on a project that was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design and environmental reviews. I oppose a project that is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history; it would turn our once beautiful and historic East Wing into a huge, grotesque, gold-encrusted tribute to a pathetic, insecure president. Cancel this project and rebuild and restore the East Wing to its former design. No one is above the law and to allow this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans. Those who illegally tore down the East Wing, should be required to personally pay for rebuilding it to its original design.

Name: Patricia Brown

Date: March 3, 2026 10:35:12 pm

To the NCPC

My name is Patricia Brown and I am writing comments to address the proposed new addition to the White House after the demolition of the East Wing.

I worked in architecture for many years including many commercial and residential remodeling and renovation projects. It is my professional judgment that the current design of the addition does not convey any sense of proportion, scale or balance as it relates to the historic White House building and its footprint on the site.

A more scaled down and nuanced presentation of an addition to this historic building should be required before a bad precedent is established for future projects and generations.

Respectfully submitted

Patricia Ann Brown

Santa Monica California

Name: Wendy Noble

Date: March 3, 2026 10:36:55 pm

The abrupt demolition of the East Wing was both shocking and heartbreaking. How can one man destroy one of our country's landmarks without any public input or Congressional authority? Now the symmetry of the White House has been destroyed, and it will be dwarfed by a gaudy ballroom that is neither needed nor stately and dignified. Please use whatever powers you have to stop this desecration of " the People's House". This is not his private property. The people did not vote for a monstrous, opulent ballroom. The White House is part of our National Heritage, not an extension of one man's need for self-promotion.

Name: elizabeth brooking

Date: March 3, 2026 10:37:43 pm

Tearing down the East Wing will never be forgiven or forgotten.

This project is a grotesque abuse of the public trust and a \$400 million affront to those who struggle with the ever increasing costs of living in this country.

The proposed ballroom - so much larger than the White House itself - merely telegraphs to the world the lack of seriousness that is a hallmark of this administration. Clearly, glad handing and entertaining is far more important to this administration than doing the work required to best serve the needs of the people of this country.

Disgraceful.

Name: Linda E Marshall

Date: March 3, 2026 10:38:25 pm

This is not a “modernization” project; instead, it is complete and total devastation of a piece of American history done without Congressional approval. It was an illegal action for which President Trump should be held responsible to the fullest extent of the law. Tearing down a wing of the People’s House without approval of the people, i.e. Congress, is reprehensible and inexcusable.

Name: Sarah Ed

Date: March 3, 2026 10:38:59 pm

I oppose the ballroom project because it damages a historic part of the WhiteHouse and it is a waste of public money that could go to projects that are more pressing for the American people.

Name: Kathe Gregory

Date: March 3, 2026 10:41:19 pm

I am adamantly opposed to the current design of the enormous ballroom connected to the White House. It is too high, too big and blocks the view of the White House from Pennsylvania Avenue and beyond. The fact that the entrance at the portico does not lead anywhere and has fake doors are absurd architectural features. To ignore the scale in comparison to nearby buildings – especially the White House – as well as dismiss architectural standards in general are unacceptable. Finally to destroy the original Olmstead landscape oval to accommodate the un unnecessarily oversized ballroom is criminal in my view.

Name: Kay Krehbiel

Date: March 3, 2026 10:44:28 pm

The White House is the American People's House and I hope the NCPC will listen to us. The proposed 90,000 square foot ballroom addition will inappropriately overshadow the White House itself and destroy the balance of the White House complex including the grounds in its present form. From my perspective as an ordinary American the proposed ballroom is will be a gigantic blot on our capital and does not, as is should, respect the history and legacy of the White House.

Name: Lynn Lamb

Date: March 3, 2026 10:44:41 pm

Unilaterally tearing down the East Wing of the White House was illegal and Trump should be held accountable. He is not authorized to demolish the "People's House" without going through the proper channels. Building a 90,000 square foot ballroom is unnecessary and is a demonstration of the robber barons excesses during the gilded age. Is this the image we the people want to display to the country and the world. I do not. Trump needs to focus his attention on rebuilding the

infrastructure of this country and other domestic issues that are badly needed. This East Wing Modernization Project should cease immediately and the East Wing should be rebuilt in the previous style commiserate to the scale and design of the White House.

Name: Anne Merritt

Date: March 3, 2026 10:45:54 pm

I am appalled that the East Wing was demolished without input from Congress or the NCPC. Do not allow the president to unilaterally destroy any of our historical institutions and replace them with his ego projects. This building is the People's House and he is simply a short term tenant. It is disgraceful that Trump is flouting our deliberate processes in place to protect institutions and history, and no one is stopping him from selfishly aggrandizing his time in public office. Restore the East Wing instead of building the gaudy ballroom!

Name: Erica Moskowitz

Date: March 3, 2026 10:46:16 pm

This is an egregious abuse of public office and a disgusting misuse of public funds. To waste time and money on an elaborate reenactment of the gilded age during an affordability crisis is akin to spitting in the faces of the American people. Please do not cave to the desires of the most selfish and out of touch president in the history of our country. The destruction of the historically significant East Wing is a tragedy that cannot be undone, but we can still make sure that space serves its intended function as the office of the first lady, a function which should be far more significant than that of a reluctant hostess.

Name: rhonda sonnenberg

Date: March 3, 2026 10:46:55 pm

Illegal desecration of the people's house by a narcissist, madman president who lacks any sense of decency and class. The American people reject a hideous paean to the president's own ego. The White House and federal buildings are not his to destroy.

Name: Michelle LaVoy

Date: March 3, 2026 10:50:15 pm

I have grave concerns regarding the addition the East Wing ballroom. It is simple too big and gaudy and will completely overtake the White House itself. We are not a kingdom but rather a representative democracy..a republic. This proposed addition along with so many of the other changes recently made at the white house detract from the dignity and historical significance the White House and it is my sincere hope that the new East Wing complex including the mew ballroom not be allowed to continue. I cried when they destroyed the East Wing for this vanity project necause of what has been lost.

Name: Hollis Mulwray

Date: March 3, 2026 10:50:19 pm

Greetings NCPC

I hope this moment finds you well. I am an architect with offices in Los Angeles and New York and feel compelled to submit my thoughts on this project. I am aware of the current lack of existence of the former East Wing. I am also a huge proponent of renovation and removal. Sometimes no amount of restoration will fix what never worked. Every situation is its own unique challenge and requires thoughtful solutions. Context, location, light, scale, materials and mass must all be assessed. I believe each architect on this project has considered carefully each of those elements. But their client scribbled on a gum wrapper with a sharpie and this is what was submitted. I realize the Commissioners to the NCPC are there at the pleasure of the person that appointed them, but please don't go down in history as the enabler of an architectural atrocity. History won't be kind to any of you unless you do the right thing and vote NO.

Sincerely H.Mulwray

Name: Sharon Sprague

Date: March 3, 2026 10:50:32 pm

I strenuously object to the design and scale of the proposed East Wing building. Even if the White House could benefit from having a larger event space, this is not the way to do it. The proposed new building (just labeling it a "modernization project" seems entirely disingenuous) is so massive and out of proportion to the existing historical structure that it is laughable. The historical White House will be dwarfed and overshadowed by this outsized monstrosity. After decades of careful attention to the scale and placement of all sorts of federal buildings and monuments in our beautiful city, it is heartbreaking to see all of that upended. At a minimum, it was truly irresponsible to bulldoze the building (over a weekend!) in advance of careful planning for what would replace it. The process occurring now, with the President's hand-picked Commission members in place, is an embarrassment. Surely, even loyal acolytes can see how disproportionate the proposed addition is. Yet they (you) will no doubt forge ahead. Will someone please grow a backbone and place some limit on the President's lawless (not to mention, tasteless) approach to this project? I won't hold my breath.

Name: Valerie Przywara

Date: March 3, 2026 10:50:55 pm

Decisions on the proposed building should be informed by experts like the Commission.

The president should not be the sole decision maker.

Name: Michelle Foster

Date: March 3, 2026 10:51:24 pm

This is an appalling project, preceded by the equally cavalier destruction of the Rose Garden. Mrs. Trump did a lovely, thoughtful update to those gardens in the first term. Now, it is just a common patio.

This project, too, is grandiose and poorly aligned with the American values enshrined in our Constitution and professed by conservatives. We do not have a king. We do not have a monarch. We do not need or want a gilded throne room.

Name: Vanessa Lilly

Date: March 3, 2026 10:52:02 pm

Putting aside the flagrant, and possibly illegal, destruction of the previous East Wing of the White House, I would like to comment on the egregious and unnecessary size of the proposed replacement. Industry standards call for 10-15 square feet per person for a ballroom: a 650-person ballroom (as proposed by the White House 07/31/25) would call for 6,500 to 9,750 square feet, while even an 1,000 person ballroom requires about 12,000 to 15,000 square feet.

Why does this administration need a 90,000 square foot space? Please have the White House defend this need using fact not fiction.

Furthermore, the building proposed will dwarf and make a mockery of the actual White House. Not only is it too large: it is hideous and unimaginative. The exterior is a boring sham unrelated to the interior configuration, while the interior is a gross display of gilt surface ornament in keeping with the palace of a crooked despot or absolute monarch (please see Versailles, the residences of Vladimir Putin or many Middle Eastern royal palaces for examples). There is no architectural ingenuity involved. There is nothing Great or American whatsoever.

If your committee approves this plan each member will have to live with your act for the rest of your lives, our country with the gargantuan mess for as long as it stands. Please examine your conscious, your sense of good taste and your understanding of what The United States of America means and vote against this project.

Name: Leslie Lincoln

Date: March 3, 2026 10:52:21 pm

Please ensure that the ballroom addition does not dwarf and diminish the historic original Executive Residence/Peoples' House.

- The addition should be on the same scale as the Executive Residence and nearby Treasury Building, and fit in with existing buildings in the capital.
- The tenets of classical design should be followed so that the White House complex scale is retained and is well balanced with the main focus on the Executive Residence.
- The volume and height of the new construction should be reduced or partially put underground so that it does not appear larger than the historic Executive Residence.
- The proposed portico on the south side should appear less important than that on the Executive Residence south facade.
- George Washington's requested views to the Capitol along Pennsylvania Avenue should not be blocked.
- Olmsted's symmetrical design for the South Lawn should be retained.

Please don't allow this historic, iconic building to lose its classical character.

Name: Gilbert Pasquale

Date: March 3, 2026 10:54:12 pm

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 90,000-square-foot East Wing expansion. As a National Historic Landmark, the White House belongs to the American people, not any single administration. The demolition of the original 1902 East Wing structure was an irreversible loss of our architectural heritage.

My primary concerns are:

Scale and Massing: The proposed ballroom is nearly twice the size of the Executive Residence. This "McMansionization" of the White House destroys the intentional architectural harmony and subordinates the historic residence to a modern event space.

Procedural Bypass: The decision to begin demolition before completing Section 106 reviews or securing Congressional approval sets a dangerous precedent for the treatment of federal historic sites.

Integrity of the South Lawn: The expansion significantly encroaches on the historic landscape of President's Park, permanently altering views that have been preserved for over two centuries.

I urge the Commission to reject the current "Ballroom" plans and instead require a design that is subordinate to and respectful of the historic mansion.

Name: Dan Brigman

Date: March 3, 2026 10:54:35 pm

I appalled by the destruction of the East Wing without proper oversight, communication with the public, and the expense.

Between \$200,000,000 and \$400,000,000 for a vanity project that no one but the current president wants.

It will overshadow the White House, which makes the entire process nonsensical.

Please stop with the idea of a ballroom and simply rebuild what was destroyed. Legislation needs to be enacted to stop politicians from unilateral decisions like this.

Name: Jessi Peterson

Date: March 3, 2026 10:54:45 pm

I want to share my thoughts about the proposed ballroom replacement for the summarily demolished East Wing of the White House. I have grave concerns about the plans as they stand now. Firstly, they interfere with the historic vision for Washington D.C., going back to George Washington. The street plan and sight lines have always facilitated a visual connection between the White House and the Capitol straight down Pennsylvania Avenue, but the plans as submitted obstruct that sight line. The plans also throw the balance of the White House itself off kilter - the ballroom is decidedly

out of scale and proportion with the White House and the West Wing, losing the intended symmetry. The ballroom would overshadow the actual White House in form, and is in excess size wise of needs for its intended purpose. The interior space as imagined is quite frankly a marble barn with no way to subdivide the space for more intimate gatherings. How often would that space be used? What would the costs to heat/cool that space be? It also impinges on the grounds planned by Frederick Law Olmsted, our country's most renowned landscape architect. The plans also include a completely non-functional portico that does not connect to any interior spaces, so is useless as an entrance and also non-functional as an alternate outdoor venue for smaller gatherings. This space belongs to we, the people of the United States, not to any one occupant of the presidency, so I would like time taken to do due diligence on what would be both functional, practical, beautiful, and respectful of our great history as a replacement for the East Wing, rather than hurrying into the first plan that comes along.

Name: Stephen Olcott

Date: March 3, 2026 10:54:56 pm

I am opposed to the current proposal for the addition of a ballroom to the White House complex. As you have been informed the current proposal for the ballroom would destroy the symmetry of the White House complex and is not in keeping with the tenets of Classical Architecture which were of primary intent with the construction of the White House as intended by President George Washington. The proposed ballroom would dwarf the White House and obstruct the line of sight axis linking the White House to the US Capital . As currently proposed the ballroom would also destroy the symmetry of the circular driveway currently in place leading up to the White House. The size of proposed ballroom would require the driveway to be altered(moved) to accommodate the large ballroom.

The proposed Corinthian columns on the ballroom portico are not in keeping with the Ionic columns on the White House portico ,again this is not in keeping with the tenets of Classical Architecture.

I would urge the Commission to reject this project and engage the services of architects who will design a much smaller ballroom which would match the classical style of the White House, preserve the symmetry of the White House complex and maintain the line of sight axis to the Capital and the symmetric circular driveway in front of the White House.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Stephen Olcott

Name: Monica Scanlon

Date: March 3, 2026 10:55:14 pm

To Whom it May Concern:

The current plan for an approximately 90,000 square foot ballroom to the White House does not in any way reflect the character and values of our nation. It is being executed without the established oversight for any such project that affects the image our nation presents to the world. It flaunts wealth and privilege and no longer will be "the people's house". The \$300 million dollar construction bill may be initially picked up by the wealthiest elite of this and perhaps other countries, but the people will end up paying for this embarrassing excess many times over when these "donors" seek to receive the gratitude of our current administration in more than a simple seat at the banquet table. It is inevitable as history has proven. Please pause this abomination and assault on our national monument, re-assess the scope and opulence, and create a reasonable, functional alternative of which our nation can truly be proud.

Monica Scanlon

Name: Wendy Glidden.

Date: March 3, 2026 10:59:27 pm

Dear NCPC,

I am a retired interior designer from Palm Beach County, Florida, and I would like to thank the Commission for the thoughtful attention you are giving to this important matter concerning the White House.

I was very concerned by the demolition of the existing East Wing and the manner in which it was carried out. I am also concerned about the proposed design for the new ballroom addition. Based on what has been presented, the proposal appears significantly out of scale with the existing architecture and the historic character of the White House.

More importantly, the design does not appear to reflect the fundamental principles of classical architecture—proportion,

scale, balance, and harmony—that define the building itself. Any addition should respect these principles and integrate gracefully with the existing structure.

I respectfully urge the Commission to consider a new design prepared by a specialist in classical architecture—one that reflects the discipline and restraint inherent in the classical tradition. The White House deserves an addition worthy of its legacy and capable of enduring for generations.

Name: Emily Harbold

Date: March 3, 2026 10:59:29 pm

I vote against the horrible "ballroom" that is terribly out of proportion to the real family home once enjoyed by real people, real first families. It's never been meant to be a neon outlined (just wait) or gold-plated behemoth, an aggrandizement to crown an angry president-king. Not a ballroom, not something we need, not an embarrassment we want.

Name: Jeanne Ivancic

Date: March 3, 2026 10:59:58 pm

Hello. I just watched a presentation by National Trust trustees and fellows of The American Institute of Architects, David Scott Parker and Bill Bates, who share design modifications to protect the carefully balanced classical design of the White House. The conversation was facilitated by Tom Mayes, the chief legal officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The gentlemen clearly explained their reasons to modify the plans for the White House ballroom. As planned, the new structure does not meet architectural standards. It does not respect the historic and well planned design of the classic style of the White House, The People's House. The current design plan does not consider balance or symmetry, making it ill proportioned compared to the original structure. It is grand in scale, but does not match the surrounding historically planned architecture.

A major problem with the current plan of the ballroom is that it blocks direct access from the White House to the US Capitol. The building also obstructs the designated drive, leading the redesigned drive to be asymmetrical. The kitchen is 2 1/2 times the size of the industry standard. The ballroom blocks the view of the White House because of it's ill proportioned size.

The current design plan is a concern for architectural professionals. The suggested modifications serve to protect the history and legacy of The People's House. I suggest that you advocate for the modifications to make the ballroom fit in with the thoughtfully planned design of the White House. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Name: Daniel Portolan

Date: March 3, 2026 11:00:50 pm

The fact that the East Wing was torn down without any oversight whatsoever is bad enough. What's worse is replacing it with an oversized "ballroom" that is more about stroking the ego of one American than about representing Americans as evidenced by the sheer size of the building which dwarfs the actual White House. The design is awful, the scale is out of whack in relation to the rest of the structure and this project is unacceptable.

Name: Julie Kroon

Date: March 3, 2026 11:01:06 pm

The proposed design for the new east wing of the White House has many issues that need to be resolved before the NCPC should consider any approvals.

Besides the gross disregard and demolition of the 1942 East Wing, the main offense is the massing and scale of the proposed volume, which as shown is three times the cubic feet of the original White House building. Also, the 22,000 square feet proposed for the ballroom alone would be enough space for 1,500 seated persons, rather than the 1,000 that it is said to be designed for. The new east wing would block the axial viewshed that L'Enfant laid out from the Capitol, and

would interfere with the Olmstead symmetrical drive. The proposed design breaks the symmetry and balance that the original main building had with its east and west wings and the landscape.

The design is in direct contradiction to the National Park Service's Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, which state that new additions should be "compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment." The size of the future wing could easily be reduced in footprint and height while still containing all required programmatic elements.

A building as important as the White House is to the American people and how we are viewed around the world should be given the respect and honor it deserves by having a well-designed and thought-out east wing that will be compatible with the existing structure and be loved for its beauty and grace. The current design is none of these. Therefore, I implore the Commission to reject the current proposal and request revisions.

Respectfully,

Julie M. Kroon, AIA, LEED AP
Architect and Concerned Citizen

Name: Victoria Odden

Date: March 3, 2026 11:01:26 pm

Please do not approve the large Ballroom plan. It takes over the whole White House. An addition should not be larger than the historical building it is attached to. I believe the people's house should be just that, the house the president lives in while they are in office but not their own personal house. There is no need for a Ballroom that seats so many people. For years the country has survived with a smaller space and we can continue to do so with our spending millions and without people trying to buy influence with the President.

Thank you for listening.

Name: Carolyn Zinnecker

Date: March 3, 2026 11:01:32 pm

Hello, I hope that deliberations about President Trump's plan to renovate the east wing will include architectural sensibilities. The White House is a well-known building, and represents our country in the opinion of many throughout the world. Any plans should take the style of the building into account. In addition, the proposal should include balance and proportion of the White House, the East Wing, and the West Wing. Architects trained in architectural history and design could guide the process, so the American people would have a mansion to be proud of, a mansion that could rival the most beautiful public buildings around the world.

Finally, I have to question how frequently banquets with 1,000 guests will be held. It seems that it would make more sense to rein in the grandiose plans currently in place, in favor of creating an esthetically pleasing ensemble.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Zinnecker

Name: GAIL POST

Date: March 3, 2026 11:02:24 pm

It is appalling that Trump destroyed the East Wing, a treasure of this country. This is NOT his house and he has no authority to demolish and then build a garish and unwanted ballroom. The East Wing needs to be rebuilt, but plans should include oversight from architects, historians, and designers who will create a renovation that fits with the White House and its traditional style. He has no right, no authority, and is using his plan to not only promote his grandiose ego but to continue to demoralize the American public as they are watching him destroy the dignity of the place that is merely his TEMPORARY residence. Please do everything possible to relieve him of involvement in this debacle and instead, include historians and architects who can restore it to its former beauty. Thank you.

Name: Charlotte Ackerman

Date: March 3, 2026 11:03:39 pm

I agree with the many reasons given to oppose Trump's proposed ballroom and will add another. There is simply no need for a 1000 person event space at the White House. Our presidents have always state dinners and events with much smaller carefully curated guest lists that set the stage for diplomacy and meaningful relationships. There is no justification for spending money on balls or 1000 person events at the White House. The cachet that comes with a White House invitation is because it is a special place with deep historical significance and charm. Trump's expansion and gilding of it is a destruction of all it stands for and has been for generations.

Name: Lauren Hebel

Date: March 3, 2026 11:05:21 pm

Donald Trump's destruction of the East Wing is just another step in his agenda to ignore and destroy history. History reminds us why we act the way we act, why we have the laws we have. Trump wants to erase history, forcing the American people to live in constant fear of having our natural rights violated. In razing the East Wing, Trump is only furthering his selfish, egotistical, patriarchal agenda.

DO NOT LET THIS PROJECT CONTINUE. You have the power to prevent any more damage being done to our democracy and society. Use it.

Name: Candice Reed

Date: March 3, 2026 11:06:37 pm

I'm appalled that the destruction of the East Wing was done without any approval and for the purposes of building a gaudy, oversized ballroom that will do nothing to benefit the people. Especially at this time when the economy is poor and so many people are struggling. Plus, in my opinion, it is ugly and will destroy the architectural integrity of the white house complex.

Name: Fred Fritchman

Date: March 3, 2026 11:07:46 pm

Dear Commission Members,

I am writing to oppose the plans for the new White House Ballroom as they have recently been submitted. I am a conservative politically, but also an "old house person." I live in Boise, Idaho in an 1891 Victorian farmhouse that my maternal grandparents bought in 1942. I have been careful in my renovations to stay true to the architectural history and character of the building. My goal is to preserve this piece of Boise and family history in good condition for the next generation.

As a conservative, I believe it is incumbent upon us to treasure our built American past for generations to come just as previous generations preserved them for us. The Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and our history define us as a people.

I recently joined a webinar by the National Trust for Historic Preservation where I learned of the recently submitted concepts for the Ballroom/East Wing. Three aspects of the plans concern me:

- 1) The height of the building is not compatible with the White House. The original White House must stand as the focus of any renovation or addition. Lowering ceiling heights of the ballroom and locating the kitchen service area below ground would help reduce the height of the new building.
- 2) The footprint of the new ballroom is very large and will block the carefully planned view of the White House from the U.S. Capitol Building envisioned by L'Enfant in his plan of Washington, D.C. It is my understanding that reducing the size of the ballroom's footprint so that it does not block historic views of the White House itself would still leave ample square footage to host large gatherings in the ballroom.
- 3) Details of the proposed ballroom are out of scale with the White House. The columns are much larger than those of the White House. Also, the proposed connecting hallway from the White House to the Ballroom is unnecessarily tall, unlike the connecting hallway from the White House to the West Wing.

I implore you to require that the planned renovations respect the scale and character of our beloved White House and

preserve the cherished views envisioned by the planner of our nation's capitol, L'Enfant. As my father used to say, "We're only going to do this once—let's do it right."

Thank you,

Fred Fritchman, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Name: Anne Hartzell

Date: March 3, 2026 11:09:45 pm

As Director of Corporate Affairs for the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation (PADC) from 1985 to 1996, I am extremely aware of the extended efforts in place to preserve the monuments, buildings, and sites that collectively represent the historic fabric of Washington DC and our country's history. Through PADC, I know the careful and lengthy review procedures in place to protect that history. I am utterly APPALLED at the mindless destruction of the East Wing and the thoughtless, rushed, ego-driven plan to build a glorious ballroom by a deranged and lawless president, whose only desire is to leave his biggest imprint on the people's sacrosanct White House and the city of Washington. I couldn't allow this to happen without registering my COMPLETE AND TOTAL OPPOSITION TO HIS PLANS AND HIS TOTAL DISREGARD FOR ALL LAWFUL REQUIREMENTS that have served over decades/centuries to preserve our historic structures and beautiful city. — Anne Hartzell

Name: Gina Daunt

Date: March 3, 2026 11:10:07 pm

To whom it may concern,

I not only oppose but am EXTREMELY AGAINST the spending of the ghastly amount of \$300 million or more on this project, which was initiated ILLEGALLY without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. Because of this a piece of beautiful American history over 100 years old has been erased and demolished and bulldozed as if it was garbage. This project should be immediately canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design, not the gaudy fake trump design, but the elegant, tasteful design before him. He and his family have already fleeced taxpayers out of billions, and benefitted billions more in corrupt schemes since taking office.

No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all those who abide by the law. This is the people's house. Not trump's house, and he had NO RIGHTS WHATSOEVER to damage and destroy it in the way that he has done!!

Name: Stephanie Whitlock

Date: March 3, 2026 11:11:20 pm

The White House is designated as a National Historic Landmark and is owned by the American people. Any President is a temporary resident of the White House. The Trump administration's unannounced, thoughtless demolition of the East Wing is an irreversible travesty. As an architectural historian, preservationist, and concerned citizen, I am strongly opposed to the current plans for the ballroom.

The new ballroom design as currently proposed will permanently disrupt the carefully balanced classical design of the White House complex. This design emphasizes the prominence of the Executive Residence in contrast to its two smaller, and lower, East and West Wings. The massing and height of the proposed 90,000 square-foot new ballroom construction will overwhelm the Executive Residence, which is only 55,000 square feet. The proposed ballroom massing is nearly three times the original White House volume.

The new ballroom will also permanently disrupt the physical, historical, and symbolic lines of sight and layout established over 200 years ago when George Washington commissioned Pierre L'Enfant to design the new federal capital. Additionally, the proposed ballroom would intrude on the White House landscape that was designed by renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted.

There are ways of adapting and modifying the White House for contemporary use while also preserving its historical and architectural integrity. I urge you to follow the suggestions offered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation on this

proposed new addition to the White House complex. This includes: reduce overall size and visibility; reduce footprint and protect key views; respect the established classical composition of the White House complex; preserve the historic East Façade of the Executive Residence; and ensure that the proposed South-facing portico is subordinate in scale to the White House South Portico.

Regards,
Stephanie Whitlock
Historian / Architectural historian / Preservationist

Name: Kay Fanning

Date: March 3, 2026 11:11:22 pm

I have a doctorate in architectural history from The University of Virginia - a school founded by a brilliant classical architect, the third president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson. What is being proposed for the new ballroom is garbage - vastly overscaled, dwarfing the actual White House, set perpendicularly to the rest of the complex - the antithesis of classical design. It is poorly detailed, with a huge portico tacked on at an eccentric, non-classical location.

It is criminal that the East Wing of the White House - THE WHITE HOUSE, for heaven's sake - was destroyed without any normal regulatory oversight. This aberration is being shoved through the design agencies by individuals who are completely ignorant of architectural design. Of course, that's precisely why they were appointed.

The best thing about this grotesque warehouse for the super rich is that in a better future, under an intelligent, judicious, moral leader, it can be demolished in its turn and replaced by architecture that embodies commodity, firmness, and delight.

Look it up.

Name: Julie Sarne

Date: March 3, 2026 11:11:37 pm

I am deeply opposed to the proposed 90,000-square-foot East Wing expansion. The White House is a National Historic Landmark. It belongs to the American people. I was so disappointed that the original East Wing was demolished without any attempt for input from the American people or our elected representatives.

I believe the scale of the new project is totally disproportionate to the rest of the house and to the historic buildings surrounding the area. This would disrupt the intentional architectural harmony and diminish our cultural icon of a building into a generic event space. The design is also not in line with the architectural flourishes that make the White House "itself."

I'm also deeply troubled by the decision to begin demolition before completing Section 106 reviews or securing Congressional approval. Flouting our laws and protocols sets a dangerous precedent for the treatment of other federal historic sites.

I urge the Commission to reject the current plans and instead require a design that is more in line with the scale and architecture of the rest of the White House.

Name: Karen Smithson

Date: March 3, 2026 11:12:25 pm

Please do not allow the White house to be ruined by a tacky addition. The project should be in keeping with beautiful architecture of the house itself. It should be in proportion to the rest of the house as well. The tax payers will be footing the bill for utilities maintenance and upkeep going forward. Therefore the size should be I keeping with the functions and number of people ot will be used for not some showy gaudy mess to pump up the presidents ego. The white house is not a casino or resort. All historic neighborhoods require a commitee to review plans and approve buildings that are in keeping with the historic nature of the area. This is the people's house not Trumps.

Name: Ann Huston

Date: March 3, 2026 11:12:42 pm

I object to the proposed design of the East Wing connector and ballroom. The Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties" are the required Federal standards for restoring, rehabilitating, and preserving historic properties throughout the United States. The proposed design does not meet Standard 9:

"New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment."

Demolition of the East Wing has already destroyed a historic section of the White House property without any public review. The proposed replacement structures create an imbalance in the symmetry of the classically designed structure and block the view of the White House from the Capitol corridor and other viewpoints. The size and scale of the proposed connector and ballroom are far larger than needed for the proposed uses of these buildings. They have an adverse effect on the White House and its historic landscape design.

I respectfully request that you deny approval of the proposed plans until they are modified to meet the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards".

Name: Neel Naik

Date: March 3, 2026 11:13:21 pm

If our country and president need a larger ballroom I do think that most citizens would be in favor. However it is important that a building of such significance and much future use be reviewed by consensus. Tax payers should not be responsible for each president wanting to renovate or remodel the wing based on their own personal whims or tastes. To prevent this waste, construction should be thoughtful and allow for consensus and the opinion of citizens, historians, architects and artists.

Name: Bruce and Joanna Nellans

Date: March 3, 2026 11:15:11 pm

The historic East Wing of the White House - the People's House - was illegally demolished last year, destroying the White House's beautiful symmetry. The proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom is a horrible monstrosity that would be totally out of balance with the historic 55,000-square-foot White House Executive Residence. This illegal destruction to make way for a proposed gaudy gargantuan ballroom has rightly produced a huge negative outcry from the people of this great country.

The White House Executive Residence must always be the largest structure and focal point of the site, and the White House's beautiful symmetry must be restored. Therefore the ballroom must be constructed underground, or not constructed at all, and the East Wing must be rebuilt.

Name: Ninnie Mullins

Date: March 3, 2026 11:15:55 pm

Please protect our nation's legacy of humility and keep Donald Trump's overcompensation project from moving forward.

Name: Julie Moore

Date: March 3, 2026 11:18:52 pm

The destruction of the East Wing was bad enough, but please do not replace it with something that is not befitting of the reserved grace of the White House. The current plans will be an embarrassment to the dignity of the building. There is no need for a giant, gaudy ballroom. This is "The People's House" and a glitzy ballroom has no place in it. Please stop the current plan and replace it with something that suits the White House.

Name: Pamela Courtney

Date: March 3, 2026 11:18:55 pm

I am opposed to the proposed East Wing Modernization Project. The "ballroom" is not fitting for The People's House, The White House. The demolition of the East Wing was heartbreaking, and seemed to take place without proper checks and balances and approvals for the process and future project in place.

We, The People, do not need a \$400 million ballroom that will dwarf the existing White House. Not to mention ~ who will pay for the heating/cooling of such a large space? Cleaning? Maintenance?

Please help keep proper protocol of approvals in place for future projects.

The proposed project is not needed. It is wasteful.

Sincerely,
Pamela Courtney

Name: Elizabeth Calder

Date: March 3, 2026 11:20:12 pm

The 90,000 sq.feet proposed ballroom is comparable to a massive industrial space or approximately twice the size of the existing White House. The plans were approved by a Trump appointed panel and not legally.

Looking up existing Ballrooms in the world this would become the largest. The Catalina Casino Ballroom in California is a prominent ballroom of 20,000 square. feet. In France the Salle des Fete's in the Ilysee Palace, the Presidential residence, is 120ft x 80ft. 9,600 sq. feet.

I watched the webinar on January 25th and listened to the objections to a 90,000 sq.ft. room. The White House is a historic Classical structure. A massive structure would throw out the balance of the building. Also, the original plans of D.C. was built with axis, roads, where the White House can be seen from many places in the city. A massive addition would block the view of the White House as well as the front circular driveway.

The White House is called the "People's House" and symbolizes the democratic, elected power of the American people. The 90,000 square ft. Ballroom is too large and the East Wing should be built back in accordance with the will of the people and the law.

Thank you.
Betty Calder

Name: Shawn Tubb

Date: March 3, 2026 11:21:15 pm

Please see attached letter from Shawn Patrick Tubb for NCPC File Number: 8733

[Attachment](#)

Name: Tom Shillinglaw

Date: March 3, 2026 11:21:43 pm

I am strongly opposed to this half baked (quarter baked ?) idea. Trump states that it will be funded by public donations - so the obvious first question is what is the quid pro quo to be offered to donors - they (or I assume the great majority) are not giving money for this without getting promises in return. It smacks of graft. What will be the annual expenses to keep this building operating ? Republicans think money grows on trees. They think the American public is stupid. Then, who would attend the affairs in this new tacky monstrosity ? Only the well heeled for sure - and entrance would again be given out to people who would be expected (I assume) to give something back to the President's party in return. In a word, there is no free lunch. This is not Alice in Wonderland. The probability (certainty ?) for graft is simply beyond the pale. This crack pot project should (must) be rejected out of hand for that reason alone. Now, I know that the Commission is now stuffed with Trump minions who will not go against him (shades of the Soviet Politburo), so the project will (incredibly)

be approved by you spineless guys / gals -- so my efforts are to be contacting our New Mexico Congressional delegation for them to assert publicly (now) that as soon as there is a Democrat in the White House (with a rational, patriotic Congress) that this addition to the White House will be torn down and the East Wing will revert to what it was - and in a real sense always had been.....a building to do America's public business, not an entertainment venue.

You want my main concern ? The White House is the center of OUR government - not Trump's plaything. This Trump idea is ridiculous. If he wants to have an entertainment venue, have him build it adjacent to his mansion in Florida (with his or his family's own money). The White House is not his house - it's as much my house. The problem is that Trump hates my country, a country of decency, hates our country's government - and is doing everything he possibly can to cause harm to MY country - and I would hasten to say most Americans feel exactly as I do.

Commission - have the integrity (in short supply these days) to announce publicly the results of these written comments. I dare you to do so.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Shillinglaw, Santa Fe, N.M.

Name: Andrea Conover

Date: March 3, 2026 11:21:59 pm

I was disappointed to see the Trump administration tear down the historic wing of the White House before the public had a chance to weigh in. Historical, design, and architectural experts need to be consulted before this project moves any further. The budget is huge and there's no need to accept a less than thorough process.

Name: Jane White-Broderick

Date: March 3, 2026 11:24:05 pm

Please do not use Trump's plans for east wing ballroom. It is grotesquely oversized and blocks the historic view of the Capitol from the White House. The alternative plans suggested by NCPC are closer to historic commitment. No building on the White House grounds should overshadow the people's house.

Name: Jennifer Neff

Date: March 3, 2026 11:26:28 pm

America has more than enough McMansions already without turning the White House into one. This would be a stain on our country.

Name: Lindsey Kennedy

Date: March 3, 2026 11:26:53 pm

"They paved paradise, put up a parking lot." Joni Mitchell said it best. From the cement pad over the Rose Garden to the abrupt East Wing tear down, America's history has been gutted. Are the cherry trees next?
Is it feasible to make this ballroom convertible to a detention facility, to be utilized between state dinners?

Name: Christine U'Ren

Date: March 3, 2026 11:27:17 pm

Dear NCPC:

I am disturbed not only by the design of this project, but by the hasty way it was pushed forward by President Trump. The White House is not his house alone--it is our house. The majority of U.S. residents did not want the East Wing demolished, but it was done anyway. Now that it is too late to save that part of the structure, it is important that the people have a say in what is built to take its place.

The proposed ballroom is far out of scale, dwarfing the White House itself and cutting into Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.'s circular South Lawn driveway. It blocks views of the White House for pedestrians, and is out of balance with the other

structures on the property. It disrespects Pierre (also known by his American name, Peter) Charles L'Enfant's and James Hoban's historic designs for the site. And it simply doesn't need to be so large and elaborate. The original President's House was purposely intended to be sober and restrained, as a counter to the flashy royal palaces that housed hereditary monarchs elsewhere in the world. A republic for the people demanded a different style of architecture, a style that may now be compromised by this new ballroom.

What kind of message does it send about our country, when a room for parties is given so much more space than the buildings where the real business of government takes place?

What kind of message does it send about the administration's respect for the citizens of the United States, when our feelings about the historic buildings we collectively own and love are simply ignored?

There are proposed plans for smaller, more reasonable ballrooms available. Please consider those, and respect the history and the purpose of our People's House.

Name: Denise Manzari

Date: March 3, 2026 11:30:20 pm

Dear Members of the NCPC,

As the owner and steward of a 1762 historic home in Connecticut, I am all too aware of the disservice that too often results when attention to historic detail is ignored at the peril of these precious buildings.

Many thanks to the Commission for your attention to this matter of the White House and the incongruity of this proposed structure as it pertains to the significance of possibly the most historically relevant structure in the nation.

It was a great disappointment to see the East Wing completely demolished, with no evidence that at the very least, the historic materials would be repurposed in a thoughtful and sensitive design that would complement the building already in existence.

My understanding is the ceiling in the proposed ballroom will be 23 feet high?!, and the sheer grandiosity of it and the proposed garish decoration will dwarf the current structure in size and not complement its historic character.

I understand the need to address certain modern day "insufficiencies," but there was no consideration given whatsoever, that would have addressed the scale of design as it relates to the existing architecture, nor any respect to the historic relevance that is OUR, the people's House.

Thank you for taking the time to read my response.

Sincerely

Denise Manzari
Connecticut

Name: MaryKay Mahoney

Date: March 3, 2026 11:30:32 pm

Please stop this travesty, which will be an architectural monstrosity as well as an erasure of history.

The East Wing was illicitly bulldozed after the administration had promised that their intended renovations would leave the East Wing untouched. Now its proposed replacement is a vanity project, one which will in size and visual impact dwarf the White House. The whole process is illegitimate in terms of procedure, and a dictatorial ego-boost for someone who wants his Mar-a-Lago-style ballroom, probably to be named after him, to overwhelm the People's House—an architectural equivalent of his grandiose authoritarian plans for the country as a whole.

Name: John Paul

Date: March 3, 2026 11:31:38 pm

Respectfully,

While I can't speak to the necessity of demolishing the old East Wing and replacing it with a large ballroom, I do want to voice my displeasure at the design. This current plan is just cheap looking and gaudy. You can be classy and impressive without making it look like that's what you're trying to do through copying some vision of a Sheik's palace with all the marble and gold. I hope to think American architects and designers can do better than this with creative, original work that also harkens back to traditional aesthetics.

Obviously, I don't have the same taste in design as President Trump. I think all the marble and gold is unoriginal, boring and classless. But my real fear is that whoever comes next will dislike it so much, which I think is highly likely, that we'll have to go through another expensive redesign. I see this as ultimately being a huge waste.

Thank you for your attention to this matter

Name: Manuel Ochoa

Date: March 3, 2026 11:32:49 pm

Please see letter attached with comments for the East Wing Modernization of the White House.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Doris Myers

Date: March 3, 2026 11:33:07 pm

The White House was a beautiful well balanced building. Then, the East Wing was demolished. The historians, architects, American public, Congress, agencies whom I assumed would be involved did not have a chance to speak. The current plans are expensive, disproportional, and ugly. The architect of D.C. in general and the White House in particular are and should remain inspiring--not gold plaited ugly. Please reconsider.

Name: Josh Rosenberg

Date: March 3, 2026 11:34:05 pm

An appalling and disgraceful waste of taxpayer money and an architectural abomination, all done to feed the ego of a selfish, weak, and pathetic president, who may be trying to compensate for having a very small penis.

Name: Lori Shriner

Date: March 3, 2026 11:34:38 pm

I write in opposition to the Trump Administration's proposed replacement of the White House's east wing. The proposed Trump ballroom facility is an inefficient use of space and funds, even donated funds. The facility is unnecessary, unsightly and does not fit into the area's lovely, time-honored master plan. The scale is wrong for the location and blocks the symbolic site lines between the people's white house and the people's legislative branch. The huge front portico is egregious in its lack of function and access. The administration should be required to follow the planning regulations and processes to save this mistake from having to be removed later. Thank you.

Name: Jennifer E Winson

Date: March 3, 2026 11:34:51 pm

I am writing to oppose the current plans for the east wing modernization project. From what I understand, the current plans do not follow the historical intentions of the Washington, DC city designers. The entire city is laid out in a classical Roman design, that reflects their building principles of strength, utility, and beauty. Each building, and the views from them, follow an axial relationship, linking the main buildings together. The current proposal violates these design concepts in several ways. First, it is out of proportion with the historical White House and the landscape design of the property it sits on. The mass of the design is three times the mass of the original White House. Secondly, it is oversized for the designated intent of the building. It does not follow high industry standards, nor does the design justify the plans at

over 47% larger than those standards. Thirdly, it is poorly designed. The portico has false entry doors, with no way of getting from the portico to the ball room level. The portico is not ADA designed. The street entrance is over 25 feet below the ball room floor. The exterior columns will block the views from the interior and are not symmetrical to the original White House design.

There are adjusted plans that could be considered to correct these design mistakes. Reducing the size of the ball room to high industry standards will go a long way to fixing these errors. If the "People's House" really needs a ball room, then let it be in harmony with the historical symmetry of the original building, and the original designs for Washington, DC. Ruining our city and our treasured White House as we celebrate our 250 birthday is just wrong.

Name: Mary Bennett

Date: March 3, 2026 11:36:58 pm

I ask that you seriously consider the comments submitted by Laurel Bern, a designer with a strong appreciation of architectural history.

She points out the need for a thoughtful design that respects the needs and the history of the White House.

Thank you for your consideration.

Please remember all of us who want to be proud of our nation's home for the president far into the future.

Name: Kenneth Meyers

Date: March 3, 2026 11:37:31 pm

President Trump has no respect for our country's history. This grand ballroom project is a reflection of his cheap, gold-plated lifestyle choices. The White House is the people's house, and he should not have the sole authority to force this travesty on us. But, of course, if the project is rejected, you will all lose your jobs. I hope you can sleep at night if it is approved.

Name: Kathleen brooker

Date: March 3, 2026 11:38:20 pm

When I was an architectural student at the University of NM, I took a class on American architectural history. We studied the James Hoban design of the White House and the Pierre L'Enfant plan for Washington. It is remarkable that these brilliant and uniquely American places have survived as designed for over 200 years and have become iconic symbols of our civic values. Modesty, dignity, accessibility ...these are the values represented in the People's house and our center of government. It is our obligation as citizens to respect, protect and honor this legacy. I have reviewed the preliminary plans for the proposed Ballroom addition. I believe it overwhelms the White House and blocks the L'Enfant axis and its historic Olmsted grounds. In other words, this preliminary plan adversely affects not only the White House but impacts the historic DC plan as well. I hope the NCPC will balance the need for a ballroom with the impact of an out-of-scale proposal which blocks the views and enjoyment of our most important historic landmark. I have some suggestions, which would still allow for a 1000+ person facility: lower the kitchen and related private support spaces below grade; lower the super-sized ceiling heights; and remove the massive and non-functional portico. These steps would create a warmer and more inviting ballroom for guests. To enhance the experience and views of all visitors to our nation's Capital: pull back the addition and retain the historic axial views between the Capitol and the White House, and protect the full Olmsted oval. Our White House and Capitol grounds are symbols of American democracy. We must protect this irreplaceable place!

Name: Merrilee MacLean

Date: March 3, 2026 11:38:29 pm

The proposed ballroom would overwhelm the historic White House, for no good purpose. It is a waste of taxpayer money, especially as proposed. All zoning, historic preservation and building codes must be observed and enforced, with independent review by entities outside the current administration.

Name: Georgia Taylor

Date: March 3, 2026 11:39:15 pm

How can we allow one person to ruin the White House? And without any proper input from those that are supposed to maintain and protect our valuable government buildings. We do not need a monstrosity of a ballroom.

I'm 85 years old. I have visited the White House on tours and by invitation by Roselyn Carter for a Girl Scout function. I was proud and in awe of the history surrounding me.

Please don't let it be ruined

Name: Summers Williams

Date: March 3, 2026 11:39:59 pm

Absolutely unnecessary! This is a national disgrace, people are hungry and tired. No one, Absolutely no one needs a new ballroom. No Way!

Thanks for listening.

Name: Barbara Tomasi

Date: March 3, 2026 11:41:52 pm

In my opinion, the East Wing didn't need "modernization", certainly not in style or appearance. There may have been some HVAC, electrical, etc. upgrades needed. But now that we are where we are, it is important that new construction be scaled so as not to distract from or diminish the elegant, stately, historic building that has all Americans recognize, and the vast majority revere. Above all it should NOT be larger than the existing building and should in no way dwarf it. The White House Historical Society and the National Trust for Historic Preservation should have significant input into the exterior and interior design to be sure it blends with and compliments the rest of the building. This is especially important given our current President's seeming preference for gaudy, glitter laden decor as opposed to rich and elegant. After all, the White House is the People's House- a President is only a tenant while in office.

Name: Adrienne Paiewonsky

Date: March 3, 2026 11:42:45 pm

Dear Members of the NCPC,

I am writing to comment on the proposed design for a new addition to the White House. The proposed design is not appropriate; it is completely over-sized and over-scale to the existing main White House.

There should be a thoughtful, deliberate, and appropriately architecturally-sound process to design a building that will become part of an historic and classically designed campus that fits into Pierre L'Enfant's design for Washington, DC. The approval process should not be a rush job!!

It would certainly be possible to design a new East Wing of the White House which would complement the White House and would respect and mirror the design principles reflected in the design for Washington, DC by Pierre L'Enfant; the design of the White House by James Hoban; and the design of the grounds and gardens by Frederick Law Olmstead. Each of these designs is based on the classical components of architecture dating back to 80 BC—proportion, symmetry, and balance.

The White House belongs to the people—We The People— of the United States. At any given moment, the person who is President of the United States is merely a tenant and should be a steward of this historic and iconic building. Any person who is President of the United States is not entitled to destroy the historic and classical design of an important symbol of the United States.

Any new design for the White House campus should respect classical architecture and be balanced with respect to the historic context: L'Enfant's plan for Washington, DC, which was commissioned by George Washington; Jame's Hoban's design for the White House; and Frederick Law Olmstead's plan for the White House grounds. L'Enfant's very well-designed city plan has been in effect for generations. There is a legacy of design for the White House and Washington, DC, and the American people deserve to see it respected and continued in any new additions or modifications to the White House campus. Any proposed design must respect and abide by the legacy we as Americans have inherited.

The current proposed design is a threat to the most important house in America and one of the most recognized buildings in all of the United States and the world. The abominable impact of the current design cannot be overstated.

I urge you to reject this design and move forward with a deliberative process that respects the design of the White House and the classical architectural principles it represents.

The design proposed for the new ballroom goes against architectural principals for design and also functionality. The new design is very over-scale and will overwhelm the main White House. Also, the huge structure of the new design obliterates the axial connection—the sight line— between the White House and the Capitol building which is one of the critical features and hallmarks of L’Enfant’s plan for Washington, DC. Any proposed design which will interrupt the literal and symbolic connection between branches of government should not be allowed to move forward. The view from the Capitol steps to the White House main building will be completely block by the proposed ballroom design and will forever interrupt this axial connection, visibly and symbolically. This connection was intended from the very founding of Washington, DC.

The proposed design is discordant with the original White House building. It is mammoth beyond functionality, and there is a disturbing lack of functionality among proposed features. For example, the portico serves no purpose as there is no access to the interior. The doors shown on the south elevation are fake doors, not working doors. The design seems to not be ADA accessible. The design also includes fake windows above street level. And the proposed new connecting colonade has NO windows. How soul-less! Frederick Law Olmstead designed the grounds of the White House with symmetric gardens and drive. The proposed design distorts the drive and destroys the classical symmetry. The proposed Corinthian columns in the proposed addition completely upstage the Ionic columns in the White House, and do not reflect principles of classical architecture.

Additional troubling points about the proposed building— The proposed kitchen is two and a half times larger than the industry standard. The kitchen could be lowered to be below ground and the size could be changed such that it would be scaled correctly. This would reduce the volume of the proposed building by 38% and would lesson the harmful impact on the historic main White House building, and would preserve the axial connection between the White House and the Capitol. So, modifications to reduce the building design to match industry standards and lower the above-grade kitchen would preserve scale.

Industry standards were ignored to present such a huge ballroom. The proposed ballroom is so large that it is not scaled correctly even for a group of 1000.

How is this space going to be used?! Will it be standing empty most of the time? The space will be too big for a group of 200 people. Remember, this is not a ballroom in a conference center where there are moving walls and partitions.

Please reject this design. Please move forward with a deliberative process that respects the design of the White House and the classical architecture principles it represents. Please create a process that will result in an appropriately-scaled addition to the White House that respects history and the classical architecture of the main White House.

Name: Gregory Fite

Date: March 3, 2026 11:43:20 pm

The White House belongs to the American people. Whoever resides there does so onle after voters have sent them there upon legal election, and they serve only for a specific limited term. The current occupant of the White House demolished the historical East Wing without proper review and consideration, and he has corruptly accepted donations (aks bribes) from private interests to build an offensive, inappropriate structure in its place. The president’s East Wing ballroom project must be halted, and the appropriate Capitol architects, advisers and the public must be invited to comment about this and all other projects. The ballroom is a despicable vanity project that reflects the ego of one individual rather than the spirit of the nation. Halt the project now.

Name: Christina Scantland

Date: March 3, 2026 11:43:50 pm

I oppose the ballroom project due lack of proper authorization, violation of historical preservation standards, and the destruction of significant cultural heritage. This project lacks transparency, Congressional approval, and sufficient public review. Stop the construction and treat this as the People’s house!

Name: Mary Lucariello

Date: March 3, 2026 11:44:33 pm

The East Wing project is a travesty. We cannot allow history of this magnificent home, which belongs to the citizens of the US, to be torn down to satisfy the narcissistic ego of one man.

Name: Danielle Sullivan

Date: March 3, 2026 11:44:45 pm

The White House is not a private residence subject to personal preference; it is the People's House. It stands as a symbol of our democracy, our shared heritage, and the continuity of American government. Any alteration to its historic structure should be approached with the utmost care, transparency, and respect for its historical and cultural significance.

At a time when our country faces pressing challenges, the construction of a ballroom or other nonessential additions does not reflect the priorities many Americans expect. Preserving and protecting the integrity of this historic landmark should take precedence over aesthetic or personal ambitions.

Rather than pursuing projects that risk diminishing the character of the White House, our focus should be on rectifying decisions that undermine its legacy and ensuring that it remains a symbol of unity, stability, and respect for generations to come

Name: Marianne Schwanke

Date: March 3, 2026 11:45:05 pm

The White House is a National Historic Landmark and National Park, owned by the American people and stewarded by the National Park Service. It has been home to our presidents since 1800 and is perhaps the most significant historic site in the United States. It does not belong to Trump. It should not be altered without the proper processes. It should never have been torn down. The process needs to stop immediately and all of the relevant organizations must have the opportunity to remedy the terrible wrong that has been done by this administration.

Name: Diane Nicolson

Date: March 3, 2026 11:47:20 pm

I understand that past presidents have made alterations to the White House. But in the face of current overhauls, we need to make a stand about the limits any president can make. The White House belongs to the American people, not to any individual. Changes should be limited to maintenance and upkeep, and necessary upgrades (plumbing, electricity, wifi, etc.). Frivolous personal demolitions and additions (ballroom) should go through a strict series of reviews and authorizations to determine if the change is necessary, or would alter the National Building too much. The rules should be clear, in written form, stating exactly how much the White House can be altered. At the bottom of all this is the idea that it's not the president's property: it is Ours, and therefore should reflect the tone of what President Lincoln stated: Of the People, By the People, and For the People.

Name: Wendy Rolf

Date: March 3, 2026 11:49:06 pm

I am appalled that Donald Trump destroyed part of "The Peoples' House" without getting input from the people who own it, ie. American Citizens. He is a tenant in the White House, not the owner. As a tenant, I believe he needs to be responsible for the damages he has incurred.

Respectfully,
Wendy Rolf

Name: Deborah Ferrer

Date: March 3, 2026 11:50:35 pm

I oppose bulldozing the East Wing for a \$400 million dollar ballroom before there was any chance for public comment (it

is, after all The People's House, not Trump's), before the required authorizations were obtained, and really, just the over-the-top extravagance of such a project at a time in this country when millions of people don't have enough food.

This project is unnecessary, unwanted by a majority of Americans, and grossly tone deaf. The White House should not be a spectacle of extreme opulence for the wealthy and influential to attend parties. It should be a place where our leaders work to make life better for ALL Americans, to work for peace around the world, to preserve our most valuable resources instead of signing executive orders allowing exploitation for profit.

Just NO. We don't want a ballroom. Unfortunately, it's too late to preserve the historical East Wing, but it's not too late to do something constructive on the site. Here are some much better alternatives:

Versatile Event Spaces: An open-air pavilion, a modern conference center, or an indoor, multifunctional conservatory.

Community/Civic Facilities: A community center for public, non-state functions.

Cultural & Educational Centers: A museum (e.g., focused on "corruption and autocracy" or public history), a library extension, or an educational exhibition space.

Name: Susan Smead

Date: March 3, 2026 11:52:59 pm

I'm providing comments as an architectural historian (with a Masters degree in Architectural History from the University of Virginia), following a four-decade-long career serving government agencies engaged in historic preservation compliance.

There are standard and often legally-mandated procedures to be followed in the United States, to consider proposed modifications to properties deemed historically significant. As is well known by historic preservation and historic resources management professionals, these procedures can vary. The procedures generally depend on characteristics of the property in question (including the recognized level of the property's historic importance, the source of its designation, and the reasons for its determination of significance; ownership of the property; and its condition). The proper procedures to be followed can also depend on questions such as the nature of the project, and the proposed action that might, or will, impact the historic resource; the funding source for the project; whether any permits or licenses are required; and environmental factors that might be part of the proposed action.

An effective and fair review process includes consideration of viewpoints from those with a justifiable interest in the project. When the process is properly done, comments are considered before any action is taken that might negate the ability to consider input – such as proceeding with demolition of historic building fabric, which is typically an irreversible change.

Ignoring the review process, or proceeding with work before engaging in the appropriate review (whether pleading ignorance or deliberately omitting it), or “stacking the deck” by appointing members to review boards who are known to be sympathetic to the project, negates the ability for the project's review to be conducted with fairness and objectivity. This shortchanges the interests of those with a right to express their views, while compromising, and often irreparably damaging, historic resources important to United States history and culture.

The White House is undeniably among the nation's most historically and culturally important buildings. Obviously, beyond its status as an internationally recognized symbol of the U.S. presidency, representing with the U.S. Capitol two branches of the country's federal government structure, it is considered the “property” of U.S. citizens. Congress has the role of authorizing funds for White House maintenance, repair, and furnishing; and the National Park Service manages its preservation. It is “on loan” to individuals who occupy the office of the presidency, during their terms of office.

The White House was designed with George Washington's input, guiding the hand of architect/builder James Hoban. Washington, as he gave shape to the office of the presidency, was determined that the building would not reflect an ostentation typically associated with European royalty. In answer, Hoban based his design on a classically-derived, grand but restrained Irish “country house” model, typified by Leinster House in Dublin.

Over the 225-plus years since its construction, as those familiar with the White House's history know, it has seen many changes: it was set afire by British troops in 1814 and rebuilt; and redecorated in current fashion many times over (including late-19th-century Tiffany elements added for President Arthur, and McKim Mead and White updates under President Theodore Roosevelt). It received a wholesale structural reconstruction during President Truman's term, followed by extensive rehabilitation efforts during President Kennedy's time in office.

The question at hand is not whether the White House is subject to change, or whether it can undergo future modifications as the need arises; but rather, how that change is handled. The process must be responsible to the interests and concerns of U.S. citizens, as they voice them; must recognize the high level of significance of the building and its setting; and must follow the appropriate review process, so that the first two considerations might be realized. As a publicly owned national symbol, the requisite review, with public input given objective consideration, is essential to a fair and balanced process.

The loss of the historic East Wing, built in 1942, is egregious. The low-profile, carefully designed addition went up as the U.S. engaged in WWII, and many of its functions were defined by the needs of the nation at war. The proposed design of an extremely large ballroom facility next to the White House, if approved through the appropriate review process, must be carried out in a manner that would not negatively impact the White House. It should be guided by the principles that Washington brought to the original White House design, and conducted with democratic, transparent decision-making, as should characterize a project of this magnitude in a constitutional democracy. Many complex questions about the proposed project remain unanswered.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Lisa Lee

Date: March 3, 2026 11:53:12 pm

The White House is not the private property of any President during their term in office. Renovations are legitimate. The White House has undergone extensive renovations in the past. But the current President has shown nothing but disdain for the reasonable process and procedures for alterations to the White House.

The current East Wing modernization plans are under review after immense, and rightful, public pressure to follow procedures. And I am glad this forum for public comment exists and has been made available. Yet we cannot ignore the GAPING hole that exists due to the President's abrupt, arrogant, inconsiderate DEMOLITION of the East Wing that occurred outside any reasonable review or permits.

The ballroom that has been proposed is grossly inappropriate. It does NOT respect the historic design and symbolism of the White House. Its massive size overwhelms the White House—at heart a people's house for a citizen president. It is not a palace for a monarch or a dictator or a flashy con man.

The ballroom as proposed is not appropriate in size or scale or symbolism. It is an affront to our national treasure that is the White House.

Please do not approve the current East Wing modernization plans.

Sincerely,
Lisa Lee

Name: Judith Tanner

Date: March 3, 2026 11:54:48 pm

The east wing should not have been demolished in the first place without any consultation with congress or the people. It was a historic building and one person should not be able to just order the bulldozers in and take it out only in order to get millions from "friends" who want to curry favor. And then to put up a garish golden room to glorify himself is not anywhere near how a democracy should work. This entire project reeks of corruption. I doubt you are willing to even try to do the will of the people but I am at the least writing to voice my strong objection. Most of us hate this entire project and when others that are more in favor of democracy come into power I hope to see it torn down.

Name: Rita Conley

Date: March 3, 2026 11:55:06 pm

I am a senior citizen and extremely upset over the damage this president has done to our White House property! He destroyed the East Wing without following proper steps and submitting requests to designated committee! I want the East Wing returned to former beauty and not at the expense of taxpayers! I certainly do not want any ballroom and not 1 penny of the \$ 400 million to be paid by taxpayers ! No other president needed a ballroom and many of them had 4 State Dinners per year! Melania Trump only had 1 in the first term!

No ballroom is needed especially when they will not continue the tradition which is there for a reason!
This has been heartbreaking to see them run roughshod over our policies and traditions!
No!
Thank you,
Rita W. Conley

Name: Karen Rehm

Date: March 3, 2026 11:55:14 pm

The proposed ballroom addition to the White House is much too large for the space and will dwarf the White House. The White House is the most significant residence in the United States. Although it serves as the "temporary" residence for our presidents, it serves as our reception center for foreign dignitaries and American citizens. The proposed ballroom will be used infrequently and does not need to be so lavish. Maybe kings and emperors need to have such an elaborate space to entertain, but presidents do not. The White House is sacred land and has served our nation since John Adams was president. Please respect its history, and preserve this sacred space.

Name: Deborah Schallert

Date: March 3, 2026 11:56:33 pm

This appalling monstrosity of a plan should never be approved, particularly after demolition without consultation. The scale and design are not only inappropriate. The building is not needed and undermines the treasured history of the East Wing. It also effectively eliminates the First Lady's office and welcoming visitor access.

Name: Kathryn Guinan

Date: March 3, 2026 11:56:37 pm

Why has Donald Trump been allowed to desecrate the White House and the Rose Garden? Why wasn't procedure followed for any renovations to the White House before the East Wing was demolished. This is an atrocity. His need to glorify his own pathetic image does not apply to The People's House. This project is merely a money making gift for him and his cronies. He must be stopped. The American people by in large are sicked about what had been done and cannot be undone to our White House. How was this allowed? There is no need for the damage to go even farther by attaching his monstrous ball room to the White House. This project is shameful.

Name: Steven McGrath

Date: March 3, 2026 11:59:07 pm

Please make sure anything built is easy to affordably demolish come January 20, 2029.

Better yet, leave it alone until the next administration.

Name: Jean Berolzheimer

Date: March 3, 2026 11:59:12 pm

I am strongly opposed to the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House. This is a vanity project that is an egregious waste of tax payer money. It is an affront to all those who are facing hardships like rising food, housing and medical costs. We do not need one more project designed for the billionaire class.

Name: Janet Ford

Date: March 3, 2026 11:59:50 pm

Greetings:

I am an architect and historic architect in the State of Michigan and am very concerned about the proposed East Wing/Ballroom. I am also very disappointed that demolition has occurred, especially when it occurred at the whim of POTUS without going through the proper reviews and approval processes.

Given that we cannot go back in time, I agree with the analysis and recommendations presented in the National Trust for Historic Preservation webinar, Crucial Insights and Viable Alternatives for a More Sensitive White House Ballroom, recorded February 25, 2026 and featuring David Scott Parker, FAIA and Bill Bates, FAIA Emeritus. The analysis includes the following:

- The proposed south portico consists of 24 Corinthian columns enclosing a very large unusable space with fake windows. It is totally unnecessary and the column style differs from the Ionic columns on the White House. This portico should be omitted.
- The 22,000 sf ballroom is oversized for a 1000 person event, seated at tables. This could easily be reduced to 15,000 sf and still meet the 15 sf/person min. per building codes.
- Volume/massing: the proposed East wing is way too large in relation to the White House, when it does not have to be, as per the recommendations presented in the webinar.
- Balance: the proposed East wing creates an unbalanced design, overshadowing the White House, especially when compared with the West Wing which is sunk into the ground as viewed from the south.
- Views: L'Enfant's street plan of 1791, as requested by George Washington, has a view corridor via Pennsylvania Avenue, between the Capital and the White House. This view axis is blocked by the massive proposed East Wing.
- Frederick Law Olmstead's Landscape Plan with the circular drive is also disrupted.
- The connection between the White House and the proposed East Wing is significantly higher than the west wing and has almost no windows, as viewed from the north.
- Ceiling heights of proposed east wing are too high relative to the White House and are unnecessarily high for their functions.
- The Palladian window is a character defining feature on the east façade of the White House and has been engulfed by the proposed connection.
- The proposed East entrance portico is significantly larger in height and width than both the Treasury north portico and the White House north portico.
- The kitchen is significantly larger than it needs to be, with ceilings higher than necessary.
- If the proposed south portico is removed, the ballroom square foot is reduced, and the ceiling heights reduced, as suggested in the webinar, along with reducing the size of the proposed east entry portico, the massing of the proposed structure would provide more balance and the view of the White House from the Capital would be preserved. In addition, I would like to see the connection between the White House and the addition reduced in height.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Janet C. Ford, Registered Architect

Public Comments for East Wing Modernization Project

Total comments: 627

March 4, 2026

Name: Katie Harvey

Date: March 4, 2026 12:02:27 am

I am writing in opposition of the current plans to build a massive ballroom add-on to the White House.

This monstrosity is ugly and unnecessary. More importantly, its construction - the demolition of the East Wing - was kicked off illegally, without proper funding allocated through Congress. Most importantly, it is funded by private donations. Now, I would certainly be angry if my tax dollars were supporting such "renovations" to The People's House; but this is worse: a blatant pay-to-play scheme, where donors can curry favor with Trump by donating massive sums to a massive, ego-feeding, history-erasing project.

I am disgusted by the possibility that after Trump lied to the American people about the plans for the White House (initially saying that the plans "won't interfere with the current building"), and after Trump proceeded to demolish the historic East Wing without ever asking for or receiving the go-ahead from Congress, that legislators will roll over and say "sure, go ahead"! How dare they let our House - our history - be so easily destroyed.

Name: Maureen O'Neal

Date: March 4, 2026 12:05:50 am

The so-called 'modernization' of the East Wing is an abominable idea, carried out by a president without any approval from any committee, congress or the American people. As the White House is the people's house, i demand this horrible and horribly expensive idea, be excised , and let the American people decide what is to be done, after the president's disgusting erasure of history.

Name: MaryAnna LaFratta

Date: March 4, 2026 12:08:22 am

President Trump's plans for the East Wing of the White House are appalling. The plans reflect taste and values such as wealth, power, elitism, as if the White House was a castle for a king.

The White House represents ALL the diverse people of the United States of America. The White House represents the history our country.

I was stunned by the demolition of the East Wing.

Now that it is done, maybe it can be replaced to its former self and a bit modernized to take advantage of new technologies in building.

Moving forward, I hope your decision and of those that have a say/vote listen to us, think about We The People, and values our country reflects.

Name: Rona Gundrum

Date: March 4, 2026 12:08:23 am

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am respectfully submitting my public comment regarding the East Wing Modernization/White House Ballroom proposal.

It is imperative that we respect the historic planning of Washington, D.C. and the White House.

1 - the L'Enfant Plan symbolic axial view connection between the White House (the People's House) and the Capitol MUST be maintained.

2 - The ballroom should be in the spirit of the Hoban Plan Design for the White House.

3 - Retain the circular drive as laid out in the original Olmsted Plan for the White House grounds.

I strongly urge the Commission to adopt the plan presented by David Parker and Bill Bates in the recording of February 25, 2026 (at @ the 29 minute mark). Their plan is:

1 - very attractive, reducing the height and scale of the building, bringing the design of the White House back into balance,

2 - maintains the axial view to the Capitol, respecting the historic planning of Washington, DC and symbolic connection per the L'Enfant Plan.

3 - in addition to the above, I would like to see the portico columns removed so as not to block the views from the windows.

This will allow for the Trump ballroom while lessening the harmful impacts on the historic Executive Residence and grounds.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Kathy Hyzer

Date: March 4, 2026 12:09:58 am

That ballroom is the ugliest thing I have ever seen. Not to mention the illegal destruction of the lovely East Wing. I was recently in the White House and especially enjoyed the Jacqueline Kennedy garden. Destroyed! Shameful! How can you allow this monstrosity? The White House does not belong to Trump. It belongs to us, the American people.

Name: Martha Petras

Date: March 4, 2026 12:10:25 am

This is an abomination. Aesthetically, it dwarfs the main structure that is the very symbol of freedom in the USA. But maybe more importantly, it sends the wrong message to the people and the world - a message of opulence and 'Russian-esque' Tsarism. The image of a massive, over wrought, high budget ballroom belies America's origin story and is antithetical to the 250-year experiment of freedom, for one and all.

Name: M Cam

Date: March 4, 2026 12:10:58 am

This project is an affront to the ideals that this country was based on and a sacrilege on the memories of presidents and families that resided within those walls in the past. It was bad enough to destroy the beautiful Rose Garden that held many grand occasions and most importantly, was historical and this East Wing project has the similar flavor of eschewing anything that symbolizes honor, history, and decency. Those elements are lost on this administration and to put a cheap eyesore of a building in its place is not what the American People's House needs or wants. \$400 billion should be used to focus on universal healthcare, cancer research, education, homelessness, and not on false symbols of grandeur.

Name: Terrence DeWan FASLA

Date: March 4, 2026 12:13:48 am

By its very definition, the demolition of the East Wing and rebuilding of the proposed ballroom is NOT a 'modernization.' A classic building was totally eliminate, down to below its foundation, with no approved plans to show the American public what will take its place. And perhaps more importantly, how the proposed ballroom will functionally and aesthetically related to the White House.

I'm a licensed landscape architect in Maine and a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Over the past several decades I've concentrated on writing design guidelines for communities in New England as they face increasing pressure to expand their commercial base. When properly designed, new construction can have a positive effect on community image, with due consideration for site planning, architecture, lighting, and landscape.

The Commission has a solemn responsibility to review the plans in excruciating detail, and not simply rubber stamp the application. The public will most certainly ask, rightfully, 'What were they thinking when this was approved?' if the scale of the proposed building is not reduced and the historic landscape is not restored to its storied past.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts.

Name: Allison Davis

Date: March 4, 2026 12:15:06 am

Follow the 2000 Comprehensive Design Plan and make the new building look smaller than the Executive Residence. The footprint shouldn't extend past the south-facing facade of the Treasury Building and shouldn't obstruct the views of the Executive Residence from Pennsylvania Avenue. The classical design of the White House complex should be preserved. The historic east facade of the Executive Residence should be retained. Make the new south-facing portico subordinate in size to the White House south portico.

Name: Traci Bray

Date: March 4, 2026 12:15:22 am

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the East Wing Modernization Project, a respectful title for the disrespectful ballroom plans. As a note, I am not a designer, architect nor professional in 'the trades'. Instead, I am a citizen of the United States, interested in the integrity of the design and construction of the White House.

Washington, D.C. was developed with precise, mathematical symmetry, rooted in beliefs of many of the founding fathers. Following Classical Architecture, balance and proportion reigned, and echoed the basis which defines a democracy. Balance. Proportion. These echo the layout of the original city as a whole, as well. Form follows function. Function proceeds form. The form, and I would suggest, proposed function of the President's Ballroom project is out of sync.

The structure as proposed is out of balance. A redesign, as history will demonstrate, will assist in aligning our people in balancing. There can be no greater underlying purpose for a governmental structure in a democratic society.

Although perhaps tacky, I certainly hope the use of real, or imitation gold will be minimized, and tastefully applied if and when used.

Sincerely,
Traci L Bray,
Montgomery, Alabama

Name: Beth Leonard

Date: March 4, 2026 12:17:49 am

To all National Capital Planning Commission Members:

My name is Beth Leonard, and I currently reside in Aubrey Texas. I am excited about the opportunity being taken by the current administration to modernize the East Wing of the White House to meet current and future needs and goals. That said, it is my hope, and honestly my insistence as a citizen with a vested interest in "The People's House", that in designing the new addition, due respect and appreciation be given to the historic classical design and symbolic views and structures that currently exist on the grounds and in surrounding areas of Washington D.C..

Unfortunately, current renderings of the modernized East Wing elicit cause for pause, with the structure as proposed appearing significantly not to scale with the White House itself and in defiance of the balance and symmetry that was so carefully part of the original design. As a commissioning body with the future of one of the most important and iconic buildings in the world in your realm of responsibility, I strongly urge you to ensure that the new East Wing look as though it was always part of the original design, that you balance need with impact and architectural integrity, and that you take seriously the concerns, input and authority of The People for whom the White House was originally built.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I am excited to see how this project progresses and hope to one day stand before the newly built East Wing and be able to say..."Well done!"

Respectfully,
Beth A. Leonard

Name: Ha Wa

Date: March 4, 2026 12:19:54 am

Hideous and appalling. Architecturally unbalanced, an unsettling shrine to a weirdo whose congenital narcissistic wound is on display via his fixation with overlarge columns and other phallic compensation. Dinosaurs would be so disappointed they died to fuel machines to build this monstrosity. Can this lame president just eat his feelings in a pint of ice cream like the rest of us instead of abruptly bulldozing stuff?

Name: Jennifer Stevens

Date: March 4, 2026 12:19:56 am

The East Wing Modernization Project is a disaster. It should have gone through historic review, and the design should be to scale with the house not overwhelm it. I'm appalled the East Wing was demolished without proper process. It's the people's house... not Trump's. It's just another example of this administration ignoring norms and the rule of law. Shame.

Name: Hugh Baca

Date: March 4, 2026 12:20:40 am

Dear Sirs,

I am shocked at the gaudy gold metalwork and unauthorized idea of rebuilding the Ballroom at the site of the East Wing of the White House. It was not authorized by the Congress and is an excessive amount of funds that could have been better used for other projects. There are Americans that can't feed themselves while this money was wasted for a project so unnecessary. Funding for food vouchers would have been such a better use of these funds. We have no idea of who the donors were and what benefits it will be to them but we know this is how this administration works and it's not in the general public's best interest. No average American will likely ever be invited to use it and it then begs the question - who was this project

A concerned American citizen and taxpayer.

Hugh Baca
California

Name: Martha Foss

Date: March 4, 2026 12:24:32 am

I feel that you really need to look at classical design when you were redesigning the White House. I feel it will be an acoustical nightmare with 23 foot high ceilings. No one will be able to hear in a room that is filled with people. Do you really need a giant ballroom for the few times a year that 500 people gather for dinner? I hope that you can look at the design and keep it within the beautiful classical proportions that it started out with.

I am not saying the White House does it need some improvement however we need to keep it in scale with the beautiful capital building that benefits our country
Martha foss .

Name: Christina OBrien

Date: March 4, 2026 12:25:22 am

I was aghast at the abrupt demolition of the East Wing without any approval from Congress, the Planning Commission, or anyone else. I am equally aghast at the scale and garishness of the proposed ballroom. We do not need a gold-plated monstrosity. It's all too reminiscent of Turkmenistan's ex-president Saparmurat Niyazov and his infamous golden statue. It does not represent the American people, and it clashes unbearably with the scale of the White House. Please deny the plans, and rebuild the historic East Wing.

Name: Jordan Moskowitz
Date: March 4, 2026 12:27:01 am

This is a grotesque use of public funds. You should be embarrassed of your decision-making. This country does not need another ugly ballroom... We need affordable housing and to preserve our wilderness to collectively fight climate change. Cancel this stupid project!

Name: Sam Rogers
Date: March 4, 2026 12:27:41 am

Hello,
I would like to express my disapproval toward the White House East Wing Renovation Project. This demolition was done with no approval and is also being funded by private sources. I also express concerns about the size of the renovation. Please keep our historic buildings in their current condition - making exceptions not only compromises the integrity of the building and importance, but also allows a single person to represent the American peoples' house. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Kristen Mayo
Date: March 4, 2026 12:28:01 am

I object to the destruction of the historic East Wing of the White House. We do not need or want a 90,000 sq ft gaudy monstrosity of a ballroom that will dwarf the rest of the WH.
Thank you,
Kristen Mayo
US Citizen

Name: Marsha Sipkovich
Date: March 4, 2026 12:28:09 am

The demolition of the East Wing by Donald Trump was a despicable act! The historic and symbolic value of the East Wing is lost forever. Any project this massive should have been approved by the National Capitol Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Review Board. The White House belongs to the people, and the majority of the American people are opposed to the massive ballroom currently under construction. Trump accepted huge monetary donations from private donors to build this gaudy and disgusting ballroom. This is purely a vanity project for Trump's fragile ego. All construction should be stopped and funds returned to the donors. Trump himself should pay for the rebuilding of the East Wing from his personal funds.

Name: Nancy Sarne
Date: March 4, 2026 12:29:42 am

As proposed, the planned White House ballroom is an ill conceived monstrosity. The plans ignore both significant historical documents/context and architectural principles (including those of scale and balance). Any design for a new White House ballroom should take into consideration the needs for such an event space and its impacts both on the existing White House and the Nation's Capital as a whole.

I implore the NCPC to reject the proposed plans and to use its powers and authority to guide the development of a new ballroom through a more thoughtful and transparent process. Let's not destroy the beauty of the White House and its surrounding area but instead let's create a ballroom addition that enhances it.

Name: Joyce Harting
Date: March 4, 2026 12:31:36 am

The proposed ballroom is not in scale to the rest of the White House. I would like the East Wing to be rebuilt in the same

fashion as it was before it was torn down. We are NOT a country that needs this type of ballroom. Stop the construction and rebuild our White House as it was.....we do not have a King....we have a President that needs to respect that he is only a guest for a few years in our White House.

Name: Anne Rillero

Date: March 4, 2026 12:35:28 am

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed East Wing ballroom project. The design of the ballroom is being forced upon all of us as taxpaying Americans, without due process to ensure that it aligns with the historically significant design of the rest of the White House. It is inappropriate and wrong to proceed on this project. The East Wing should be rebuilt “as was,” because the demolition was illegal. He destroyed history, as though the White House was his. It is the property of the American people, not Trump’s.

If President Trump wants a gaudy, gold-trimmed ballroom to satisfy his desire to impress others, he should use his funds to build a structure separate from the White House, elsewhere in Washington. He can rent it out in the future if he wishes. But he should not be allowed to wield a heavy hand to force this project forward. He should not be allowed to bully those responsible for maintaining the design integrity of the White House into acquiescence regarding his ill-conceived, illegal plan.

Name: Lynn Vardakis

Date: March 4, 2026 12:38:23 am

Greetings:

I would like to see this ballroom designed/ built more to scale , more sensitive to what ‘s around it— it should NOT dwarf the White House. It’s too massive as presented — perhaps part of it could be sunk below ground to visually reduce this too-large building!! Also there’s so much false about this building... doors that don’t open for example. The columns interfere with the view out the window— and if they are Corinthian they should be Ionic anyway!!

Name: Maureen Hicks

Date: March 4, 2026 12:39:28 am

The destruction of the East Wing of the White House by Presidential fiat without abiding by any of the rules governing changes to public federal historic buildings is an outrage. Any need for “modernization” ought to have been researched and presented to appropriate governmental regulatory bodies for permission and guidance. The American people need to have been informed and consulted. Instead great destruction has been wreaked for the sake of a ridiculous and unneeded structure to boost the President’s ego and offer another opportunity for bribes and graft. I am disgusted. The project needs to be immediately halted and be reviewed by appropriate bodies. I am certain no need for a new and grotesquely large “ballroom” will be found to be justified.

Name: Michael Anderson

Date: March 4, 2026 12:39:33 am

Any ballroom added to replace the East Wing should be of an appropriate proportion to and symmetry with the existing building at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. The architecture should be understated and classical, in keeping with the traditional design. The interior should avoid the gaudy ornamentation that has characterized the modifications that have been made to White House during 2025. I would hope that all of gold flourishes that have been applied to the current building would be totally absent from any new building on the property.

Name: PATRIZIA GERMANO

Date: March 4, 2026 12:40:08 am

The Mission Statement of The NCPC commission states in part that:

“...it seeks to preserve an enhance the extraordinary historical, cultural, and natural resources and federal assets of the

National Capital Region.....enrich the lives of the region's visitors, workers and residents".

How is The NCPC then following the Mission Statement by wanting to approve a gaudy monstrosity on the site of The Historical East Wing. A demolition that should have gone through Congress for approval. And to that effect it has not had its due process.

The very partisan tone of The current NCPC is appalling.

I DO NOT APPROVE.

Name: Leslie Ann Ashing

Date: March 4, 2026 12:41:45 am

March 4, 2026

Mr. William Scharf
Chair
National Capital Planning Commission
401 Ninth Street NW, Suite 500N
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Proposed Construction of White House Ballroom NCPC File Number 8733

Dear Mr. Scharf:

I concur with Representative Michael R. Turner, Republican of Ohio and the co-chairman of the Congressional Historic Preservation Caucus who wrote to you last October regarding his concerns regarding the demolition of the East Wing. I also agree with Preserve Rhode Island's thoughtful assessment and comments about the proposed plans for the new White House Ballroom structure intended to replace the East Wing.

As for the multiple objections expressed in detail by the National Trust trustees and fellows of The American Institute of Architects about the proposed plan's proportions, purpose, axial connections, and symmetry ---these are simply a polite way of explaining why the Administration's proposed plans are TACKY, POORLY THOUGHT OUT, and will be an embarrassing EYE SORE.

Fake doorways and Corinthian columns are just two of the many ways in which the planners show their lack of knowledge, incompetency, and misplaced priorities. Most disturbing is this Administration's extensive track record in ignoring established protocol, lacking transparency, thwarting public conversation, and disrespecting the will of the American people.

The White House and its grounds are not supposed to reflect the whims of any single POTUS & FLOTUS, but rather to embody the democratic ideals on which this country was founded. The illegal demolition of the East Wing and the ham-handed manner in which this Administration is thrusting this "gold-plated monstrosity" upon Americans is deeply, deeply offensive. Please consider how History will regard this appalling chapter and your role in it. More immediately, think of the mid-terms.

Respectfully,

Name: Edward Montgomery

Date: March 4, 2026 12:41:53 am

The proposed East Wing Modernization is clearly not in scale to the White House. Repeated references to the tree line and landscaping to block it from view only reinforce the fact that it is visually too large and that everyone realizes it. The roofline should be significantly lower than that of the White House, and the footprint of the East Wing should be smaller. The current submitted designs minimize the importance of the historic White House. The two storey connecting hyphen will create even more dissonance with the existing White House and West Wing. A proposed future addition of a second storey to the West Wing hyphen that leads to a single storey West Wing doesn't make sense. If this truly is part of a multifaceted updating of the White House Complex, a comprehensive plan and timeline should be developed and presented for approval before any construction is allowed to proceed. The appropriate processes should be observed and

the codes followed to preserve the architectural integrity and significance of the People's House and its surrounding structures. This process should be thoughtful and not rushed!

Name: Holly Housh

Date: March 4, 2026 12:42:34 am

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed conversion of the East Wing of the White House into a "Trump Ballroom" represents a significant departure from the building's historic purpose, architectural integrity, and symbolic meaning. The White House is not a private development project, nor a hospitality venue. It is the official residence of the President and a civic landmark that belongs to the American people.

Opposition to the proposal is grounded in four principal concerns:

1. Historic Purpose and Civic Character

The White House was conceived as a dignified executive residence within a system of co-equal branches of government—not as a palace, entertainment complex, or commercial venue. A large-scale ballroom fundamentally alters the scale, intent, and symbolic restraint embedded in its design and history.

2. Operational and Fiscal Responsibility

A ballroom of significant size would generate substantial long-term operational, staffing, maintenance, security, and infrastructure costs. These ongoing expenditures would extend well beyond initial construction funding and may not represent prudent stewardship of public resources.

3. Architectural Integrity and Context

The East Wing is part of a carefully evolved architectural composition. A large ballroom addition risks overwhelming the existing structure in scale and proportion, diminishing the architectural harmony of the White House complex and compromising its historic character.

4. Governance and Funding Transparency

The use of private funding for permanent alterations to a nationally significant public building raises legitimate concerns about influence, precedent, and public perception. Any such proposal must withstand rigorous scrutiny regarding ethics, transparency, and long-term custodial responsibility.

For these reasons, the proposed ballroom warrants serious reconsideration and comprehensive independent review under established historic preservation standards. Please see attached for detailed comments on each objection.

[Attachment](#)

Name: carol marshall

Date: March 4, 2026 12:43:31 am

the Board has heard all the arguments for and against the large dining room requested by President Trump. Let's spend the time, money and attention to helping people in great need and loering te public debt and on many other project of much higher need.

to know that am opposed to this project . Given the many problems we face today, this clearly is not and shiold not be a priority.

I vote NO NO NO

Carol Mayer Marshall. Menlo Park, CA

Name: Jean Iverson

Date: March 4, 2026 12:43:40 am

The White House is of significant historical importance. It is representative of who we are, as a country. I believe that any part of the original structure should not be changed because one person decides to change it. Any changes should be made by a qualified group who have the expertise to design the structure so its size isn't out of proportion with its purpose. The proposed ballroom would be approximately three times the size of the original structure and would never have the importance of events that have taken place or will take place in the original structure. The ballroom should not tower over the original remaining structure. All sections of the new structure should also be functional, serving an actual purpose (should not be fake).

Thank you for the opportunity to add my comment as a citizen of the United States of America.

Name: Michael Hall

Date: March 4, 2026 12:45:20 am

The White House has long represented the subtle power held at the executive branch. The White House stood at the center as a modest but yet powerful structure. When age threatened the structure architects and planners saved and modified the structure in an efficient methodology that updated the structure while maintaining the historic interiors. Previous periods saw low profile additions made that always maintained the prominence of the White house even through different iterations of the East and West Wings. The damage has been done to the historic East Wing there is no use discussing bringing back the old structure.

The new proposal of a larger gathering space is not the worse idea, however the scale of ever aspect of the building in stark contrast to the White House, West Wing and colonnade. It more closely resembles a poorly planned addition to the treasury building. Three aspect of the building that I think of issue include the following. (1) The ratio of portico width to total facade width of the proposed south facade portico of 1 to 1. This stands as a glaring contrast to the beautiful 1 to 3 ratio on the White House and Treasury Building or rather any other notable classical architecture in the Capitol . (2) The East facade has the portico at the end where commonly, it is in the middle or on both ends in rare instances. (3) The height footprint of the building and ceilings are excessive.

I would have absolutely no issue with the addition if the height of the structure matched that of the existing State floor rooms of the White House rooms or slightly higher with the large meeting space containing up to 20' ceilings.

Additionally, the south extend would be reduced to accommodate retaining the 100% historic drive curvature and a landscape buffer to disguise the prominent corner of the new addition. The colonnade should remain one story with primary public access to the building facilitated with a main east entrance. Secondary access should be though the basement level of White House and colonnade with tertiary access though disguised points or stairs in other places.

I speak heavily on the architectural elements but I as a professional on track to be a Landscape Architect I speak for the incredible report on the the White House grounds written by Frederic Law Olmsted Jr. The plan and associated current enduring landscape elements have remained and guided improvements until now. I strongly encourage the commission to force the aforementioned changes to the building and ensure the visual effect of structure is lessened with landscape elements Olmsted used in regard the secondary structures to the east and west of the White House. The White house is greatest architectural treasure our nation has and the visual importance must be protected.

Name: Jean Morrow

Date: March 4, 2026 12:45:36 am

I object to the high-handed approach the guest in the White House has taken to spoil a national treasure. The size of the ballroom is an abomination. It should not be allowed to destroy the original concept of the Captal. How often will a ballroom for 1,000 people be used and at what continuing cost of maintenance, etc., to the taxpayers? Please, please build a ballroom that will be in keeping with it's environment and one that we can be proud of.

Name: Laurie Kahn

Date: March 4, 2026 12:46:43 am

The proposed White House ballroom (where the east wing was illegally torn down) needs to be scaled down and greatly modified before it moves forward. As designed, it would be an insult to the integrity of the White House, and the democratic values that the White House stands for. The problems with the current design are both historical and practical.

L'Enfant designed the city of Washington, DC --at George Washington's request --with carefully drawn axes. One of the most important was the axis between the White House and the Capitol building -- visually linking the people's presidential house with the seat of the people's legislators. That link is both literal and deeply symbolic. But the huge planned ballroom would block that view in BOTH directions! (If the ballroom was shorter and took up less square footage, this would NOT be the case.) The proposed design also disrupts the classical balance and symmetry of James Hoban's plans for the White House and its wings. The scale of the ballroom is too big to be an aesthetically pleasing wing of the White House. In addition, the proposed design throws off the symmetry of Olmsted's gracious landscape design, which gave visual prominence to the White House.

The new ballroom does not need to be so large and so tall! Architects are given the standard of 10-15 square feet per person for a ballroom. If this ballroom is going to seat 1,000 people, 15,000 square feet would be a gracious size for the room. Its present design is closer to 25,000 square feet! The building is also too tall. The three floors should not be 14ft, 23ft, and 19ft tall, all above ground, bringing the building to the height of more than 56ft. The first floor kitchen (shown with a 14 ft ceiling) should be underground instead --as kitchens are in most ballroom venues. And what is the 19ft tall

third floor going to be used for? The plans do not say. Why not remove the third floor? Or at least bring the ceilings down to a generous 10 feet tall? If the kitchen was underground and there was no third floor, the building would be approx 25-30 feet tall. That would be a much better fit with the original design of the White House.

In summary, the current design of the ballroom is out of balance with the original intent of the White House's urban, building, and landscape designers. It will draw attention away from the White House, rather than enhancing the gracious design of one of the country's most recognizable and important buildings.

Name: Michelle Renee

Date: March 4, 2026 12:47:12 am

I understand something must be built now that the east wing has been torn down. I asked that the cost be kept to a minimum and that it is not covered in gold.

Thank you.

Name: Stover Jenkins

Date: March 4, 2026 12:48:10 am

As a trained historian and modern architect, and co-author of "The Houses of Philip Johnson"

I respectfully ask you to look closely at the area circled in red in the attached pdf.

It is the area of the White House's existing grand Palladian window, where a proposed link crashes through it, obliterating it.

This is a massively incompetent design detail which destroys a critical historical aspect of our White House. This points out clearly what is wrong conceptually, and in design execution, with this entire project. Please look closely at this detail, I have circled in the pdf.

It is poorly conceived and poorly designed. If executed, what it does to the heart, would be on the tragic level of the destruction of the original Penn Station in New York City, leaving younger generations to mourn and pick up the pieces of the older generation's hasty and ignorant actions.

This critical piece of our White House is also found in our first President's own house, Mount Vernon. It is part of our story

"Modernization" by addition to historic treasures, of course is possible, but is the greatest challenge requiring much greater skill, imagination, and respect.

Very sincerely,
Stover Jenkins, engineer and architect

[Attachment](#)

Name: Lisa Pelikan

Date: March 4, 2026 12:49:07 am

Dear Commission,

I am writing to protest the destruction of the East Wing of the White House and turn it into a \$400,000,000.00 Ballroom for the current President.

I would request that the East Wing be returned to its original condition as a symbol of our great country.

To deface it for the ego of one individual is reprehensible, and does not represent what my country stands for.

I am appalled that there will be this huge monstrosity connected to the most important building in our country.

Since it must now be rebuilt, please allow it to be dignified in shape, size, and aesthetic. It needs to be a work of Art, not a garish eye sore.

Name: Holly Taylor

Date: March 4, 2026 12:49:51 am

I oppose the ballroom design that is proposed to replace the demolished East Wing of the White House. This proposed addition is much too large -- it dwarfs the White House, which is complete inappropriate. I also oppose the fact that the ballroom will block to historic views to and from the Capitol, which is an important traditional point of connection between the headquarters of two branches of government. I am disappointed that the proposed ballroom will intrude into the landscape and mess up the symmetry of the historic design of the landscape. I would like to see the entire project soundly rejected - it is incompatible with the historic White House. If the ballroom project is allowed to go forward, it should be scaled down -- the lower floor kitchen should be constructed below grade, and the absurd and oversized fake portico should be removed. Thank you for considering this input.

Name: Mary Wilson

Date: March 4, 2026 12:52:44 am

Dear Members,

I am writing to oppose the construction of a very large ballroom facility to be attached to the White House. I believe this addition is out of scale with the needs of the Presidency and with the historic integrity and beauty of the existing structure. A giant facility with the sole purpose of entertaining on a large scale is ludicrous at best, given the role of the people living in the White House. Presidents are not elected to entertain on a massive and regular basis; they are elected to provide leadership in governance and fidelity to the US Constitution. Entertainment is not a requirement. And there are plenty of large scale facilities in the DC area for this purpose.

Most sincerely, Mary Wilson, Stuart, FL

Name: Robert Orndorff

Date: March 4, 2026 12:53:45 am

National Capital Planning Commission:

Thank you for considering our comments at your Thursday meeting.

The White House belongs to all of us. It does not belong to President Trump. We believe he does not have a moral right to make major modifications to such an important building without consulting the people, that is, without following the normal review processes that our elected representatives have put in place beginning in 1924 when our representatives established this commission.

The present result is what one might expect, given the hasty, chaotic, improper and secretive manner in which President Trump has destroyed the East Wing and come up with its replacement. The proposed replacement looks to us like a giant big-box store or self-storage facility that somebody has decorated with columns and gold paint.

Clearly, President Trump has neither the necessary expertise nor the requisite interest in preserving or protecting the buildings that we, like so many others, love and treasure. We value the White House because it reflects our American spirit and values. We love it because it is old and simple, and because it does not (and should not) look like the palace of a king.

Major renovations have been very rare. Since 1792 there have only been five of them. The first was after British forces burned it. The second added the porticos. The third added the West Wing. The fourth converted the attic to a third floor. And the last rebuilt it because it was in danger of actually collapsing.

Gaming the process (e.g., stacking the commissions with people who will rubber-stamp his wishes, and who are in many cases unqualified to sit on those commissions) looks like corruption to us. A president works for us, and administers the nation and its buildings on our behalf. He does not own them, and may not act like he does.

Seattle

March 3, 2026

Name: Chloe McCabe

Date: March 4, 2026 12:53:55 am

I agree with the topics proposed in this project. I think the conservation of the style and symmetry of a historic building such as the White House is incredibly important. If a ballroom is to be added it should respect and complement the original architecture of the building, rather than overshadowing it.

Name: Cheryl Hubbard

Date: March 4, 2026 12:56:08 am

Trump's idea of adding a golden ballroom is outlandish and appalling. Are we going to let this madman destroy everything sacred in America? Please stop this now.

Name: Julia Loo

Date: March 4, 2026 12:59:03 am

Dear Members of the Commission;

I am glad that there are still people left in our government who understand that history matters and that our country's buildings bear witness to both, those of us who love and lead our country with wisdom and those who, inspired by greed and vanity, seem to be on a rampage to tear it down. This makes those buildings unique and precious and worthy of our protection.

When I saw the pictures of our White House's East Wing being torn down, my heart broke. This was such a powerful symbol of what is currently happening in and to our country. What belongs to all of us, as well as our children and their children, is currently being carelessly destroyed. Please, please find ways to restore the White House's East Wing and to rebuild what has been destroyed with such callous disregard for any process of historical review.

I wish that you had the power to fine those who committed this careless evil, a fine big enough to hurt them, to be paid from their personal accounts rather than our tax money. I figure that this won't happen, but I hope that you will be able to use photographic and architectural documentation to reverse the destruction that has been wrought. Maybe, while you're at it, you could also remove some of those disgustingly tacky gold colored ornaments that seem to pollute the rest of the White House, or is this too much to ask?

I am a naturalized citizen of the U.S. This country is my chosen home, and I don't take its priceless treasures for granted, be they made from stone and mortar or from ink, paper, and passionate, enlightened, philosophical ideals. This land is our land, and this house is our house, and I hope that you will be able and willing to stand up for it and to protect it.

Thank you for whatever you can do to help.

Sincerely,
Julia M. Loo

Name: Maria VanVreede

Date: March 4, 2026 12:59:32 am

The White House and its surrounding property and buildings are an iconic part of the US - to both its own citizens, and to the rest of the world. It is a part of community and nation-building. Destroying part of the building is ludicrous - especially that it was done without fully formed consent or understanding. It is a slap to the face of every First Lady, as well as every citizen of this country.

Name: Elaine Diamond

Date: March 4, 2026 1:02:28 am

The destruction of the East Wing and the subsequent plans for a massive White House ballroom represent a desecration of the people's house, galling in scope and overwhelming the careful symmetry and architectural integrity of the current historical structure and its surroundings. Why was there no formal approval process, no careful analysis and review by experts in historic preservation? Why were the bulldozers allowed to knock down walls and columns, turning the building and grounds into rubble without input from the public or the appropriate Congressional oversight committees? All of this is a stain on the current administration and our elected officials. I applaud any and all efforts to modify the East Wing ballroom design to ensure that it does not overwhelm the White House itself, block current views and pathways, and will ultimately function as an appropriately sized gathering space for future official events and special occasions.

Name: Anne Lafferty

Date: March 4, 2026 1:05:43 am

[Attachment](#)

Name: Duane Aragon

Date: March 4, 2026 1:06:37 am

It is very disheartening that one person, even if they are the president, can get away with disfiguring the White House without getting input from the American people which we were taught in school own the White House. How will a ballroom benefit the American people? Will we be able to use it? Now that it has been demolished it should be rebuilt and returned to its prior use, as office space for the first lady and her staff, including the White House Social Secretary, correspondence staff, and the White House Graphics and Calligraphy Office. If there is extra room, which apparently there is since they indicate the plan it to put those functions back there when the East Wing is completed and have the ballroom, the extra space should be used for something that benefits the American people.

Name: Aviva Luria

Date: March 4, 2026 1:08:07 am

As an American, I was alarmed and upset at the destruction of the East Wing of the White House last October, particularly as it was done without oversight or consideration of the history and significance of this building.

The plans for this needlessly immense ballroom, with three overly tall stories and a length that will extend onto the White House lawn and block the view of the central part of the White House, are absurd and grotesque. This wing will be entirely out of proportion to the entire structure, rendering this historical building asymmetrical, unwieldy, and out of balance. The added height will also serve to dwarf the main part of the White House.

Erecting this monstrosity will be an enormous mistake and a kind of desecration of our national heritage. Please put a stop to this project.

Name: Shaun Brown

Date: March 4, 2026 1:09:17 am

The destruction of the East Wing and the plans for a gaudy, over-sized, ballroom addition are disgraceful and a waste of taxpayer dollars. This project needs to be stopped at all costs and the East Wing restored. The destruction of American history is appalling.

Name: Bryan Van Sweden

Date: March 4, 2026 1:09:34 am

I am writing to recommend major changes in the design of the proposed East Wing. In historic districts across the country, private and public property owners are legally required to consider the effects of proposed alterations and new construction on the historic character of the surrounding community. Here the property is among the nation's most significant landmarks, and the building belongs to the American people. If there is any instance in which design review is

imperative, it is this one.

In his plan for the city, L'Enfant designed Pennsylvania Avenue to visually connect the Capitol with the White House, illustrating the critical (and balanced) roles the Legislative and Executive Branches play in our federal government. Preserving that historic and intentional vista is perhaps one of the most important issues at play in the reviewing the proposed East Wing. As currently designed, the new wing will completely obstruct that visual connection, suggesting that the social function of the ballroom is symbolically more important than the Office of the President and that it takes priority over the constitutional link between the president and Congress. Reducing the size and scale of the East Wing will preserve the designed viewshed that was laid out over 200 years ago.

In his analysis of the current design of the East Wing, architect David Scott Parker notes that the floor area proposed for the ballroom and the kitchen both significantly exceed industry standards for those functions. By reducing the interior space dedicated to those uses and increasing the wing's setback, the Administration can preserve the vista between the Capitol and the White House and still build a ballroom large enough to serve a thousand guests.

Reducing the footprint of the wing will also preserve Frederick Law Olmsted's significant landscape design with its symmetrical, circular drive leading to the White House entrance. As currently proposed, construction of the East Wing would require that the drive be rerouted to avoid the East Wing portico.

While I in no way condone the unpermitted demolition of the historic East Wing to build a presidential vanity project, I believe that a revised design can at least preserve the nationally significant, character-defining features of the White House and the original vista along Pennsylvania Avenue. I urge the Planning Commission to require that the East Wing be redesigned to reduce its scale and footprint and maintain the integrity of the property's landscape and the city's historic plan.

Name: Deborah Hollick

Date: March 4, 2026 1:10:49 am

To Whom It May Concern,

My husband, myself, and everyone with whom I have spoken about this proposed "Ballroom" are without exception, totally opposed to this project for a variety of reasons. The current Chief Executive is a temporary occupant of the White House, and he has no right to bypass the will of the people. This ballroom will dwarf and overwhelm the White House, the People's House, and will be an extravagant eyesore, the emblem of an imperial presidency. This is NOT what America stands for. Although frankly, since rules, regulations and respect for traditions do not exist in this administration, I have little hope that this project can be stopped or greatly reduced and modified. I hope that you will prove me wrong and restore my faith in our checks and balances.

Name: Julie Lincicome Hummel

Date: March 4, 2026 1:13:04 am

The proposed ballroom is a serious departure from the design of George Washington's vision., the classical design of architecture and the people's house. it would obstruct the axial view of the Capital to the white house vision of the original design. the gardens would lose the significance of Olmstead design, and the driveway would obstruct the current view of the white house.

The entire proposed plan would be totally of proportion and be an eyesore as well as not efficient for the purpose.

Please seek guidance from experts on how to restore the dignity and design of this beautiful structure. It should never!!! have been torn down in the first place but now that it has been, STOP this hideous plan and make it the gracious home it was meant to be.

Name: Steph Majaz

Date: March 4, 2026 1:18:09 am

Very Epstinesque. Suitable choice.

Name: Pia Duryea

Date: March 4, 2026 1:18:12 am

Dear SIR,

I am a United States taxpayer and patriot, and I love my country. However, I am deeply concerned about the spending on the East Wing renovation and the scope and scale of the project. As someone who visited and was awed by its beauty, I strongly urge you to take the following into consideration:

Reduce Overall Size and Visibility. The size, volume, and massing of the proposed new construction (90,000 square feet) should be reduced or disguised (such as by placing portions underground, as recommended in the 2000 Comprehensive Design Plan) so the new building appears smaller than the Executive Residence itself (55,000 square feet). Its height should also be substantially lower than the Executive Residence.

Reduce Footprint and Protect Key Views. The footprint of the proposed building should not extend past the existing south-facing façade of the historic Treasury Building, nor further interrupt the views of the Executive Residence from Pennsylvania Avenue.

Respect the Established Classical Composition of the White House Complex. The new addition should retain the carefully balanced classical design of the White House complex with its two smaller, lower, and substantially symmetrical East and West Wings.

Preserve the Historic East Façade of the Executive Residence. The connection of the colonnade to the Executive Residence should protect and preserve the original historic materials of the east façade of the Executive Residence and should not cover or demolish the existing fenestration and detailing of the east façade.

Ensure that the Proposed South-facing Portico Is Subordinate in Scale to the White House South Portico. The proposed portico on the south façade should be smaller and less grand in scale than the existing portico on the south façade of the Executive Residence.

I sincerely urge the NCPC to consider these recommendations. Doing so will help ensure that the project both honors the exceptional historic significance of the White House complex and acknowledges the investment that the American people have in the preservation of this beloved place.

Name: Caroline Kenner

Date: March 4, 2026 1:18:54 am

Dear Ones at NCPC,

I am a native Washingtonian who lived in the DC area for 90% of my life.

Please work to stop the hideous and vulgar design President Trump has proposed for the East Wing replacement. The size of the proposed replacement is completely unbalanced and will look terrible.

Please consider working with Congress and other governing bodies so that no future president can do such a thing as tear down a quarter of the White House. President Trump has desecrated the People's House without bothering to work with historic preservationists, architects, or any governmental consultation. Would it not be possible to pass some kind of legislation forbidding any future presidents from such acts of historical and architectural sacrilege?

I also loathe the cheap-looking gilded baroque scrollwork doodads and kickshaws the President has spewed around the Oval Office.

Thank you for your consideration, blessings and gratitude from Caroline Kenner

Name: Marilyn Harvey

Date: March 4, 2026 1:19:07 am

I can understand the need for a larger room for state dinners at the White House. The arbitrary destruction of the East Wing was not a wise idea, and the Trump proposal of a giant ballroom is ridiculous. This whole project needs to be taken out of Trump's hands until the funding is guaranteed (donations or whatever), and the public can be sure Trump and his cronies do not profit off of the construction nor do they pass out favors for donations. Then a design should be submitted that compliments but does not dominate the White House while also incorporating appropriate underground and needed office space for future administrations. This country has had enough of Trump's big, beautiful ideas.

Name: Tammi Cvetnic

Date: March 4, 2026 1:19:29 am

I don't agree with the current president and administration on much. And it's rather obvious that the East Wing was demolished to ensure the project moved forward. Nevertheless, I support President Trump's efforts to update the White House. The Palm Room looks much better. The Lincoln bathroom does, too. The Rose Garden was lovely before but I like the current changes and the patio looks welcoming and inviting. I don't like all the gold and the pictures he has added to the Oval Office but... The models that I've seen of the ballroom are an improvement over the entertaining options currently available. The addition of a new secure underground center seems likely to be due. The addition of a 2nd floor to even out with the main residence absolutely does bring the project into balance. Adding modern offices for the First Lady and her staff is appropriate. And landscaping with plants removed from the Rose Garden but saved elsewhere, is a responsible respectful touch. I'm in approval. I do think the funding of the project needs to be channeled through some type of blind account so that, for example, Musk or Bezos, cannot claim title to any part of what is the American people's house.

Name: Joseph Conley

Date: March 4, 2026 1:19:43 am

As a citizen of the United States, and thus in a sense one of the owners of the White House, I write to object to the proposed rebuilding of the East Wing. The proposed edifice, including the two story connector to the residence, is disproportionately large compared to the modest scale of the residence. It would dwarf the White House itself, which was intentionally designed and built as the residence of a democratically elected president, and not as a palace for a royal family. The size of the proposed ballroom and related spaces might be appropriate for such a palace, but the United States neither has nor needs a palace.

I believe the ballroom can be built substantially smaller and still function as intended. I understand that it has substantially more space than is generally provided for 1,000 guests. (And it is not clear to me why a ballroom for 1,000 guests is required. I worry that it would be seldom used for that many guests.) The two story connector is also larger than needed, and the kitchen area, which I understand is larger than is customarily provided for a ballroom for 1,000 guests, should be placed underground rather than as a first floor. It is also not clear to me why the ceilings are abnormally high. It almost appears that the intention behind the proposed edifice was to build as large a structure as possible. The proper intention, I believe, is the opposite—to build a structure that is as small as is necessary.

If the size of the ballroom is substantially reduced it need not interfere with the axis between the White House and Capitol building, which has existed, as intended by George Washington, since the White House was built. A substantially smaller ballroom would also be more consistent with the balanced neoclassical architecture of the residence, as designed by James Hoban, and with the symmetrical White House grounds, as designed by Frederick Law Olmstead.

If the edifice is built as currently proposed I believe it will necessarily be temporary, since continuing objection to the inappropriately massive structure by citizens will eventually lead to its being demolished in favor of an appropriate building. But I do not believe that a series of demolitions and constructions would be in the best interest of the temporary residents of the White House or its longer-term owners, the American citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of my objection to the current proposal.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Conley
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Name: Peter Greaves

Date: March 4, 2026 1:21:39 am

See attached letter.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Erin Carmichael

Date: March 4, 2026 1:23:59 am

First, the destruction of the previous East Wing of the People's White House was disgraceful and handled crudely.

Second, the proposed plans to "modernize" the wing lack architectural skill and taste and should be scrapped. The complete lack of respect for the history and original design of the White House and its historical relation to the US Capital and the overall DC layout is mindboggling.

The design itself pretends to mimic classic architectural rules but actually ignores them with no balance, proportionality and an extremely poor use of space (ridiculously high ceilings, location and size of kitchen, unusable and poorly designed portico, steps that are out of proportion, 3rd floor that does what exactly?, areas that don't connect with one another, windows and doors that are fake, columns that block views from within the ballroom itself, usable floor >20' from street level, lack of access for handicapped, etc).

The gross misrepresentation of the size of the project should be an immediate reason to stop this charade. And please, no gold or gilt finishes that tarnish the purpose of the building, its relation to the citizens of this country and projection to the world.

This proposed design needs to be scrapped, significantly reduced in size, and started over with architects who know what they are doing and a council that will responsibly shepherd this project with respect for the history of this country, our forefathers, the building itself and overall original plan. And some serious respectable taste would be appreciated.

Name: Don Laventhall

Date: March 4, 2026 1:24:11 am

The wonton destruction of the historic east wing of the White House - also known as the "people's house" is nothing short of criminal! It is an ugly scar on this great country's capital. Please, please save us from this hideous indignity!!!

Name: Judith Quinney

Date: March 4, 2026 1:28:57 am

I was angered to see the historic East Wing demolished by Pres. Trump's "renovation" project. Even worse, the outsize scale of the proposed ballroom is garish, tasteless, and nothing but a monument for Trump and by Trump. Building the ballroom as it is currently proposed is nothing but a horrible misuse of the People's House. These plans need to be scaled down and made to fit with what remains of the People's House. They must go through proper vetting. The People's House is not Mar-a-Lago.

Name: Nicholas Orcher

Date: March 4, 2026 1:29:36 am

This project is an abhorrent and blatant assault on one of the most recognized and prestigious buildings in America, and perhaps the world. The sheer incompetence arising from the hastened design process belies how poorly planned this monstrosity has been from the very start. The presumptuous architecture clashes fiercely with the modest and classical style that embodies the stated meaning of this iconic building; it truly is the People's House. To coat the interior with cheap, tacky gilded lining is to spit in the faces of the American people, to tell us all what is good for the pampered preened golden goose is good for the poor earnest gander. The only thing worse than the proposed floor plan is the egotistical man child tearing apart a historical monument like a toddler having a tantrum.

Name: Mary Ellen Hodges

Date: March 4, 2026 1:30:06 am

[Attachment](#)

Name: Laurie Cumming

Date: March 4, 2026 1:33:39 am

It is not a modernization projeci!!!! It is an EGO trip for Trump.

This disgusts me. Trumps ego trip is nothing more than a spoiled child. thumb in mouth, giggling about it!

He is a fraud a very troubled man who seems to have no honor, or understanding of what this country is about!!!

There was no discussion with the National Parks Dept. Nor was it brought up with Congress or any other govt. entity.

It was never brought up to The American People for any action which

he had no intention of doing;!!!?????

Why in Gods green earth is that man our President??? He knows nothing and is not fit for his job!!!

What a mockery he makes of this country

Name: Kathleen Lorence-Flanagan

Date: March 4, 2026 1:34:42 am

To call Trump's ballroom plans a "modernization project" is insulting. It is a garish, out-of-step plan. That he demolished the East Wing and made plans without going through the appropriate channels is an affront to American citizens. That may not concern him, hopefully it concerns you. Please do what you can to prevent it. Thank you.

Name: Sara Denzler

Date: March 4, 2026 1:36:48 am

National Capital Planning Commission

401 Ninth Street NW, Suite 500N

Washington, DC 20004

Re: Proposed Construction of White House Ballroom NCPC File Number 8733

I am writing to oppose the current White House ballroom plans. The proposed construction would overwhelm the central structure of and disrupt the carefully balanced classical design of the White House, and block the view of the Executive Residence from Pennsylvania Avenue.

I urge you to consider design alternatives submitted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation on February 23, 2026, which include specific suggestions under the following categories:

- reducing the overall size and visibility,
- reducing the footprint and protecting key views,
- respecting the established classical composition of the White House complex,
- preserving the historic east façade of the Executive Residence,
- ensure that the proposed south-facing portico is subordinate in scale to the White House south portico.

I greatly value the architectural designs that are a significant part of our Country's history and have important symbolism for our republic. The White House is the People's house and should be preserved for the American people.

Thank you for your careful stewardship of our historic resources,

Respectfully,

Sara E. Denzler



Name: Lois Mitchell

Date: March 4, 2026 1:37:10 am

The original East Wing is gone for good. Please rebuild with honoring history in mind the significance of the White House as being the ' People's House '. Americans are struggling to make ends meet. Our people are having to choose between keeping the lights, having heat, or eating. An outsized building would be a slap in our faces. It says, " There's abundance of money to build a gigantic building that only the elite will get to use", but not to care for the people who are your responsibility.

The eyes of history are watching

Name: Barbara Preston

Date: March 4, 2026 1:37:58 am

Please stop the madness of this proposed “modernization” of the East Wing. The atrocity planned is an affront to good taste and to our shared history as a nation. The East Wing should never have been destroyed; it should be rebuilt as it was before it was recklessly demolished. Thank you for your consideration of this plea that is strongly shared by the overwhelming majority of Americans.

Name: Matthew Weismantel

Date: March 4, 2026 1:39:44 am

Dear Members of the Commission,

I write with my disappointment surrounding the “modernizing” of the east wing of the White House. I have been a member of two different towns historic preservation commissions, and although I understand the need for renewal, updating and restoration, none of these are represented in the complete tearing down of the building to be replaced by a disproportionate new structure that is not in keeping with the original, design, fabric, purpose or understanding of the President's house in a democracy, but will also be so large as to overwhelm the White House. This is one of the most important and significant structures in this country and such a wholesale, and inappropriate replacement structure should never be permitted in such an important and sacred historic location. Please do not permit this plan to move forward and do your best to restore the historic structure that was destroyed with size and historically sympathetic expansion as part of the greatly reduced and right-sized plan. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Debra Kruse

Date: March 4, 2026 1:43:17 am

DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO PROCEED.

Name: Judith Wright Sentz

Date: March 4, 2026 1:44:00 am

I am appalled at the design aesthetics and lack of respect to the existing White House. Aside from inaugurations, are there events that genuinely require seating for more than 500 guests? My research indicates that state dinners in recent decades have typically been smaller than that. If there is no practical need for a 1,000-seat banquet hall, it is difficult to justify constructing one.

Beyond questions of scale and function, there are also practical concerns. A room of this magnitude raises significant issues of acoustics and usability. If such a space is frequently only partially occupied, it risks becoming uncomfortable for the guests. Professional acoustic design would be essential.

Most importantly, from an architectural standpoint, the current proposal fails to respect the principles of classical design that define the White House itself.

Classical architecture is fundamentally rooted in proportion—relationships derived from nature and often expressed through mathematical ratios such as the golden mean (1.618). When these principles are ignored, the result inevitably

feels discordant with the historic structure it is meant to complement.

By contrast, a thoughtful design developed by a classically trained architectural firm—one that respects proportion, scale, and historical context—could produce an addition worthy of the White House and capable of enduring for centuries. I have more thoughts on the details to moving forward but have limited time due to the lack of notice in the planning procedures.

Name: Rhonda Fairgrieve

Date: March 4, 2026 1:45:52 am

The members of the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) should not approve the proposed East Wing Modernization project for several reasons:

1. The project NCPC is considering has received thousands of comments from citizens, with a large majority sharing negative views and comments about the proposal. The citizens who have taken the time and made the effort to participate in the NCPC meetings, by submitting their opinions, must be given due respect and serious consideration. Our opinions matter.
2. It appears that the East Wing of the White House was demolished without the involvement of the NCPC, public notifications or involvement by the Congress. The act of demolishing the East Wing was disrespectful to the NCPC, the American people and demonstrated a clear arrogance and unwillingness to follow established procedures to protect the nation's capital and historic buildings. This alone is enough grounds to not approve the project.
3. The project plans are not in keeping with the current White House and grounds, in that its size is completely out of proportion.
4. The White House belongs to the American people. The President occupies the buildings while in office, but does not own it. Because he does not own the White House, he has no right to demolish any part of it or build new facilities without following established protocols. Again, this alone is grounds to not approve the project.
5. If there is a need for a facility to accommodate special events, then a new plan should be developed in a transparent and forthright manner.

Name: Sherry C

Date: March 4, 2026 1:47:33 am

This project defiles the historical, esthetic and moral properties of the White House. There's no need for an extravagant ostentatious addition to the White House. The White House is the people's house, and a president is gifted a temporary residency to maintain it during their term.

The president is not a king, the White House is not a palace, it is a place to honor, not decimate.

Return the balance to the seat of our democracy. Rebuild the east wing to its original proportions - return balance to the symbol of our republic.

Name: Karen Schaffer

Date: March 4, 2026 1:50:20 am

The East Wing was torn down illegally and should be restored with historical sensitivity and appropriate modernization. A gigantic ballroom does not qualify.

Name: Jamienne Studley

Date: March 4, 2026 1:53:03 am

I urge the Commission to 1) assure thorough public participation and effective review of the plans to provide needed expansion of the public space at the White House East Wing, and 2) provide that any new space preserves the historic character, scale, and perspectives of this precious national treasure. The very modesty and graciousness of the White House are key to its symbolism for our nation—not a castle or palace but a house.

I support the comments submitted by Dr Quillen of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Jamienne S. Studley

(Past president, Skidmore College; former deputy undersecretary and acting general counsel, US Dept of Education)

Name: Georgette Balopulos

Date: March 4, 2026 1:57:14 am

The White House is a historical site and a national treasure. The east wing project should honor the style, balance and architecture of the People's House. The current proposed east wing structure is too large. The scale is off and will overpower the White House.

Please protect the integrity of the White House with respect to the construction of the east wing ballroom.

Name: Bruce Dennis

Date: March 4, 2026 1:59:57 am

The size of the project would ruin the aesthetic appeal of the White House itself. The size would make the White House look diminutive in comparison, thus taking away the grandeur and impact of the People's House. Whatever is built to replace the east wing should not be larger in footprint nor taller so that the aesthetic of the White House is maintained.

Bruce Dennis



Name: Sandra Kurt

Date: March 4, 2026 2:00:00 am

The East Wing needs to be built to protect the carefully balanced classical design of the White House. It must be a design that will withstand the test of time, something that complements the White House and follows guidelines established for a cohesive and consistent White House complex. The design should not be an obvious capitulation to the ego of a single man. That would be a disservice to all the values our country claims to hold.

Name: Lauren Johnson

Date: March 4, 2026 2:00:08 am

I am writing to object strenuously to the destruction of the historic East Wing of the White House, and to the hideous and vulgar design President Trump has proposed for its replacement. The size of the proposed replacement is grotesque; it is completely unbalanced and will look terrible.

In addition, the demolition of the East Wing took place hastily and illegally, with zero transparency or accountability. Rubble from the demolition is still being dumped on a public golf course in Washington DC, in a brazen act of intentional vandalism. Those of us who *remember* Trump's destruction of the iconic Bonwit Teller bas-relief friezes when he purchased that Manhattan property back in the 1980's are not surprised by this, but dismayed nonetheless.

Furthermore, there has been no accountability for any of the historic furnishings or artworks that were located in the East Wing. Where are they now? Did anyone do an inventory of displaced government property? Nor has the legal procedure for soliciting bids on replacement construction been followed. There are no clear architectural plans for the new "ballroom" wing, nor any clear source of funding. Speaking of funding, at an estimated \$3000/sq. ft, the proposed new wing costs 3x the price of other luxury real estate in DC. No justification or accounting for this has been made available to the public. For the People's House, this is outrageous!

Some of the reconstruction is allegedly to modernize and improve the security of the WWII era bunker below the East Wing. This might perhaps be justifiable, but again, no plans or budget have been made public. Do they even exist? Regardless, a secure underground bunker does not require a 90,000 sq. ft ballroom on top of it.

Please work with Congress and other governing bodies so that no future president can do such a thing as tear down a quarter of the White House. President Trump has desecrated the People's House without bothering to work with historic preservationists, architects, or any governmental consultation. The administration's demolition of the East Wing was illegal and unwarranted and needs to be treated as such, not normalized.

Name: Margarete Schmidt

Date: March 4, 2026 2:07:02 am

I strongly oppose the proposed ballroom addition to the White House. The current design, with its heavy use of gold leaf and ostentatious ornamentation, feels inconsistent with the restrained elegance that has long defined the architecture of the White House. Rather than conveying dignity and timelessness, the design is gaudy and theatrical—qualities that seem out of step with the character of one of the nation's most important historic buildings.

The White House has always embodied a quiet formality and classical balance that reflects the values of the country it represents. Major additions to such an iconic structure should respect that tradition and strive for architectural harmony, not spectacle. The proposed ballroom, as currently conceived, appears less like a thoughtful extension of a historic residence and more like a grandiose event hall better suited to a private resort.

A project of this scale deserves a design that reflects restraint, craftsmanship, and the enduring dignity of the presidency. I urge decision-makers to reconsider the current proposal and pursue an approach that honors the architectural heritage of the White House rather than overwhelming it.

Name: Lauren Miller

Date: March 4, 2026 2:08:30 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design as supported by the American people and our elected Congress. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Nicola Caldwell

Date: March 4, 2026 2:13:28 am

The current ballroom project needs to be stopped. With the destruction of the East Wing, irreparable harm has already been done with no consideration for history, tradition, or legality. The current planned ballroom is a monstrosity designed to placate the whims of a single individual. It alters the landscape, views, and historic symbolism of the White House and its place within the 3 branches of our government for no legitimate reason. It is a vanity project representative of a monarchy and not a representative democracy. Please stop this madness.

Name: David Litton

Date: March 4, 2026 2:14:55 am

Here's hoping that the next president makes razing Shitler's ballroom to the ground a top priority.

Name: Necia Quast

Date: March 4, 2026 2:15:29 am

The historic East Wing should be restored. While updates and expanded space may be prudent, the proposed ballroom design will alter the site in ways that alter the symmetry inherent in the design and degrade the public purpose of building, as well as negatively altering one of our most important historic sites.

Name: Barbara Stickler

Date: March 4, 2026 2:16:20 am

I think it's a shame that President Trump tore down the East Wing without prior approval. I think his plans for the ballroom are gaudy and an attempt to build something in his image. I don't think it reflects the true America. I think a bigger space may be necessary but not a gaudy, gold, flaked testament to opulence.

Name: Shirley Boyd

Date: March 4, 2026 2:16:46 am

I ask that the White House ballroom meet the standards surrounding the direct access of the political offices as pointed out by the audio of Preservation.

Please do not let the ballroom overshadow the historical value of our White House. Have it be useful and represent the needs of our politicians meeting all the needs of the people.

Please make the demolition to have been for a good cause and not waste money on gaudiness or grandiose. Make it practical and useful. Respect our Past, Present and Future.

Name: Robin Belkin

Date: March 4, 2026 2:20:20 am

Nobody is above the law. Enforce it. The ballroom must be stopped until it undergoes all the requisite reviews, input, authorizations and approvals like everything else in The People's House. This soulless, tasteless ballroom project is absolutely, legally required to undergo a federal review process, and public participation is essential. Major construction projects in Washington, D.C. must be reviewed by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and receive congressional approval. These safeguards exist to ensure transparency, accountability, and meaningful public input. The reckless abandon of all regulations and accountability in this ersatz "modernization" project needs to stop.

Name: Tommy Busch

Date: March 4, 2026 2:22:24 am

Dear Capital Planning Commission:

You have important work, and I thank you in advance.

Stop the East Wing ugly monstrosity ballroom project.

Have I seen anything more gaudy and ugly than Trump's office makeover? Yes, but never for an American President's office. It's disgusting, and then he tears down the East Wing without any approval or oversight from Congress or your Commission? To build something even MORE appallingly gaudy? I can surely guess the low level tasteless decorating he'll do unleashed. He's a boor with no class, and you all know it, despite not being able to agree with me here.

And - this building is to what? To represent the people of the United States? Are you effin kidding me? That is something you'd approve???

What the heck is going on such that you all do nothing when this historical and architectural catastrophe occurs right before you?

Do NOT approve this East Wing project, and mandate that it be rebuilt to its former state.

Do NOT let any such action complete on this disgusting project.

Name: Rene Schmidt

Date: March 4, 2026 2:25:02 am

The demolition of the East Wing without any proper authorization is contrary to our American traditions of following legal guidelines. When it occurs at the highest levels, it is an insult to our values. The proposed East Wing is out of proportion and scale to the historic White House.

Name: Lee Pareti

Date: March 4, 2026 2:26:42 am

I am personally very distraught that the wonderful history of our nation that is sheltered within the walls of the East Wing of the White House could be so callously destroyed.
To walk through the hallways that contain such history is a privilege shared by all Americans and not something to be destroyed forever by one man's whim.

Name: Jeff Becker

Date: March 4, 2026 2:28:56 am

The Ballroom addition to the White House is as
Goofy as Trump himself.
We don't want HIS ballroom nor his gold glitz.
Stop this Insanity!

Name: ANNA CAVENEY

Date: March 4, 2026 2:29:41 am

The White House belongs to the American people.
It is a historic monument that has been vandalised. The vandal should not guide the reconstruction.
The wanton destruction of the East Wing is a tragedy and an embarrassment. The oversized out of balance blot on the landscape that is proposed would exist to clarify to the world that we are without taste, balance, or reason.
It is emblematic of the crass and lawless destruction of our society and our nation this president embodies.
Given the irresponsible careless and illegal destruction of the East Wing, we have been denied reasonable appropriate discussion about possibly respectfully renovating it. We must now discuss reconstruction after our criminal guest destroyed it. Like our nation's honor, we cannot simply reset it; it will never be the same. But we can, slowly and responsibly, rebuild, after a slow and reasoned exploration of appropriate functionality and use of the space. It should not be a tacky gaudy ostentatious display envisioned by our would-be tyrant and paid for by groups planning to bribe him with a grotesque pseudo-palace ballroom. The USA is not about ballrooms, and the White House is our house. For the work of our nation and to act as a museum of our history. When guests, or our own people, visit our House it should be a visit with our history and support pursuit of civic virtue not decadence.
We can take time to reflect and reconstruct to meet the needs of our country, and not the whims of the dreadful destructive guest currently occupying it. Bad behavior should not be rewarded. It seems that we need a contract for our guests to sign, making clear that they are not allowed to destroy the property and that any damages will result in fines and possible jail time. Trump should be forced to personally pay for the East Wing to be rebuilt honoring its history and perhaps used to create a lasting monument to the Americans he has treated with contempt. It was destruction of property that did not belong to him.
When the East Wing is restored it should not be as a monument to tacky self indulgence. It should not be a vast, mostly useless, cavern that would destroy the elegance and balance of our national capital. It should be functional and should encourage greater commitment to learn from our history. Enslaved people built many of our historic buildings they deserve to have that reality made clear and respected in the reconstruction. We should honor the unwilling and willing immigrant populations from around the world that built our nation. We should acknowledge as well the nations that existed before European conquest, many of whom continue to this day. The reconstructed East Wing should include lessons on the history that was destroyed and perhaps be our first honest monument to our unwilling human trafficking victims and the victims of our genocidal efforts. Are we courageous enough to reflect on our inglorious past? We can learn from our mistakes, but only if we have the character to face it. The first thing we have to face is that the vandal who destroyed a section of our home should not get to further taint it with his dirty money and his desire for a ballroom to fill with people willing to flatter and bribe him.
I suggest that all of the surviving presidents and their former staffs be surveyed about what was frustrating about the architecture of the White House and what functionality was missing that made it harder for them to do the work of serving our nation. Then after identifying the most vital and daily needs, we should have appropriately educated architects propose a re-envisioned East Wing whose exterior will be, in balance and style, appropriate. And whose interior will be the most efficient use of space to meet the daily functionality needs. More office space? Designed to support team work and efficiency. If there is a need for a larger internal space for entertaining, then that space should be designed to be functional including being subdividable and multipurpose. That space to serve as a museum display space the 99% of the time it will not be being used as an entertainment space. The displays should be designed to be part of the entertainment space creating a gallery of history or tucked into the walls. The White House is our house, the President is just allowed to

live there while in office. The proposed supersized creepily large and cavernous 'ballroom' is an absurd waste of our space. The ballroom is less appealing than a 40 ft tall pink flamingo and about as useful and tasteful..

Name: Matthew Cook

Date: March 4, 2026 2:31:31 am

To the Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I deliver this statement with the fullest honor of my Founding Family regarding the plans of the new East Wing of the Executive Mansion consisting of a ballroom. I first would like to say that the idea of President Donald Trump to construct the ballroom at the Executive Mansion is a good one. But despite being a supporter of that endeavor, I would be remiss to not prevent the history the new East Wing would alter and/or destroy, not including the former East Wing. I will point to the corridor of the new East Wing that connects the addition to the Residence is altering the east wall that will eventually alter or destroy the 233-year-old Palladian window, which is part of the original structure. When you see the residence today, that due to the British fire in 1814 and numerous renovations, only less than 10 percent of the Executive Mansion constructed by, my Second Cousin, President George Washington during his terms as President remain. In my opinion, no further altering and/or demolition should be made to the Residence to continually serve as constant reminder to both the President and the American People of what kind of President-a statesman, should always reside in the Executive Mansion. President Trump and opponents of the removal the statues of Confederate figures, states that the statues should remain to remind us of our past. Now I use that very logic, to preserve the Mansion, Wahington built and Truman saved to serve as a reminder to this nation of our history and our American values. I am a proud member of a family that also claims James Madison Jr., John Marshall, Zachary Taylor and James Knox Polk as members. First Continental Congress Delegate and Virginia Governor Edmund Pendleton being my 8th Great Granduncle. In closing, I would like to thank the Commission for providing an opportunity for me and other Americans to make their voice heard regarding this project. The Executive Mansion is one of America's beloved buildings, so anything that is done to alter its historic architecture is of great concern. Thank You!

Sincerely,
Matthew Paul Cook

Name: Deborah Monnier

Date: March 4, 2026 2:33:03 am

Dear National Capital Planning Commission Members:

I am a civic-minded American and retired high school social studies teacher who taught Advanced Placement U.S. history for many years. Consequently, I am very familiar with the origins of our nation and the depth of thought that went into the design of our government and institutions. A fundamental concept of that design rests in the element of balance: Civically, the balance of powers as articulated in the U.S. Constitution; Architecturally, the balance of components as articulated in the classical design of the buildings and city of Washington, D.C.

I am concerned that the proposed design for the new East Wing of the White House does not conform to this tradition. It is not balanced. Its size is disproportionate to the White House proper. Its footprint disrupts the symmetry and balance of L'Enfant's design of the city by cutting into the view and symbolic connection between the Capitol and the White House via Pennsylvania Avenue.

I am troubled by the process by which the new East Wing has been proposed and original East Wing has been demolished. Such a significant alteration to the White House demands careful thought, sensitive design, and a reasonable timeline that facilitates prudent proposal, review, approval, and implementation.

I am sympathetic to the view that the White House needs updating to meet the demands of the Executive Branch in the 21st century. Our nation has a long history of reluctance to devote regular review and resources to the form and function of our government's buildings. Repair, restoration and renovation have been slow. Nevertheless, the American people deserve to hear a reasoned appeal and review a considered plan for these structures' preservation and improvement.

I urge the Commission to require the East Wing Modernization Project to be redesigned so that it is in keeping with the historical design, scale and function of the White House and preserves L'Enfant's design of Washington, D.C. Additionally, I appeal to the Commission to ensure that all aspects of the project are as considered as our government design more than two centuries ago.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

Sincerely,
Deborah Monnier

Name: Jonathan Gilman

Date: March 4, 2026 2:33:11 am

The proposed project to be built where the East Wing of the Whitehouse used to be is an illegal abomination and should not be allowed to proceed.

Name: Russell Harmon

Date: March 4, 2026 2:34:48 am

The proposed design is too large, it does not proportionally fit with the rest of the white house building or its context. It does not send the right message. There is nothing wrong with an impressive ballroom or east wing, this is just too large proportionally. It should not be as tall or large as the central white house building. A building of such size would also disrupt the axis with the capital building, an important symbol.

Name: Jane Warden

Date: March 4, 2026 2:35:33 am

I am an architect. I received my degree from UC Berkeley.

The abomination that is proposed to be sutured onto the side of the beautiful White House, like a huge second head, is not only unnecessary but also an insult to the White House, to the people of America, to architecture, to proportion, to history and to any sense of decency we still have left.

Name: Bethany Li

Date: March 4, 2026 2:35:42 am

The current proposed plan is too big for the ballroom and will swallow up the visual look of the current White House as it is bigger than the current White House. To match the current White House, the new east wing should be smaller and in scale with the current buildings.

Name: Rachel Spencer

Date: March 4, 2026 2:37:36 am

This project affects a property that belongs to the American people and was started without our consent and input. The use of private donor funds for an anticipated new building goes against democratic principles as well. This review is too little, too late to save the destroyed part of the building. Going forward, this project should be placed on hold until the judicial branch can assess whether or how to proceed. No president or his or her appointees are above the law.

Name: Terrell Holmes

Date: March 4, 2026 2:39:53 am

Dear Sirs,

I wish to add my thoughts / comments to the public record in regards to the East Wing Modernization Project (aka The Ballroom).

I am deeply disturbed and disappointed by the wanton destruction of the East Wing of the White House, just to satisfy one man's ego. The destruction of the East Wing was extremely personal to me, as I am related to both Presidents Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt thru my VerPlanck and Vanderpool lineage of the old Dutch colony of New Amsterdam (in fact FDR and I share the same grandmother from the Dutch colony). The East Wing, as you know, was built in 1902 when

Teddy was President, and expanded in 1942 under FDR's tenure. Thus, as "family", I like most Americans, hold a special place in my heart for the White House, and for me, the East Wing in particular.

I would ask the ladies and gentlemen of this commission to reconsider the plans for the proposed ballroom, a monstrosity in design, and reject it outright due to the illegal destruction of a part of the Peoples House, a destruction committed with no oversight, no proper permits, no citizen impute, and no care for the history of the building itself.

I ask this commission to not only reject this ballroom proposal, but to also require that the East Wing be rebuilt (at the personal expense of President Trump), and thus restore balance to the design of the White House, pre-destruction.

I look forward to this commission voting for the Peoples wishes and desires, rather than the vanity of one man, and to the commission being on the right side of this country's history.

Please restore the beautiful balance that was once the design of the White House.

I thank the ladies & gentlemen of the commission for their time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Mr. Terrell E. Holmes

Bellingham, Washington

Name: Amy Lam

Date: March 4, 2026 2:54:41 am

I am writing against the construction of Trump's hideous ballroom and to return the East Wing to its former glory. I don't want my tax dollars funding this gold plated architectural eyesore.

Name: Kenyon Bolton

Date: March 4, 2026 2:59:14 am

The mock-up view featured from Pennsylvania Ave is so oversized, it is straight from the movie "Supersize Me." If this project proceeds as designed (i.e. to the specifications of a narcissistic self-styled American pharaoh), it will be a grotesque monument to how our institutions capitulated to an impetuous authoritarian and the politics of fealty he demanded. As such, let it serve as a warning to subsequent generations.

Name: Mary Eliza Davidson

Date: March 4, 2026 3:03:21 am

My extensive comments just disappeared. I will summarize in less detail:

I oppose approval of the Ballroom wing as designed and urge NCPC to require redesign to address the many flaws identified by thousands of commenters. Professionally I am an emeritus architect, landscape designer and heritage landscape professional.

I object to the flawed, flimsy, perfunctory process by which the White House is being irrevocably altered. Secret demolition without proper review and permitting was the shocking first round. The path to its replacement is hardly more visible or legitimate. Specifically, no complete program has been provided by which the public might gauge the appropriateness of designated functions, sizes and locations to be accommodated. There surely are alternatives that merit consideration, but we are kept blind.

I object to the enormity of the proposed structure, which far exceeds generous architectural space standards. The mass of the wing completely unbalances the White House's overall composition. The portico is comically out of scale with flanking porticos, violates their Ionic vocabulary, and serves only as a stage set, not a grand entrance - not an entrance at all. This is NOT contextually-sensitive design.

I object to the insensitive landscape alterations to the Olmsted-designed entry drive and grounds. The protrusion of the new wing is completely avoidable, were the building designed to reasonable scale or placed more sensitively and respectfully. The former NCPC developed demonstrable respect and stewardship for the historic Olmsted Capitol grounds, in part through extensive interaction with National Association for Olmsted Parks (now Olmsted Network), on which board of directors I served for over 15 years.

I object to the obliteration of the axial view down Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and the Capitol, between the Executive and the Legislative branches of our Federal government. This relationship was explicitly symbolic as the centerpiece of L'Enfant's design for the Federal Complex. His master plan is a masterpiece of urban design that has defined our Capitol City for two centuries. The Ballroom entirely blocks the view to the White House. This design

intrusion is both insensitive and unnecessary.

In sum, this project is in no way befitting the White House, its Olmsted landscape or the Capitol setting of which it is an integral part. Administrations come and go, and no one President has the right to desecrate our treasured heritage for self-aggrandizement. Please listen to the voice of democracy, of the people - not an aspiring autocrat who neither owns nor respects his current dwelling or his office. Thank you for taking seriously these remarks.

Name: Anne Branigan

Date: March 4, 2026 3:05:21 am

Dear Commission Members,

Please see the attached pdf file of my comments.

Best regards,
Anne Branigan

[Attachment](#)

Name: Robert Sorel

Date: March 4, 2026 3:16:05 am

To whom it may concern,

I wish to express my vehement objection to the proposed construction of this ballroom. The rushed demolition of the East Wing of the White House, and the rush to build an outsized, inappropriate in design and review, and ill conceived ballroom should be paused indefinitely until a complete review of design and historical appropriateness can be ascertained. We intentionally have not been a country of gold filigree, which is associated with kingdoms and excess. The design of the White House and government buildings in general, while signifying gravitas and beauty, have always avoided the overly fanciful architecture of old Europe. Unfortunately this administrations fascination with gold and excessive displays of wealth and gaudiness belie the true nature of the American ethic.

I encourage a reconsideration of allowing this construction to go forth as planned, and to rethink this entire project.
Sincerely, Robert Sorel

Name: Nancy Lao

Date: March 4, 2026 3:31:07 am

Nothing that DJT has ever demonstrated any form of class or style. From his poor choice in language, food, VP candidates, staffing - NOTHING. The plans for the renovation of the East Wing are another demonstration of ego and poor taste at the cost of history (and US taxpayer dollars).

Name: Christopher Kutz

Date: March 4, 2026 3:32:14 am

I can accept that a larger public reception space would be valuable. But the proposal is disproportionate, historically ill-considered, and amounts to a monument to the vanity of one man -- a Versailles for a would-be emperor, especially if it is filled to overflowing with gold trimmings. The pathway to the demolition of the East Wing has also been fundamentally corrupt. A process should be started fresh, with a public competition and a panel of independently appointed architectural historians to choose. A fundamental constraint should be a building that does not dominate the mansion. (Alternatively, build a giant ballroom offsite -- most receptions don't require that many seats.)

Name: Anne Doran

Date: March 4, 2026 3:34:48 am

Please see attached file. I appreciate the chance to comment.

Sincerely,

Anne Doran

[Attachment](#)

Name: Elizabeth Yager

Date: March 4, 2026 3:37:57 am

I'm not an architect, and I don't work at the White House, so I cannot speak to design, structure, or the use of the space. But I found it devastating to witness our precious historical monument and part of our national home, the East Wing, be torn down with no warning or consensus. I literally burst out crying as I watched it on tv. I felt like the whole country had been violated. So like others, my first choice would be to have it restored back to its original size and design as closely as possible to the original.

But perhaps a ballroom is needed? If that is the case, I agree with the big elephant in the room, which is the size. It is absurdly large and completely overshadows the entire White House. It is FAR bigger than any ballroom needs to be. I have personally visited the ballroom at the French president's Paris residence, Palais D'Elysee, and it didn't seem large. So when I heard ours was planned to be 90,000 ft.² I looked it up. The French ballroom is approximately 6000 ft.² I cannot understand why a ballroom would need to be so large. It looks absurd and ridiculous. I do not like the gold leaf and doilies everywhere. They look tasteless and cheap. And as in the presentation, the lack of function-the use of fake doors, the blocked light and view, lack of accessibility, etc is poor design.

It is absurdly large, poorly designed, and it seems an enormous waste of space, waste of the energy and expense to heat and maintain it. For how much use? How many balls do we have? The First Lady and future First Ladies have lost their space. There are many uses I imagine the White House needs other than a ballroom. It has been devastating to watch the Rose Garden paved over and the East Wing torn down. Our shared history erased without our consultation or permission. Please stop this. It hurts all of us as citizens of the United States to watch our precious national historic buildings be destroyed and defaced. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share.

Name: Heidi Cleven

Date: March 4, 2026 3:39:10 am

I am deeply opposed to the construction of the East Wing Ballroom.

The demolition of the East Wing has lacked public oversight, and has disregarded the historic preservation of the White House. There is little transparency and the public demands the need for a thorough legal review processes, including consultation and transparency in funding. The president demolished the East Wing without a proper legal review process. This is not his private property.

Last, the rendering of the new ballroom is hideous. It is gaudy at best and changes the driveway and blocks the view of the White House from the capitol building. It also causes an imbalance to the overall White House. This is not how it was meant to be.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Name: James Roosevelt

Date: March 4, 2026 3:43:20 am

I do not disagree with the need for a larger East Wing to accommodate staff, visitor services, and larger events at the White House. And the fact that it is being funded with private donations is a plus as well. Unlike the hundreds of angry comments against the project because from people that just hate anything President Trump does, I just have objections to the size and scope of the project.

The proposed East Wing is too big, too tall, and out of proportion with the existing White House. Further, it diverges from the original White House exterior design in both the number and size of windows and pillars. The proposed connector colonnade is excessively husky and tall. All of this detracts from, rather than complementing, the existing White House. The proposed structure is excessively large for the intended purposes. Simply, the new East Wing footprint should not be

larger than the entire White House residence.

On the interior, the Ballroom design should more closely resemble the interior of the East Room and State Dining Room. The Ballroom is not located at a golf course. It is not hosting wedding receptions and sports awards banquets. It is a “room of state” in the Executive Mansion. It should be termed as a “grand hall” since it will be used more for conferences, ceremonies, and events, in addition to the occasional State Dinner. And it is at these State Dinners when it functions as a “ballroom”.

In terms of the original design of the City of Washington, an East Wing of this massive size blocks the free flowing axis between the Capitol and the White House residence. The historic symbolism of connecting the White House to the Capitol is lost.

I support the suggestions provided by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to ensure that a new East Wing is complementary to the White House, the White House grounds, and the symmetrical nature of the initial design for the City of Washington. I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to reject the current proposal and require that a new proposal be created.

Name: Sara Gaston Huey

Date: March 4, 2026 3:44:54 am

I strongly object to the demolition of the East Wing of The White House in the absence of public comment and input from those agencies and organizations trusted with the preservation of the nation’s historic buildings. The intended “ballroom” will greatly detract from the classical style of the White House and fail to reflect the Republican values of our nation in its absence of public input, its grandiosity and its apparent intention to be awash in gold. Please do all you can to halt the building of this addition to The White House so the nation can have its say on the way forward given the tragic demolition of the east Wing.

Name: Timothy Petras

Date: March 4, 2026 4:00:32 am

It makes sense to upgrade and modernize the East Wing of the White House, However, the size of this structure is unnecessary given its occasional use, and the above-ground structure visually dwarfs the White House, which should remain the visual focal point from all perspectives, and it creates an imbalance with the West Wing. Smaller and/or below-grade alternatives should be considered.

The Committed needs to issue a public statement making it clear that destroying the East Wing before getting plans officially approved and publicly supported was disrespectful to our heritage and to the American people.

Name: Michael Lah

Date: March 4, 2026 4:03:49 am

I am against President Trump's plans for the design of the rebuilding of the East Wing of the White House. First, it was inappropriate that he demolished the East Wing, a National Landmark, without first going through the normal process for making such major revisions to (let alone demolishing) a U.S. Government building including the proper prior review, input, and approval of the NCPC, the Commission of Fine Arts, and applicable National Historic Preservation Act requirements. Second, it was inappropriate that the new design was created solely to satisfy and cater to his personal preferences, again, without first going through the proper procedures. Third, some aspects of the President's design are in poor taste and are questionable in terms of practical utility.

At this point the East Wing has been demolished, and the focus is now on what should be the design of the new East Wing. When areas or the contents of the White House are updated, (whether just being repainted, getting new furniture, new dinnerware, or other renovations), the current sitting President should have some say in those updates, as has been the past practice with prior Presidents. With the new East Wing, however, we are not talking about just a new coat of paint or a renovated bathroom or a set of dinnerware that can easily be updated again in the future, we are talking about the design and construction of the entire structure from foundation footings to the surface of the roof and everything in between. In this case, the emphasis should not be on the current President's personal wishes and style preferences, but on the longterm needs, function, and historical importance of the East Wing and of the White House as a whole. The White House is a reflection of the current President and the current Administration, but more importantly it is and should be

primarily a reflection of all the people of the U.S. and what America as a whole represents and stands for. The design (physical spaces) should meet the longterm practical needs and functions of all future Presidents, and the style (decor or appearance) should reflect the stature of the Presidency and historical importance of the White House and the United States as a whole. The physical space and decor should be in good taste and elicit the respect and proper reverence for the United States and the people of the United States by any and all visitors whether foreign or domestic. The current President's design does not meet these criteria.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts on this important matter.

Name: Risa Greenstein

Date: March 4, 2026 4:08:02 am

I am a US Citizen living in the UK and I have been following this project with great interest.

It seems to me that this is purely a 'vanity project'-one of many proposed by the President. The beauty of the White House is that both buildings are in proportion and have a cultural and historical significance. This new building would be out of proportion and is a huge ballroom -probably named after Trump (as is his way)- honestly necessary? Is the amount of money it would take justified ?

If this proposal goes ahead it may well green light others in Washington and around the country simply to appease the President. In the UK, these changes are provoking ridicule.

Please do not approve of this proposal.

Name: Suzanne Ecker

Date: March 4, 2026 4:09:50 am

I was unaware that our nation's White House was slated for this project until the East Wing was a shocking pile of rubble. I have always appreciated fine buildings and their thoughtful remodeling or modernization and this is neither. There was no oversight by Congress and the NCP Commission clearly provided a rubber stamp or just knuckled under. Wrecking ball first, public comment second? So we can have an impact on how many buckets of guilt get poured over this monstrosity? There is no architectural defense for it. Just a legacy of shame for anyone associated with it, and huge taxpayer expense to repair the damage when some kind of taste prevails again.

Name: BYRON EARLY

Date: March 4, 2026 4:17:37 am

The ballroom project is not in line with the structure of the White House and is an unfit addition to the grounds! A reconstruction of the old East Wing would be more suitable along with trees and landscaping to enhance the whole area.

Name: Natalia Aristov

Date: March 4, 2026 4:25:29 am

A 'ballroom' on the premises of the official residence of the President of the United States smacks of monarchy and oligarchy.

The impact on DC infrastructure of a facility concentrating 650 attendees plus entourages (vehicles, drivers, security personnel) is financially and logistically significant.

The citizens of Washington DC should not need to carry the costs of entertaining private guests - especially 650 of them all at once.

The White House is the people's house. Any changes to it should be planned and decided on by their democratically elected representatives.

Name: John Loglisci

Date: March 4, 2026 4:32:51 am

Comments are attached.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Linda Kitson

Date: March 4, 2026 4:38:52 am

Dear members of the NCPC,

I write with concerns regarding the current size, height and proportions under consideration for the East Wing Ballroom.

I am not opposed to the quest for expansion. I am a forty-year veteran of design and architecture; schooled, trained and practicing for decades. For context, when I was a student, Maya Lin's Vietnam Veterans Memorial was announced from among 1400 entries. It was ground-breaking, literally, and figuratively. It was cited on a wide-open space. The Memorial was ADA accessible before ADA existed. That planning feature was, and is, an important design feature, as more than 5 million visitors stroll, drag or roll along the granite walls. The solution perfectly met all challenges.

As you know, James Hoban won the competition put forth in 1791 to design a presidential home. Our Washington DC planners paid careful attention, through Hoban and many others to build our Capitol city, (originally a diamond shape) with attention to classical elements. Architects of the day, and since, have recognized and carefully followed the clear and orderly characteristics of

Balance,

Proportion,

Symmetry,

Scale with the Surroundings,

Visual site lines

Human Scale, and

Context in its Environment, among other factors, while of course addressing the obvious Function.

Our White House is likely the most recognizable house in the world. It belongs to no one, rather belongs to everyone. It carries the legacy of our humble and hardworking beginnings. The current Ballroom size, height and scale is far too large to be adjunct to our White House. Its proposed size and height becomes a blockage of the vista that was presented to George Washington and his planning commissioners - the clear and unobstructed view between the White House and the U.S. Capitol.

When not in use for a grand event, this Ballroom is so vast, it is unhuman in scale. Towering at the same height as the parent, but with even greater presence, the massing is heavy and immense. If my calculations are correct, the space, at the reported 90,000 square feet, would be roughly 2 acres; larger than an American football field. If square, it would be 300 feet long by 300 feet wide, or perhaps 250 feet wide by 360 feet long. Touchdown! Bigger is just bigger, not always better.

I politely request that you reject the current proposal and revisit the height, hinderance of views, scale, and overall programming needed to achieve a suitable structure for the purpose, site and city context.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Linda Kitson

MarketPlace Designs

Summit, New Jersey

Name: Elaine Garvey

Date: March 4, 2026 4:43:25 am

I am a lifelong advocate for historic preservation and am shocked to my core by the head-spinningly rapid demolition of the East Wing of the White House on the whim of its current occupant. Guardrails exist to protect buildings of historic significance and national importance and they are used conscientiously in small villages and large cities across America every day to protect buildings. PLEASE give this project the serious consideration it deserves. PLEASE do a real review

of the plans and impact of the proposed construction, and PLEASE do not allow this planned monstrosity to overwhelm one of the most beloved treasures of our country.

Name: Mary Dotson

Date: March 4, 2026 4:47:56 am

I am writing to express my opposition to the current plans for the White House State Ballroom. At 90,000 square feet, the proposed addition is nearly double the size of the Executive Residence itself, an outsized scale that would permanently overwhelm the historic character of a National Historic Landmark. The "neoclassical" design, as seen in recent renderings, is aesthetically jarring and ignores the delicate architectural balance maintained for over 200 years.

Furthermore, the project is an egregious example of wasteful expenditure. While the administration claims private funding, the \$400 million cost—bankrolled by corporate interests—creates unacceptable conflicts of interest and bypasses the essential congressional oversight that ensures transparency. Demolishing the historic East Wing for a "gilded" vanity project is not modernization; it is the destruction of American heritage. I urge the Commission to reject these plans in favor of a more modest, transparent, and respectful alternative.

Name: MaryCatherine Mann

Date: March 4, 2026 4:53:46 am

Thank you so much for allowing this opportunity to express our thoughts on the East Wing Renovation. As it is currently proposed I find this new addition to completely out of proportion and out of symmetry with our beautiful White House. Please re-design The East Wing to allow it to enhance what is already there in both scale and design.

Name: Kathryn Sue Papp

Date: March 4, 2026 5:03:22 am

The project was unnecessary and recklessly and disrespectfully done as a gross insult to the People of America, our Founders vision and our Constitution, as well as Congress and the bodies and institutions established and honored as Keepers of the history of the United States of America.

It was done in a criminally stealthy way, sneaking and sliming around in the middle of the night...under the Light of our Sight and Day.

It is grossly out of scale to the White House, our premier standard bearer of our Faith in this Country and its founding principles and principals. As such it is obviously crafted and architecturally rendered to feature and trumpet one man only, we know who that is.

Overshadowing the White House spacially and figuratively is completely unacceptable to this voter, a privilege I treasure.

Updating the original if done responsibly and with gratitude and delight would have sufficient to move into another era. This was apparently not the intent and it is obvious at first glance.

MY RECOMMENDATION? COMPLETELY RESTORE THE EAST WING TO ITS ORIGINAL EDIFICE, WITH PROPER SCALE, MAGNITUDE, ATTITUDE, MATERIALS, AND AESTHETICS.... AND RENAME IT "THE DOLLY MADISON WING" .

Thank you,
Kathryn S. Papp

Name: Susan Tobey

Date: March 4, 2026 5:08:04 am

Like many, I am disgusted by Trump's razing of the East Wing and his gilded ballroom project. At the very least, THIS DOES NOT COMPORT WITH THE FORMERLY PRIZED NOTION THAT THE WHITE HOUSE IS THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE. This is a vanity project for Trump and his billionaire cohorts. To me it represents the obliteration of our national

values and morality. If built, it will be a monument to greed, a manifestation of the ugliest traits of Trump himself. Please, do not let this project go forward.

Truly,

Susan B Tobey
Brunswick, Maine

Name: Barbara Luck

Date: March 4, 2026 5:33:22 am

The White House is the symbolic home of the American people. No “modernization” on the scale of the ballroom now in progress should be allowed. it will dwarf the primary building, which destroys the symbolic value of the White House. I oppose the tear down of the old East Wing and decry the monstrosity being erected in its place.

Name: Ariana Estariel

Date: March 4, 2026 5:36:44 am

To the Honorable Members of the Commission:

While I am certainly no architect, I find that this project, begun in haste and with little genuine consideration for the generally well-protected esthetic of the Capital complex, which includes the National Mall and its surrounding environs, has been monumentally violated by the East Wing project.

It is reprehensible that the president would undertake such a project, clearly designed for self-glorification, rather than for beautification of The Peoples' House. The design, as now proposed, would obliterate the balance of this iconic Classical building and be a terrible reminder of how one president continually ignored the will of the People to the detriment of the nation and its respected image among the nations.

I urge you to do whatever is in your power and legal authority to postpone or delay this project for a few years and to exert your authority commensurate with architectural wisdom or to temper the design to conform to more Classical standards that respect the fragile environment of the land and the beauty of the area.

Most respectfully yours,
Ariana Estariel
Burke, Virginia

Name: Steven Gallagher

Date: March 4, 2026 5:38:23 am

Please stop the current administration from breaking the law with this project.

No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Patricia Loucks

Date: March 4, 2026 5:38:31 am

I am writing to oppose the proposed plan for the White House East Wing Modernization and Ballroom Project, but to instead strongly support the modifications proposed by two fellows of the American Institute of Architects, David Scott Parker and Bill Bates

The White House is a National Historic Landmark and National Park, owned by the American people and stewarded by the National Park Service. It has been home to our presidents since 1800 and is considered the most significant historic site in the United States, recognized around the world. Before nationally significant places are permanently altered, there is a legally required federal review process, which includes public participation.

Major construction projects in Washington ,DC must be reviewed by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the US Commission of Fine Arts (CFA); comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); and receive congressional approval. These safeguards exist to ensure transparency, accountability and meaningful public input. In the case of the Ballroom Project, some of these steps have been minimized or ignored altogether. Decisions have been made that seem to side-step or ignore public input or that of relevant professional expertise.

The proposed building to house the ballroom is totally out of proportion to the existing central structure of the White House in square footage, height, scale and volume. The proposed ballroom building is nearly 3 times the volume of the central White House structure. It dwarfs and overwhelms the original White House and spoils the classical design of the White House complex which is anchored in symmetry. Even the colonnade connecting the original White House with the building housing the ballroom is out of proportion, with a 2 story height and 40 foot wide stairway.

The south portico of the ballroom building is massive but serves no purpose. There is no access to the interior of the building and it is not ADA accessible. A 40 foot wide stairway brings one to a flat space with doors but the doors are FAKE! The portico has 24 huge 5 feet in diameter columns, which do not match the style of the columns on the original White House and only serve to block the view from the interior.

Interior space is not used appropriately, as a kitchen, 2 1/2 times the size of the industry standard to serve 1000 guests, and various service areas occupy the main floor. The ballroom space is 30% larger than the high standard for 1000 people. It features very high ceilings and the cavernous design of the space does not lend itself to being partitioned off in order to accommodate smaller groups.

The ballroom building as proposed would completely block the axial view from the Capitol steps to the original White House, a key feature of L'Enfant's 1791 plan for Washington DC, symbolizing the relationship between the executive and legislative branches of government.

Luckily Parker and Bates, the architects mentioned above, have developed some design modifications to protect the carefully balanced classical design of the White House. Their ideas include moving the non-public kitchen and service spaces from the main floor to the lower level, while sizing the ballroom to the high industry standard and eliminating the non-accessible south portico, thus reducing the immense volume of the proposed structure by over 38%. As they state in their proposal for modifications: "This would lessen harmful impacts on the historic Executive Residence and preserve the highly important axial relationship and viewshed between the White House and the US Capitol."

I strongly support modifications which would preserve and protect James Hoban's classical symmetrical design of the White House complex and the complementary landscape design.

Patricia Loucks
Lake Monticello, Virginia

Name: Jose Azel

Date: March 4, 2026 5:41:54 am

Key reasons I oppose the East Wing project:

Destruction of Historic Fabric: The demolition is a "razing of American history" that disrupts the balanced, classical, and symmetric design of the White House complex.

Ethical Concerns and Influence Peddling: The project is funded by private donors—including major tech, defense, and crypto corporations (e.g., Apple, Google, Lockheed Martin)—raising suspicion that donors are buying access to the President.

Erasure of Women's History: The East Wing historically houses the Office of the First Lady; removing it diminishes the legacy of women's contributions to the presidency.

Lack of Transparency and Due Process: My self, as well as architects and lawmakers, believe the project bypassed proper, public, and transparent review processes.

Questionable Priority: The substantial \$3-400 million cost is inappropriate use of resources for a party venue, rather than addressing other national needs.

Loss of Functionality: The project replaces functional offices with a large, Neo-Classical, multi-purpose ballroom, not a necessary or appropriate alteration to the executive residence.

I urge that this project be reimagined, not by the whims of one man, but by a bipartisan group that balances the decisions into well thought out plans and more representative of America in general.

Name: Marcy Rockman

Date: March 4, 2026 5:46:44 am

I'm writing to express my objections to the plans for the White House ballroom currently under consideration by the National Capital Planning Commission. I'm a registered professional archaeologist and have worked with US laws and regulations for historic preservation over the course of my career. I have also spent more than 16 years as a resident of Washington, DC and its landscapes, buildings, and monuments are my home.

Demolition of the East Wing of the White House without wide notification, planning, and public consultation is an appalling circumstance. This should not be compounded by proceeding with the currently proposed design. The scale of the proposed ballroom is out of proportion with other historic buildings in the core of the city and will break lines of sight that have organized Washington since the development of the L'Enfant Plan. Available information on size and massing of the ballroom show that it is even out of proportion with architectural standards for facilities for the stated intended capacity of 1,000 people.

I object to the idea of a ballroom in place of the former East Wing and would prefer rebuilding to address the previous functions of the East Wing, allow public engagement, and develop new gardens that share the many stories of the White House complex. If a ballroom design is moved forward, I recommend approaches and designs developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation which are appropriate to the historic context.

Name: Carolyn Hastings

Date: March 4, 2026 5:52:56 am

I would also like to thank the Commission for the careful attention you are giving to this important matter concerning the White House. As you know, it is one of the most historically significant examples of classical architecture in the United States.

I was deeply concerned by the demolition of the existing East Wing without meaningful oversight, and even more troubled by the currently proposed design for the new ballroom addition. It appears to be dramatically out of scale with the existing architecture and the historic character of the White House.

I appreciate the Commission's efforts to create a cohesive plan forward.

Name: James V Ryder

Date: March 4, 2026 5:55:49 am

Hi

For what it's worth that I'm opposed to building this giant ballroom that's three times bigger than the white house. It's disproportional to the White House..

I think that east wing should be restored to its original and the ballroom should be built to a separate location.

Thanks

Jim Ryder

Name: Frederick Lamster

Date: March 4, 2026 6:00:58 am

The most appalling lack of taste in DC. Put the East Wing back as it was. Cheap and appalling. A vanity project by a man with no taste or tact. Where was the approval process?

Name: Christine Daraio

Date: March 4, 2026 6:06:05 am

No ballroom!

Name: Jen Gloede

Date: March 4, 2026 6:07:26 am

In a time where millions of Americans are forced to choose between paying rent or buying medicine, this project of building a tasteless ballroom for the sake of the president's own vanity is truly appalling. Even the name of this project "East Wing Modernization Project" is appalling. Trump singlehandedly decided to destroy the East Wing without public comment, without Congressional approval. He alone decided to tear it down.

It is disgusting that hundreds of millions of dollars are being spent for something ONE person in this country wants. I look forward to the next presidential election as I will only vote for a candidate who vows to turn down this monstrosity on January 21, 2029.

Name: Margaret Fisher

Date: March 4, 2026 6:08:04 am

I am against the plan to alter the White House in any substantial way. It is an historic building and should be protected as such from large changes like what is being proposed. Any work done to the White House should be in the service of repairing the current building rather than changing it. Conservation of our historic buildings is so important for the continuation of our culture. The better option, if work is necessary for the health of the building, is to enlist a restoration expert to identify how to update without destroying historical, cultural, and political heritage.

Name: Ellen Ungaro

Date: March 4, 2026 6:16:50 am

Please put a stop to the work on the ballroom. The White House is the people's house. It does not belong to the president. This work was done without consultation or the approval of anyone. No one has been allowed to review the plans or the budget. While "paid for by private donors" sounds like a benefit, when there is no transparency into the budget, it is instead an opportunity for bribery.

Name: Donald Gavigan

Date: March 4, 2026 6:17:01 am

Where to start? This proposal is an insult to the People's house. It's ugly, tacky, too big and will be nothing more than a glorified meeting space for grifters and influence pedaling. I am disgusted at how the East Wing demolition was handled and vehemently object to this project. Do your job and respect the People for a change and stop rubber stamping these types of gaudy changes to the People's house by somebody who is clueless when it comes to good taste and respect for history.

Name: TAMARA DEMARTINO

Date: March 4, 2026 6:24:04 am

I am writing to comment on the proposed design for a new addition to the White House. The proposed design is not appropriate; it is completely over-sized and over-scale to the existing main White House.

There should be a thoughtful, deliberate, and appropriately architecturally-sound process to design a building that will become part of an historic and classically designed campus that fits into Pierre L'Enfant's design for Washington, DC. The approval process should not be a rush job!!

It would certainly be possible to design a new East Wing of the White House which would complement the White House and would respect and mirror the design principles reflected in the design for Washington, DC by Pierre L'Enfant; the design of the White House by James Hoban; and the design of the grounds and gardens by Frederick Law Olmstead. Each of these designs is based on the classical components of architecture dating back to 80 BC—proportion, symmetry, and balance.

The White House belongs to the people—We The People— of the United States. At any given moment, the person who is

President of the United States is merely a tenant and should be a steward of this historic and iconic building. Any person who is President of the United States is not entitled to destroy the historic and classical design of an important symbol of the United States.

Any new design for the White House campus should respect classical architecture and be balanced with respect to the historic context: L'Enfant's plan for Washington, DC, which was commissioned by George Washington; James Hoban's design for the White House; and Frederick Law Olmstead's plan for the White House grounds. L'Enfant's very well-designed city plan has been in effect for generations. There is a legacy of design for the White House and Washington, DC, and the American people deserve to see it respected and continued in any new additions or modifications to the White House campus. Any proposed design must respect and abide by the legacy we as Americans have inherited.

The current proposed design is a threat to the most important house in America and one of the most recognized buildings in all of the United States and the world. The abominable impact of the current design cannot be overstated.

I urge you to reject this design and move forward with a deliberative process that respects the design of the White House and the classical architectural principles it represents.

The design proposed for the new ballroom goes against architectural principals for design and also functionality. The new design is very over-scale and will overwhelm the main White House. Also, the huge structure of the new design obliterates the axial connection—the sight line—between the White House and the Capitol building which is one of the critical features and hallmarks of L'Enfant's plan for Washington, DC. Any proposed design which will interrupt the literal and symbolic connection between branches of government should not be allowed to move forward. The view from the Capitol steps to the White House main building will be completely blocked by the proposed ballroom design and will forever interrupt this axial connection, visibly and symbolically. This connection was intended from the very founding of Washington, DC.

The proposed design is discordant with the original White House building. It is mammoth beyond functionality, and there is a disturbing lack of functionality among proposed features. For example, the portico serves no purpose as there is no access to the interior. The doors shown on the south elevation are fake doors, not working doors. The design seems to not be ADA accessible. The design also includes fake windows above street level. And the proposed new connecting colonnade has NO windows. How soul-less! Frederick Law Olmstead designed the grounds of the White House with symmetric gardens and drive. The proposed design distorts the drive and destroys the classical symmetry. The proposed Corinthian columns in the proposed addition completely upstage the Ionic columns in the White House, and do not reflect principles of classical architecture.

Additional troubling points about the proposed building—The proposed kitchen is two and a half times larger than the industry standard. The kitchen could be lowered to be below ground and the size could be changed such that it would be scaled correctly. This would reduce the volume of the proposed building by 38% and would lessen the harmful impact on the historic main White House building, and would preserve the axial connection between the White House and the Capitol. So, modifications to reduce the building design to match industry standards and lower the above-grade kitchen would preserve scale.

Industry standards were ignored to present such a huge ballroom. The proposed ballroom is so large that it is not scaled correctly even for a group of 1000.

How is this space going to be used?! Will it be standing empty most of the time? The space will be too big for a group of 200 people. Remember, this is not a ballroom in a conference center where there are moving walls and partitions.

Please reject this design. Please move forward with a deliberative process that respects the design of the White House and the classical architecture principles it represents. Please create a process that will result in an appropriately-scaled addition to the White House that respects history and the classical architecture of the main White House.

Name: Susan Janicke

Date: March 4, 2026 6:32:07 am

Good Morning,

Thank you National Capital Planning Commission for attempting to make some good come out of the destruction of the East Wing.

First I must say that the East Wing should NEVER have been destroyed. Too large a piece of the history of women was lost when Trump raised the building.

Since a new ballroom was proposed, I would suggest something made from material unique to the United States. Perhaps using dedicated timbers from Northern Minnesota. DON'T import marble or other materials.

This is the people's house. The person currently sitting in the office of the president seem to have forgotten this.

Name: Deborah L. Lutz

Date: March 4, 2026 6:34:10 am

I do not agree with any plans to build a ballroom. A ballroom is not needed. It is an expense that will burden the taxpayers and provide no benefit to the people. The total cost of ownership of this ballroom should be considered, as well as how will the Secret Service maintain security and safety in such an enormous building. I feel this is just an attempt to satisfy one President's ego, not considering the needs of the American people who will ever have the privilege of being in the building

The proposed 90,000 sq feet structure destroys the historical images of the White House. It is overwhelming the entire compound that represents the White House.

Please deny any plans to build this unnecessary building

Name: Richard Elliott-Grunes

Date: March 4, 2026 6:35:00 am

Trump's plan is ample proof of his ignorance and disregard of history. It is yet another in a long list of uninformed, ignorant, self-aggrandizing and narcissistic gestures that have informed his presidency. Please stop this from happening!

Name: Suzanne Dorman

Date: March 4, 2026 6:35:54 am

I am opposed to the current plans to add a large ballroom to the existing structure. First, I would like to see more of a justification as to why we need such a large ballroom. Prior to the current administration I have heard no reference to this being a "need". In addition the current proposal for such a large structure will overshadow the original structure changing the original intent and design of the remainder of the "people's house". This addition is unnecessary and will forever change the historic vision and view of the "people's house". This request to build this structure is made by a temporary resident who will be vacating the property in 3 years and not a request of the American people.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Ellen Masterson

Date: March 4, 2026 6:36:26 am

The replacement of the old East Wing is disturbing. The enormity of the proposed design and alleged necessity are incongruous with the history and meaning of the White House. The secrecy around the destruction of the old East Wing was a violation of the trust we give the stewards of the White House.

Years ago, my family walked through the East Wing. It was the part of the White House accessible to all Americans. Now that is gone, and will be replaced with massive ballroom built only to meet the needs of the most wealthy and powerful people. That's wrong. It is un-American.

My husband has spent his career conserving our national treasures. Under the principals of conservation, an object is meant to retain its historical appearance, be stabilized and all modifications should be reversible. This project fails to meet those principals. Also, the proposal is obviously poor design. If subterranean modifications are needed, make them, but do not build that monstrosity.

Thank you for accepting this comment.

Name: Barbara Byram

Date: March 4, 2026 6:37:08 am

This project should not even be up for discussion, since the president should never have demolished the East Wing in the first place. His penchant for dismissing history and building tributes to himself is disgusting. He did not have the right to tear down the East Wing, nor should he have the right to replace it with an excessively sized and gaudy ballroom. Just because his own wife prefers to live elsewhere and do none of the traditional work of a First Lady, it doesn't mean that he can wipe the history of other First Ladies and remove the space reserved for them.

That the president has demolished a national historic site without any regard for legal requirements is yet another example of his lack of regard for this nation, its people, and its history.

I wish that my comment were actually meaningful public input, but we're past that. The time for this was prior to the demolition of the East Wing.

The drawings I've seen of the supposed modernization are grossly out of proportion with the function in terms of the importance of the White House.

Thank you for taking my comments.

Name: Margo Jones

Date: March 4, 2026 6:40:30 am

As a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, a former officer of the National Council of Architecture Registration Board, and a retired architect who served on the Massachusetts Historical Commission, I am compelled to register my strong objection to the proposed ballroom addition to the White House.

The project is very badly designed, with no regard to its historically significant site and the existing architectural context to which it is being added. It is overscaled—too large, too tall, with frivolous, wasted elements that serve no functional purpose. If it were a student project in an architectural school, it would not get a passing grade. It is flawed. It needs further study and revision.

I spent my career designing historic renovations and additions. Each project met the criteria of The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, carried and enforced by the National Park Service. The proposed ballroom does not meet those standards. As the National Capital Planning Commission, I would expect that you would enforce those standards as well.

There is no more historically significant property than the White House. The proposed project blocks views of the main residence from Pennsylvania Avenue, is in every manner too big, and is even improperly sized (horizontally and vertically) for the projected use. It insults the values and standards in place for all historic properties in the United States. Reducing the size and extent of this project is imperative.

Respectfully submitted, Margo Jones, FAIA

Name: William Foster

Date: March 4, 2026 6:43:07 am

The White House belongs to the people of the United States and not the President. The East Wing was illegally destroyed. The new ballroom must be stopped. It is neither necessary nor aligned to the scale of the West Wing.

Name: Natalie MacBrien

Date: March 4, 2026 6:47:24 am

I am AGAINST THIS PROJECT! This tacky monstrosity had no place to be next to the White House. The scale alone is disturbing and over powers the people's house. The cost is outrageous and having donors pay for it sets up an unethical situation of favors to be owed to the president. If it e

As be built, make the scale correct and not bigger than the White House.

Name: John Neal

Date: March 4, 2026 6:49:04 am

Our beloved United States of America has much greater priorities than a new ballroom attached to the White House. Many communities and citizens of Western North Carolina are still awaiting FEMA funds for recovery from the

devastating September 2024 Hurricane Helene. The \$400 million projected cost of an un-needed ballroom could help replace washed-out roads and bridges. The \$400 million could go toward reimbursing Western North Carolina's small towns that have made and paid for repairs to their infrastructure based on US Government promises. Instead of soliciting money for a ballroom from the President's billionaire friends and big corporation lobbyists, the President could ask the richest people and companies to help us, regular people and communities of this great nation. Those billionaires and corporations got a historic tax cut last year--why not have them repay the favor by helping ordinary Americans.

Name: Maureen Powell

Date: March 4, 2026 6:49:47 am

The East Wing ballroom proposed project is an outsized shrine to bad taste. It exemplifies the epitome of Trump's narcissism and delusions of grandeur and the overall message it seeks to convey is contradictory to the American people and foreign visitors who have known it as the "people's house".

Name: Mary Ellen Mesler

Date: March 4, 2026 6:51:02 am

Please accept an expert opinion from Laurel Bern concerning the East Wing reconstruction/replacement: "from an architectural standpoint, the current proposal fails to respect the principles of classical design that define the White House itself."

<https://laurelberninteriors.com/urgent-march-4th-deadline-for-public-comments-for-the-wh-east-wing-project/>

Name: Clark Sykes

Date: March 4, 2026 6:55:41 am

I am completely opposed to the construction of a 90,000 sq ft ballroom on the east side of our historic White House. In my opinion, the scale of this unnecessary project is grossly out of scale for our most iconic historic structures and grounds, and an abomination in of itself. Further, the razing of the White House East Wing was done without legally required historic, environmental, and planning reviews. The proposed ballroom construction should be blocked, and a replacement East Wing constructed instead.

Name: Justin Patchett

Date: March 4, 2026 6:57:26 am

The proposed White House ballroom has no business being erected on the White House grounds. Only under this administration have I heard any concern over one, and it comes from the President who seems to enjoy nothing more than leaving his mark on every flat surface he can. It's pure vanity.

The demolition of the East Wing itself was a travesty, and instead of it being replaced with something grandiose, the East Wing ought to be simply restored to its previous use and scale.

It reeks of "Panem et Circenses" at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, no matter who is paying the bill.

Name: Bridget Bertoldo

Date: March 4, 2026 6:57:37 am

The White House is important public building and the proposed ballroom is out of scale with it.

Name: Ali Carine

Date: March 4, 2026 7:00:41 am

I am very supportive of the White House ballroom. Our country needs a space like that. We are a young country. Our buildings and infrastructure should not be frozen in time with inadequately sized spaces. Looks like it will be amazing !

Name: Donna Hurst

Date: March 4, 2026 7:00:48 am

How is it possible that a President can decide on his own to simply tear down a portion of the White House in order to build something that will utterly overwhelm and degrade it?

Knowing this President's taste in "decor", the resulting monstrosity is surely going to be a gold-plated horror. While I can understand the need for a structure that provides event space, tearing down part of the historic "People's House" so Trump can fulfill his need to stroke his own ego is wrong on so many levels.

He may supposedly be paying for this project with private donations, the citizens will surely be on the hook for tearing the damned thing down and restoring some equilibrium to the White House. Hopefully the courts will rein this project in since it's obvious it will be rubber stamped by any group with any say in it.

Name: Anne Spear

Date: March 4, 2026 7:01:16 am

Hello,

The current East Wing construction is so wrong on many levels. First of all, The White House is not the personal property of Donald Trump, and it is not the right of any president to alter the White House without the appropriate levels of scrutiny and approvals.

Second, the plans are so out of proportion to the current structure of the House itself. It is too big, and looks terrible.

It is garish and sends the message that the President's House is all about huge parties.

It is an embarrassment to the entire country.

Name: Tea Kaplan

Date: March 4, 2026 7:03:18 am

The work and complete demolition of an American historic structure and symbol such as the White House is a complete disregard for the law and the American people and spirit. The destruction of the most notorious landmark of the United States rivals the destruction of Penn Station in terms of jarring disillusion that forces the American people to once again advocate for themselves and their history in the face of greed and self idolization. The construction of a ballroom in its place is a further slap to the American people who cannot access this and will never see the exorbitant amounts of wealth flaunted in galas, while the average American suffers from rising costs of living that threaten their ability to sustain themselves and their family. Beyond the moral repulsion of such work, this project is in opposition of the very founding of preservation law in the United States and must not go unchecked by the checks and balances set by the federal government.

Name: LINDSAY YATES

Date: March 4, 2026 7:04:42 am

Only want to register my dissatisfaction with the planned project and the manner in which it has come about. Now that history has been destroyed, we must insure that any replacement is designed with taste, dignity and historical reference. Not grandiose ideas of an overdone, tasteless monument to the whims of one person. It is my hope that your committee has the power to put the brakes on the proposed plan and to have influence on the scope, direction and execution of this project. Good luck.

Name: Nona Russell

Date: March 4, 2026 7:05:27 am

The White House is the "Peoples' House." It belongs to me and 330,000,000 other citizens of the United States. As such, modifications to this national treasure must be researched and planned and eventually realized by professionals with expertise and understanding of the historical and architectural significance of this structure. Changes cannot be made to any part of the White House on the whim of a real estate developer just because he has "built many ballrooms!"

The immense scale of the extension project insults and minimizes the House to which it is attached. The gaudy decoration, reminiscent of the palaces of totalitarian princes, is an anathema to the restrained grandeur this iconic, internationally recognized structure.

I do not support the plans as currently proposed.

Name: Allison Paton

Date: March 4, 2026 7:06:01 am

This project must be stopped. Not only is it a front to the American public, but it is an ugly horrific plan devised by the lawless thug that we have as president.

The building should never have been torn down. This is costing taxpayers millions and millions of dollars. Not only should the project be reversed, but the President should be removed from office.

Name: Anne Dunford

Date: March 4, 2026 7:10:57 am

Members of the Committee

I write to express my objections to the proposed East Wing "modernization". In addition to be gaudy and a complete abomination to the historical importance of the White House it is clearly designed by the current resident of 1600 Pennsylvania to be nothing more than an homage to himself.

As a life long New Yorker, the current resident of 1600 Pennsylvania self espoused reputation as a "builder" is nothing but another delusional fiction. He is not, and never was, a consequential figure in Manhattan real estate. His record of stiffing contractors is well documented and well known. Proceeding with this monstrosity is a violation of your responsibilities to American people to preserve our history over the desires of a megalomaniac. His time in office will end. I would encourage you to be on the side of history and refuse to proceed with this project.

Name: Brenda Clements

Date: March 4, 2026 7:11:09 am

I want the East Wing restored and I do not want a ballroom. This is our house. We do not need a ballroom. We need affordable food, health care, housing and education. This is ridiculous

Name: Elizabeth Westendorf

Date: March 4, 2026 7:16:49 am

As a citizen of the U.S. and one that has visited Washington D.C. multiple times, I have a deep respect for the history of D.C. and it's buildings, especially the White House.

This building standing up even during conflicts and wars, is not just a symbol of the Presidency but of perseverance, and being steadfast even during changes.

No other President has ever sought, much less, moved forward without need, or permission, in radically altering the appearance of the White House.

It is literally an eye sore the appearance of the White House currently.

The White House does now need restoration, but instead of moving forth with the ill planned and grossly sized and overpriced ballroom, that throws the esthetics of the White House out of harmony and balance. I would propose building back as it was.

The American people did not ask for a change in the White House layout and structure. The American people do not want to pay the bill. There was no safety/security need for this change.

So, return to White House to what it was. Return to the people's house!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Westendorf

Name: M K

Date: March 4, 2026 7:18:49 am

I am deeply concerned and upset about the East Wing destruction without Congress's approval. To destroy a historical monument without discussing it and voting on it is definitely not the American way. This is our house, the American people, and not the Trump family's. The job of the President was never meant to be a life of gold trimmings and expansive luxury, like Trump had determined.

Name: Patrick Gavigan

Date: March 4, 2026 7:21:58 am

A blight to the "people's house." It's a disproportionate monstrosity and looks tacky. What an embarrassment to the nation.

Name: Mary Pearson

Date: March 4, 2026 7:23:26 am

I am against the ballroom project.. why was the west wing demolished without any consultation? Rebuild this historical treasure instead of a gaudy gold laced ballroom. Mary

Name: Wayne Waichunas

Date: March 4, 2026 7:23:29 am

Would someone on the commission please inform the President that this is not his house. He is merely a resident during his tenure. If he wishes change, he should bring it before Congress long before demolition, which he obviously didn't do. Please require him to rebuild the East Wing to its former look and size at his own personal expense. This is our property and not his!

Sincerely, Wayne Waichunas, an American tax payer and co-owner of the property

Name: Alice Christian

Date: March 4, 2026 7:25:37 am

The plans we have seen of the East Wing project are concerning for many reasons. The scale of the project is out of proportion. The size of the footprint is unnecessary for the purposes and the massive cubic feet inside of a building will require enormous utility usages.

Please know, even people who are not trained in architecture can see the problems in these plans and do not approve such plans as they are. These plans need to be reworked to be fitting with the Classical architecture and scale of the White House. Unfortunately, the East Wing is gone and something has to replace it. Take this opportunity, to enhance the White House with a proper building that is correctly designed to be beautiful, useful and energy conserving.

Thank you,
Alice Christian

Name: Mary Bonner

Date: March 4, 2026 7:26:49 am

I write to strongly object to the plan for the East Wing Modernization project.

The destruction of the existing East Wing with no regard for the preservation of the historic aspects was stunning and reprehensible.

Anything Mr. Trump has put his attention to and mark on is gaudy, destructive, and self serving. The American People along with Congress should have had input on the proposed project before demolition occurred.

I respectfully request that the East Wing be restored to its former status.

Since Mr. Trump, without thought, caused this destruction, he should be forced to pay for the restoration from his private funds and should have no input into the reconstruction.

We The People deserve better from our president and from you.

Mary Bonner

Name: Patricia Jackson

Date: March 4, 2026 7:29:07 am

If this is not stopped we will once again suffer from the selfish whims of everything this President puts his hands on. He is ruining, destroying, showing no concern for beauty, history, for the rest of the country, only himself. We will stand to lose the reverential planning of this People's House for one more selfish and money-grabbing method that this person is concerned with. He cares nothing for the country, the people of the country, but only how much money he can gain from something to stuff in his pockets. Please, don't let this move forward. It's an utter disgrace.

Name: Lesley Oswald

Date: March 4, 2026 7:32:10 am

Dear friends,

Since our current president took it upon himself to destroy the east wing of the Whitehouse without proper oversight and planning, and therefore something must be constructed to repair that hole in the people's house, I am urging you to consider alternative designs that best match the architecture of the current structure and is hopefully less expensive.

Sincerely,

Lesley Oswald
Boonville, MO

Name: Jo Ann Duplechin

Date: March 4, 2026 7:32:14 am

PLEASE stop the madness of the proposed White House Ballroom. It is an abomination, breaks all rules of classical architecture, and will permanently ruin the beauty that L'Enfant and Hoban planned.

Name: Mary Jean Scudder

Date: March 4, 2026 7:32:40 am

Horrific - the plans to build a ballroom for a self-proclaimed king. 250 years of democracy have led us to the chintziest presidency to ever inhabit the White House. This king's ballroom will overshadow the People's House. Let's not forget - we will one day have a legitimate, working First Spouse who may need a workspace of their own. Rebuild the East Wing as offices and museum if you like - leave the ballroom idea to Louis XVI.

Name: Amanda Aldridge

Date: March 4, 2026 7:36:41 am

I think it is a disgrace what you have permitted to be done to the Whitehouse. There should have been injunctions filed, or some legal action taken. To allow it to be demolished without a real plan, actual financing flies in the face of common sense.

The Whitehouse is the people's house it does not belong to an individual, and one person should not have the autonomy to destroy it.

The ballroom is ridiculous in size, design and purpose. There should be no additions or changes to the Whitehouse that overshadow it or diminish it. The East wing should still be able to function as the first lady's office and room for her staff. You should have to approve any renderings, permits, and designs, construction bids, and verification of finances. All of

the cheap, tacky gold accents are embarrassing, it is not classy or elegant.

Please stand up for what is right, in a world where integrity and morals are faltering it is more important than ever for you do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Amanda

Name: Christina Clark

Date: March 4, 2026 7:36:56 am

I am writing in opposition to the proposed design for the White House East Wing project. The project should not be planned or determined by one individual with dreams of grandiosity and overly opulent taste. The design and implementation of the construction project must be placed in the hands of people with knowledge and skills to update a monument of such historical significance.

Please be willing to say no.

Name: anita pildes

Date: March 4, 2026 7:40:57 am

The east wing should never have been demolished in the first place. That being said, the exterior of the new wing should match the west wing in size and style. It should look as close as the old wing as possible.

Name: Jorge Ortiz-Colom

Date: March 4, 2026 7:41:23 am

I don't favor the project of the new East Wing addition as currently proposed.

1. There has been no known viability study regarding the specific spaces (and their sizes) needed as complementary functions for the Presidency. Does a workplace that deals with policy issues, usually working with small groups, need such a vast ceremonial space?
2. What the White House really need is a moderately-sized multifunction space that can be used occasionally for "large" ceremonial events. An area that can be configured in separate medium- and small-sized spaces for workshops and meetings is more useful for the daily work routine.
3. Many other spaces are exaggerated for their expected use, like the "kitchen", which can accomodate at least a dozen restaurant kitchens, and to be mostly used as a staging area for catering. (The WH already has a kitchen for use of the First Family, guests and people who work there.)
4. As others have commented, the bulk of the southern part of the proposed building obstructs visually the symbolically important axis of Pennsylvania Avenue from the South Facade of the White House to the Capitol. The importance of visually linking two of the major centers of government power cannot be underestimated and blocking it with this "ballroom" negates the intentions of L'Enfant and the team that built out official Washington as we know it.
5. Also it has been commented that the exaggerated Corinthian style portico on the south facade is useless, as it doesn't give access to the interior. So it is a dead end only usable, possibly, for "photo ops", as it has no functional connection to other spaces inside the addition. It should be eliminated so that it doesn't compete with the original architecture of the President's House.
6. The building shows an awkward handling of classical orders with apparent little regard for principles of proportion and symmetry. It will not be, in my reckoning, a memorable building like many others in the city. It must be smaller, less ambitious, and it should be rendered in a low-key classicism (like those of several 1920s/1930s buildings) rendering the auxiliary nature of its purpose. It does not add historical value to the White House as a landmark.

Name: Jeanne Wyatt

Date: March 4, 2026 7:42:47 am

Hello, I am writing to voice my displeasure over the East Wing plans. They are entirely too large and out of proportion either the historic White House structure. The view of the White House will be entirely obstructed even from Capitol Hill. The project is unnecessarily large. It seems to not be ADA compliant as well. A smaller version that still hosts 1000 guests would fulfill its purpose without destroying a piece of history at the seat of our nation. Please do not let these plans

go forward and create something more in line with the historic nature and architecture already in place. Thank you for your time.

Name: Jennifer Clark

Date: March 4, 2026 7:43:27 am

The proposed ballroom is grossly out of scale with the White House. One man's vanity project should not dwarf and deface the existing structure. The favored marble and gilt hotel style is out of place. The decision maker boards are now packed with political loyalists who do not know architecture or design. This ugly building would last long after the current president is dead and gone, with limited utility for such a large space. VOTE NO

Name: A. Paton

Date: March 4, 2026 7:43:39 am

The plan is appalling. The fact that it was demolished is a travesty. Please do not allow this to be done. Recommend it only be rebuilt to the original specs at no expense to the taxpayers.

Name: Wendy Venvertloh

Date: March 4, 2026 7:43:49 am

I do not support the President's plan to build a large ballroom where the East Wing used to be. The East Wing should be in scale with the rest of the building and rebuilding as much of the former footprint as possible.

Name: Amy Rickels

Date: March 4, 2026 7:49:12 am

I am writing about the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House complex.

The White House is one of the most symbolically and historically significant buildings in the United States. Any addition of this scale risks overwhelming the historic character of the Executive Mansion and its carefully balanced grounds. A structure of this size could irreversibly alter sightlines, landscape integrity, and the architectural hierarchy that makes the White House recognizable around the world.

If expanded event capacity is truly necessary, the National Capital Planning Commission should require a comprehensive exploration of more sensitive alternatives. These could include:

- A smaller, below-grade ballroom designed to preserve historic sightlines and landscape continuity.
- A detached or semi-detached pavilion sited discreetly within the broader complex rather than directly altering the primary structure.
- Adaptive reuse or modernization of existing federal event spaces elsewhere in Washington, D.C., reducing the need for expansion at the White House itself.
- Temporary or modular ceremonial structures for large events, minimizing permanent alteration of a historic site.

The White House grounds are part of a carefully stewarded civic landscape that belongs to the American people. Large-scale construction should not proceed without transparent design review, independent historic preservation analysis, and serious consideration of lower-impact options.

I urge the NCPC to reject the current proposal and require a design approach that prioritizes preservation, proportionality, and long-term stewardship over grandeur or convenience.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Susan Foster

Date: March 4, 2026 7:53:09 am

The East Wing was deconstructed without going through proper regulatory channels. It should be rebuilt exactly as it was using historically appropriate materials . This is the fiscal responsibility of the current “President” mr trump. Please hold him accountable.

Name: Christine Shields

Date: March 4, 2026 7:53:23 am

Modernization is a bit of an understatement since the East Wing has been totally destroyed. A “replacement “ project of a 90,000 square foot ballroom is totally out of scale and will dwarf the classical proportions of the existing White House. The White House has always been a symbol of the dignity of the Office of the President and the values of the people of the United States. This project has made a mockery of those values. With a capacity of 1,500 seated people, rather than the 1000 originally proposed, the project will also rack up even more costs to the American people at a time when they can scarce afford it. I ask you to consider a plan more in keeping with the scale of the White House and not a monstrosity that is three times the existing structure.

Name: sharon drescher

Date: March 4, 2026 7:55:04 am

Why was the east wing of the White House torn down? I am so appalled - in my 80 years on earth I never thought that a president would unilaterally destroy a huge part of the White House.

Trump’s design is ridiculous and out of scale with the rest of our historic and beloved White House. His taste is all in his mouth.

Rebuild the East Wing to exactly replicate the structure that he tore down.

Name: Cathy Miller

Date: March 4, 2026 7:56:43 am

The White House is not one of Donald Trump's real estate holdings. It is not known as the Trump House (yet). It is not his to tear down wings or add his hideous ill-conceived ballroom. Nor did his wife have any right to tear out the Rose Garden, which along with the structure itself are historic artifacts of presidents who have resided there since 1800. The Trumps will be gone soon, and the White House will remain as a symbol of America's enduring democracy. Of all the lawless acts Trump has perpetrated during his year back in office, the destruction of the East Wing devastated me the most, because of that very symbolism I mentioned.

Name: Terry Joy

Date: March 4, 2026 7:58:06 am

Dear Members of the NCPC,

As a US citizen, I would like to register my comments about the destruction of the East Wing and the currently proposed design of the new ballroom addition.

I have copied below portions of a very well written letter I read written by an interior designer from my home state of MA - Laurel Bern. I echo her sentiments quoted below:

“...I was deeply concerned by the demolition of the existing East Wing without meaningful oversight, and even more troubled by the currently proposed design for the new ballroom addition. It appears to be dramatically out of scale with the existing architecture and the historic character of the White House.”

“...Aside from inaugurations, are there events that genuinely require seating for more than 500 guests? My research indicates that state dinners in recent decades have typically been smaller than that. If there is no practical need for a 1,000-seat banquet hall, it is difficult to justify constructing one.

Beyond questions of scale and function, there are also practical concerns. A room of this magnitude raises significant issues of acoustics and usability. If such a space is frequently only partially occupied, it risks becoming uncomfortable for the guests. Professional acoustic design would be essential.”

“...Most importantly, from an architectural standpoint, the current proposal fails to respect the principles of classical design that define the White House itself.”

“...Classical architecture is fundamentally rooted in proportion—relationships derived from nature and often expressed through mathematical ratios such as the golden mean (1.618). When these principles are ignored, the result inevitably feels discordant with the historic structure it is meant to complement.

By contrast, a thoughtful design developed by a classically trained architectural firm—one that respects proportion, scale, and historical context—could produce an addition worthy of the White House and capable of enduring for centuries.”

I, myself, had the pleasure of seeing parts of the White House in person many years ago and it was something I will never forget. I was so disturbed to see the news footage of how quickly the East Wing was demolished and I hope that more thought will be given to rebuilding it.

Thank you,

Terry Joy
Medford, MA

Name: Malcolm Young

Date: March 4, 2026 7:59:03 am

I am a Washington, D. C. resident, an attorney, long interested in American history, and a veteran. I am not going to write at length about President Trump's architectural folly, his illegal and unjustified assault on our White House, a "ball room" larger than the main portion of the White House. But to me, the very idea of the "ballroom" Trump has on his own undertaken to construct conflicts with democratic ideals: that this nation would build some kind of "grand" monument, an ostentatious, palatial structure fit for a monarch and his or her court, adjacent to "the people's house," is offensive to my core.

It's too obvious to say that we don't need this, or that it is an architectural monstrosity, an assault on the senses, like a monument to false gods. There's no justification, none.

I will support all legal efforts to stop this project.

If this thing is approved, I hope that the next (Democratic) administration will exercise reciprocal authority, rip it down, rebuild a new East Wing on the scale and in the style of the original, and bill the private donors who coughed up the millions that allowed Trump to bypass Congressional approval for funding.

Bottom line: opposed to the proposed plans.

Name: David Radcliffe

Date: March 4, 2026 8:01:12 am

Chair, Commissioners, and staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposal to construct a large ballroom connected to the White House complex.

I write in opposition to this project.

The White House and its surrounding landscape are among the most historically significant civic spaces in the United States. The design of the Executive Mansion and the carefully balanced landscape that surrounds it—particularly the South Lawn and the axial views toward the Washington Monument and the National Mall—form part of a nationally recognized historic setting. These spaces were deliberately designed to preserve openness, dignity, and visual harmony within the seat of the American presidency. The addition of a large ballroom structure risks permanently altering that historic landscape and the architectural integrity of the complex.

Beyond aesthetics, the proposal raises significant concerns regarding precedent. The White House grounds have long been treated as a protected historic landscape rather than a site for major new construction. Approving a substantial

addition to the complex for ceremonial or entertainment purposes would weaken long-standing norms that have preserved the character of the site for generations. Once such a precedent is established, future administrations may feel emboldened to pursue additional structural expansions, gradually eroding the historic character of the grounds.

There are also practical considerations. Large state events and receptions are already accommodated within existing federal facilities in Washington, including spaces specifically designed for such gatherings. Constructing a new ballroom attached to the White House risks duplicating existing capabilities at considerable cost while offering relatively limited public benefit.

At a time when the federal government faces pressing fiscal challenges, allocating resources to a major ceremonial construction project at the Executive Mansion sends the wrong signal about priorities. Preservation of historic national landmarks should focus on stewardship and maintenance rather than expansion.

Finally, the White House is not merely a residence or event venue. It is a symbol of the American republic and of the continuity of democratic governance. Its architectural restraint and historic landscape reflect the principle that the presidency serves the nation rather than personal grandeur. Expanding the complex with a large new ballroom risks undermining that symbolism.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to oppose or decline to approve the proposed ballroom construction.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and for your continued commitment to preserving the historic and civic landscapes under your stewardship.

Respectfully submitted,

David Radcliffe
Mitchellville, MD 20721

Name: Lara Sims

Date: March 4, 2026 8:03:38 am

I am concerned that the designs proposed by the current administration do not honor the legacy of our rich history and keep the People's House in the intended balance. Because a project of this magnitude will have lasting impacts for years to come I feel it is imperative a thoughtful process be undertaken. The process should include representatives from the National Trust for Historic Preservation so all aspects of symmetry, usage and balance and scale can be addressed.

Lara Sims



Name: Jaime Lustig

Date: March 4, 2026 8:04:43 am

Please do not build the White House ballroom as it is currently proposed. While I do object to the manner the President has gone about demolishing the East Wing without public comment or congressional approval, those are not the reasons I am objecting to the current proposal. I believe the scale and size of the proposed ballroom undermines the importance and architectural balance of the main White House building. A wing or annex or offshoot of the main building should not diminish the primary structure. That imbalance won't be one that can be fixed in the future. Further, the aesthetic of the proposed ballroom resembles that of kings and emperors which is the exact opposite of what the presidency was supposed to be and how the executive branch was to be balanced in our tripartite government. It is a government of the people, not one that should be showered in gold and riches to elevate it above the people it serves. Lastly, the cost is inappropriate. The way the funds have been raised are part of a scheme to tie private sectors to a particular presidential agenda. It positions those corporate donor interests above the people. That follows a long line of concerning decisions in our country prioritizing corporations over the people of the country. It also reflects poorly on a president who appears to have routinely been using the presidency for self enrichment. And although he may say that these donations are for a public building, I strongly believe that there is quid pro quo going on with the corporate donors and the president which places their desires above those of the American people, which is shameful. Please do not allow the ballroom/East Wing

project to commence as it is currently designed. It needs to be reduced in size significantly and funded only through congressionally approved tax dollars to remove corporate interests from our government. Thank you

Name: Elizabeth Krahenbuhl

Date: March 4, 2026 8:06:35 am

I would like to see this project stay in keeping with the historical proportions and appearance of the Whitehouse. The Trump plan is absolutely terrible and should be immediately halted and discarded. Any project going forward should follow a plan that is historically appropriate goes before the Historical committee for approval with public input included. The people's house belongs to the people and not the president. It was criminal to destroy the East Wing. The Whitehouse must remain in view and modernizing of East Wing must follow historical guidelines and get full approval from the public to go forward.

Name: Valerie Miller

Date: March 4, 2026 8:06:56 am

As s history major and an interior designer, I was appalled by Trump's plan for the ballroom. It is not in keeping with the architecture of the White House and the scale was entirely too large. Laurel Bern, a designer from Boston, Massachusetts submitted a scale drawing that honors the architecture, function & scale of the site. This is what I want to see built.

Name: Kimberly Campbell

Date: March 4, 2026 8:08:42 am

What a gross waste of money. People can't make rent and are going to food banks to supplement their food because the president shut off everyone's insurance, and we who work, are also paying a lot more for insurance and food. It is a big gaudy waste. How does that architectural insult help the American people? How much is the president pocketing on this project? And no I don't believe there is not tax payer money in this project. And how many big balls do presidents have? Why should an American president eat on gold surrounded by marble when American people eat on paper surround by humble? I don't approve of this abomination and insult to America and why we found a revolution.

Name: Erin Peterson

Date: March 4, 2026 8:12:51 am

Dear NCPC members,

I was dismayed by the demolition of the East Wing without meaningful oversight, and I have grave concerns about the proposed design for the new ballroom. The initial plan seems to have ignored important considerations such as whether the necessity for such a large ballroom exists, how the proposed addition would dwarf existing architecture, and how this will destroy forever the historic character of the White House. If indeed a state ballroom is needed, please ensure that it is in scale with the main building, and please hire appropriately skilled architects who will adhere to principles of classical architecture, in keeping with the original structure. The White House is a significant historical treasure, symbolic of America's statehood, and should reflect the dignity of our country. Additions or major structural changes should be taken with care in accordance with sound architectural principles.

Thank you for considering this important matter.

Sincerely,
Erin Peterson
Ridgefield, CT

Name: S Heller

Date: March 4, 2026 8:16:53 am

This is a vanity project for a vicious sociopath. The monies would be better spent revitalizing and supporting national and

historical sites, monuments, parks, and museums. There is absolutely no basis or need for an absurd ballroom to be built with tax payer dollars.

Name: Lori Hutton

Date: March 4, 2026 8:17:19 am

I do not approve of the proposal White House Ballroom as designed. This design is aesthetically out of proportion to the White House. A Ballroom may be needed, but not of this size or magnitude. Thus, I oppose and request you represent me and do not approve the large ballroom design presented by Trump. The original plan for a proportionally appropriate building may be better.

Lori Hutton

Name: Alan Devenish

Date: March 4, 2026 8:18:38 am

Trump's. Proposed ballroom is a national disgrace, an overblown excrescence and a gaudy monument to one person's all-encompassing narcissism. Keep this monstrosity from happening.

Name: Kathleen Arveson

Date: March 4, 2026 8:18:53 am

I am find the Presidents design gawdy, not presidential and nothing historically accurate. We don't have palaces for kings. We have buildings for the people. I would also like to register my disgust at dumping the refuse in the park/ golf course near by. He should never be allowed to remake that park for his rich friends. Leave it an affordable golf destination for everyone.

Name: Margaret McKelvey

Date: March 4, 2026 8:19:04 am

It is offensive to Americans to call the Trump wholesale tear down of the East Wing of the People's White House a "modernization project." The proposed ballroom and ancillary office space is out of scale with the rest of the White House complex and defies even the classical proportions that Trump reportedly favors. Moreover, the image projected by such an enormous structure is one of over-the-top opulence rather than the founding fathers' ideals of equality -- of course a cramped equality but nevertheless a clear intent to distinguish the new country from the old. The proposed ballroom telegraphs unhealthy excess -- akin to the new McDonalds Big Arch burger. Trump has amputated one arm of the White House complex, the necessary prosthetic should seek to look natural rather than grotesque.

Name: Mary Hawthorne

Date: March 4, 2026 8:20:10 am

Please do not allow this project to move forward
Poorly planned and illegally begun
This administration is destroying public landmarks and parks
Hold them to the standards!

Name: Julia Michaels

Date: March 4, 2026 8:20:21 am

I would like the ballroom to look and feel as little as possible like Mar-a-Lago. Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Name: Robert Walton

Date: March 4, 2026 8:20:35 am

The east wing has already been demolished. History has been destroyed. Now we the people are invited to give comment.

The planned construction is a gaudy gold plated monstrosity. The project needs to stop and the east wing should be recreated in a way the speaks to the nations history.

Name: Nathan Beck

Date: March 4, 2026 8:25:30 am

There are two problems I have with the proposed East Wing ballroom that need attention: The building under construction is far too large. In fact, it would dwarf the White House itself, changing the city's skyline. Anyone interesting in the care and preservation of the people's house can see the visual discord.

However, this process of accepting comments is absolutely vital to the health of our republic, along with the customary processes for such a change to the East Wing. Attempts by a temporary resident of the presidency to bypass practical and necessary review and restrictions represents near criminal intent. Hubris is not a national emergency.

Name: Christina Chohon

Date: March 4, 2026 8:25:44 am

The white house property belongs to the American people and any changes to government property should have design plans submitted and approved BEFORE they are demolished! It's too late for the demo phase at this point, but it's not too late for next steps to be approved.

Name: Jennifer Robson

Date: March 4, 2026 8:28:19 am

As an Interior Designer, the daughter of an Architect, and a person who appreciates classical architectural beauty, I vehemently object to the bloated monstrosity that Donald Trump has proposed to replace the East Wing of the White House. I also strenuously object to his process- his cavalier approach to demolishing and rebuilding, showing his utter disregard for the laws, morals, customs, sense of fair play and codes of honor upon which our country was founded and relies.

Name: Joan Ward

Date: March 4, 2026 8:29:40 am

I am writing today to implore you to reduce the scale of this monstrous "addition" to our White House. Better yet, refuse approval of the project entirely. They bulldozed our historic East Wing, without discussion and permission and need to be held to account. Please, at the very least, reduce the scale of the "addition", so it is not towering over OUR beautiful, historic White House. They are temporary occupants and need to be reined in at every step. Thank you.

Name: Ariel Mort

Date: March 4, 2026 8:30:05 am

I am writing today about the East Wing Modernization project, AKA, "The Ballroom." The American people never asked for a Ballroom. This is not something we wanted or needed. The President has destroyed the People's house when he tore down the East Wing for this project. It was done without pre-approval of the people or the required committee. This is unacceptable. This project should not be allowed to continue, regardless of who

is supposedly funding it. Instead, it should be used to rebuild the East Wing as it was previous, perhaps with a bigger office for the First Lady, for our current First Lady and all in the future. Because as of now, that position no longer has an office, which is ridiculous.

Name: A Carr

Date: March 4, 2026 8:30:25 am

The massive size of the proposed ballroom is disproportionate with the historical dimensions of the standing executive residence. The new structure is proposed at 3x the volume, and not only tasteless and gauche, its symmetry is off. The proposed structure not only dwarfs the primary building, it is in direct opposition to what 90% of the citizens of the United States want. It's a shame that we citizens are here, and the majority of comments posted are in an effort to remind this commission that the White House is the peoples house, not a kings castle.

Name: Judith DeLaGarza

Date: March 4, 2026 8:30:48 am

Dear National Capital Planning Commission members,

Although I am not a trained architect or interior designer, I love to observe all types of architecture wherever I go in my travels. When I heard President Trump wanted to build a ballroom, I was concerned. When the demolition of the East Wing happened without warning I was devastated. The White House is "The People's House" and one of the most symbolic and treasured monuments in our Nation's Capital. One man should not be able to dictate changes to an historic building like the White House without oversight by qualified preservationists who have extensive experience in historical preservation in order to ensure architectural accuracy. A renovation of such massive proportions requires extensive and thoughtful planning. A gargantuan ballroom that will dwarf the White House will look totally unbalanced and the end result offensive. The White House is of neo-classical design the tenets of which include symmetry and proportionality to include logical and symmetrical layouts. This design style also follows the mathematical ratios of proportion such as the Golden Ratio for a visually pleasing and harmonious blend. And then of course the balance of a building where each side is a mirror image of each other to bring a visual sense of order.

It is with utmost urgency that I request this commission to deny President Trump's request to build the ballroom of his dreams. All aspects of this design must be carefully evaluated at all levels. Is the square footage of the proposed plan really necessary? How many people at one time are really entertained in the ballroom and how frequently? What will be the ramifications acoustically of such a massive room? There are so many more aspects to consider. I truly worry that the plan as proposed will dwarf the White House, ruin the symmetry, and create an eyesore of one of our most treasured symbols. There are many capable designers in this country. Maybe you could have a design contest and solicit renderings from any qualified individual for an historically accurate renovation employing all the design elements of the neo-classical style.

Please deny President Trump's design. Thank you for the opportunity to express my displeasure at what is happening to "The People's House".

Respectfully,

Judith DeLaGarza

Name: James Kuykendall

Date: March 4, 2026 8:33:56 am

I am concerned that the actions already taken to demolition the East Wing of the White House have seriously undermined the authority of the NCPC. Whatever may be built to replace the East Wing, it is vitally important that the Commissioners assert and protect their authority. If the commission becomes a rubber stamp to actions already taken, or--worse still--is ignored as impotent in the face of presidential power, the ramifications across the whole of government are devastating. You may not have much to stand up for, but you must stand firmly for that. The most question is not whether you approve any plans that the White House is proposing but how you go about deliberating that approval. If it is not to be a real discussion--with a real option of denying it, and with work actually stopping it--then nothing you do from now moving forward means anything.

Thank you for accepting the responsibilities of the position you hold as Commissioners. We depend on you to fulfill them.

Name: Grace Darling
Date: March 4, 2026 8:34:08 am

I oppose this.

Name: TERRY HALTER
Date: March 4, 2026 8:36:50 am

I am requesting transparency regarding the reported donations for the demolition and construction of the East Wing.

The President and his administration have not released a list of donors or contribution amounts. Are these donations pledges, or have funds already been transferred? Did donors review project plans or receive anything in return? Has the President personally contributed measurable funds, including cryptocurrency? Will the project be completed before the end of his term, and if funding falls short, will taxpayers bear the cost?

There are also concerns about potential violations of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. If laws have been violated, what accountability will follow?

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Name: Steve Stuart
Date: March 4, 2026 8:37:23 am

Please do not approve this project. It is much too large and will greatly damage the historic character of the White House complex.

Name: richard rowley
Date: March 4, 2026 8:40:36 am

This Ballroom is a travesty - an aesthetic desecration, a financial waste, another illegal gilded atrocity by a would-be king.

Please do everything to stop it.

Name: Jerome Jaffe
Date: March 4, 2026 8:41:03 am

I submit this comment to the commission in opposition to the proposed ballroom edition to the White House. My opposition is to the size, scope, and design as proposed. I believe it is unnecessary a structure which dwarfs the White House and obscure its view from the southeast angle.

A view of the White House prior to the demolition of the east wing shows what I believe to be the proper proportion for a building on that site. I new design for a ballroom within the same size and footprint as the prior East wing structure should be consider if a ballroom is still to be built. Thank you for listening.

Name: Laura Goetz
Date: March 4, 2026 8:42:40 am

Good day,

I write today to urge the National Capital Planning Commission members to reject the current plan and instead request and thoughtfully consider other designs for a more limited addition that would be in keeping with the original plans for Washington, DC, commissioned by our first president, George Washington, and subsequent changes (such as Frederick Law Olmstead's plan for the White House grounds and drive) that retain the integrity of the structures themselves and the relationship between our White House, our US Capitol Building, our Supreme Court building, and all other national

landmarks that have been placed with care and purpose.

Our public buildings are funded by all of us and are owned by none of us individually. In a democratic republic such as ours, any designs and alterations should be made thoughtfully and deliberately, accounting for current need and accessibility for all, for historic preservation, and for reflection of who we are as a nation of well over 300 million people.

Please reject the current plan and commission alternatives for future consideration.

Thank you.
Laura Goetz
Wisconsin

Name: Dudley Whitney
Date: March 4, 2026 8:45:02 am

I want to voice my opposition to the East Wing Modernization Project as proposed. The proposed addition consists of excessive dimensions and mass without any reasonable justification. All the room sizes, including support spaces such as kitchens, and the exterior elements like the south portico and outside stairs leading to the connection to the wing, are all larger than required and create a lopsided mass, dwarfing the White House itself.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation state that "New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment."

The proposed east wing and ballroom violate each of those elements. Its scale is excessive, its fake elements appear designed to impress in a gawdy fashion, and the visual statement it makes is not in keeping with the historic nature of the nation's capital city.

Furthermore, the proposed project interrupts the sight lines between the White House and the Capitol. It will create an eyesore for pedestrians with a structure so out of scale with its surroundings.

Thank you.

Name: Melissa Kothe
Date: March 4, 2026 8:45:32 am

The White House belongs to the people. It does not need an ego filled status symbol for a president.

Name: Abigaik La Nou
Date: March 4, 2026 8:47:27 am

The Trump administration tore down the East wing without regard to public opinion or any reasonable consideration to preserving the beauty of the White House. The design of a ballroom must be balanced to the size of the rest of the building and fit the rest of the architecture.

Name: Nancy Crevier
Date: March 4, 2026 8:48:22 am

I do not support the destruction of the east wing with plans for a grandiose ballroom. It is said the cost is privately funded - and who knows what that leads to - but what I've not heard is, How much will it cost American taxpayers for upkeep once this oversized, unnecessary addition is affixed to the people's house?

Name: Glenn Gunhouse
Date: March 4, 2026 8:49:14 am

I am a Lawful Permanent Resident, and not yet a citizen, but, as a historian of art and architecture and advocate for cultural heritage preservation, I feel compelled to comment on the so-called "Modernization" project. I have nothing to say about whether a ballroom is necessary. I only object to the way in which the project is being carried out (without Congressional approval or proper oversight) and to the design of the buildings being proposed.

The East Wing should never have been destroyed before plans for the project had been approved. The arguments I've heard -- "no permission is necessary to KNOCK DOWN a historical building" -- are absurd. By that reasoning, the president could have knocked down the center block of the White House without any notice or permission. I don't think any reasonable person would argue that that would be permissible.

Now that the East Wing has been destroyed, the only relevant question is how it should be replaced. Ideally, I'd like to see the president ordered to rebuild the structure exactly as it was, at his own expense, with a hefty fine for destroying it in the first place. Since that's not likely to happen, I'd like to see the new structure at least be appropriate for the historical site. The plans that I've seen (such as they are) are not appropriate.

The main problem is that the new East Wing and ballroom are vastly out of scale. Hoban's original design, together with the wing additions of Jefferson and Latrobe, established the symmetrical profile typical of buildings of the English Georgian or U.S. Federal style. In such a building, there is a large center block, smaller wing buildings to the left and right, and low corridors or "hyphens" joining the wings to the main building. The proposed design throws this original design completely off balance. The ballroom structure is way too massive, and way too high. The corridor leading to it is ridiculously tall (more than twice as tall as the corridor of the West Wing). Raising the West Wing corridor (as I've heard proposed) would not solve the problem since the symmetry would only be partial and, more importantly, the corridors would be very tall, whereas Jefferson and Latrobe's corridors were very low.

I also object to another consequence of building a second story corridor on the East Wing, which is that it will interfere (or destroy?) the original Palladian window of the East Room.

If this project is going to go forward, I think that the symmetrical profile of the original building should be re-established. The East Wing corridor should be kept low, which would mean that entrance to the ballroom structure would be at ground level. The ballroom itself should be reduced in size, and the height of the two-story ballroom structure should be reduced by lowering it into the ground (making the lower story a subterranean basement).

Glenn Gunhouse

Name: Hugh Griffin

Date: March 4, 2026 8:49:20 am

The national Capitol planning commission acts as a surrogate for the people of United States. You are entrusted with responsibility to ensure that the hopes and desires of the people are reflected in the work you do to continue to make Washington an enduring monument of freedom and fairness the ages. , this is the currency of our nation and should not be devalued.

The ballroom's construction would be a blight upon the legacy of the nation. Long after the current White House occupants is gone, the ballroom's hulking presence will remain a disfigurement on the people's house and a reminder that secret money was the primary requirement for access to power during this administration.

Please reject this project.

Name: Judith Turner

Date: March 4, 2026 8:52:07 am

The US White House East Wing belongs to the American people and its abrupt destruction to rebuild was undertaken without any public consultation. Any new 'ballroom' modernization should, at minimum, be in keeping with the historical context of the adjoining structures

Name: Jeanne Lusignan

Date: March 4, 2026 8:53:07 am

I was appalled that the East Wing was totally demolished without proper planning or permitting. The current 'plan' for building, such as it is, seems historically and architecturally ill-conceived. This mess should not be allowed to continue in its current form.

Name: Barbara Loeffler

Date: March 4, 2026 8:53:18 am

This project should have been named the East Wing demolition, which was a national travesty. The rebuilding plan is a gaudy, tacky MONSTROSITY, which will absolutely dwarf the classic beauty of the White House and its grounds. I beg of you, please, please DO NOT APPROVE this behemoth plan as is. It must be made smaller, and more in line with the scale and style of the White House.

Name: Nancy Watson

Date: March 4, 2026 8:53:42 am

I am vehemently opposed to Trump's "modernization" of the East Wing of the White House, the peoples' house. There was no basis for this project and it will forever be associated with the lawlessness of this administration, the narcissism of our current President and the loyalists who have no basis for being on this committee other than to push through this project to please him. But since the destruction of this historic building has already occurred, we now must focus on what will replace it.

The size and scope must be radically reduced as they are completely out of line with the rest of the White House. They must be scaled back to complement, not overwhelm, the rest of the White House. It should be void of Trump's typical tacky gold trimmings as those displays of gaudy wealth reflect the government our founding fathers fled to establish our democracy, a government for the people, led by the people.

No US taxpayer dollars should be spent on building, nor furnishing this needless vanity project, since once built, sadly, they will have to be spent to support and maintain it. What a waste at a time when our tax dollars are needed to address our country's affordability crisis.

Name: MARY JANE Curry

Date: March 4, 2026 8:54:44 am

Greetings,

I am writing to strenuously oppose the East Wing "modernization" project, and the unauthorized spending of \$300 million that was initiated without design review or permits. These actions are a disgrace to the country, the presidency, and the White House. The East Wing should be restored to its original state and the president held accountable for the costs to rebuild it.

Sincerely,

MJ Curry
Rochester, New York

Name: Patricia Hurley

Date: March 4, 2026 8:54:46 am

The East Wing belongs to all of the American people, and is not the sole property of of any current occupant of the residence ever. Please follow the recommendations of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Name: Clare OConnell

Date: March 4, 2026 8:55:00 am

My voice may not be loud enough to be heard over the construction noise but my anger at this most visible evidence of

undeserved power and wanton destruction will join with millions to roar for the ages.
May this dictator live long enough to witness us tear down this monstrosity and remove his name from history.

Name: Mel Marsh

Date: March 4, 2026 8:55:22 am

The president has no authority to destroy a historical building that is part of the White House. He got no permits and there were no studies or opportunities for people to comment. This is appalling. Trump is trying to make every public building airport and any and all structures labeled with his name and colored with his gaudy gold. He is trying to ruin everything that this country was built on. Please stop him.

Name: Sharon DeRigo

Date: March 4, 2026 8:55:39 am

This changes the focus of The Peoples' House to Party House. Our government's focus needs correction.

Name: Robin Young

Date: March 4, 2026 8:57:07 am

This project should never have been started, and should not be approved. It is a waste of money and is wildly disproportionate to the rest of the building, "The People's House." The people were never asked. Please vote against it.

Name: Mary Meehan

Date: March 4, 2026 8:57:30 am

I was born and raised in Washington DC and am concerned about the proposed ballroom addition to the White House. The scale is out of proportion to the existing White House and I do not see how such a large structure will serve any group of people fewer than 1500. A smaller group would feel lost inside such a big room which cannot be subdivided. The view from outside, which is what most people will have, will be that it is incongruous with the carefully laid out plan in which the White House itself is the dominant structure. Those who appreciate classical architecture will view it as a cancerous growth, not as a complement to the existing building. They will also wonder what purpose the columns of the portico serve and why they, unlike the main building, have Corinthian capitals. Please scale down this addition and make it functional, not garish. Thank you.

Name: Holly Magana

Date: March 4, 2026 8:57:41 am

Please restore the east wing to something in keeping with its prior proportions and historic design. The gold plated ballroom plan is an abhorrent monstrosity.

Name: Deborah Holobaugh

Date: March 4, 2026 8:57:41 am

Please stop this nonsense of building a ballroom that is bigger than the White House! This president is overstepping Authority, and since he handpicked every one of you to be on this commission, I pray that you will have the guts to stand up against this monstrosity! It is absurd that we are destroying the beauty of the White House forever. Just because a billionaire wants what he wants does not mean he should get what he wants. Get a backbone and stand up against this because we do not need a gilded ballroom in this day and age. Trump thinks we do because he is in another world and not in the world of most Americans. We do not need gold, shiny objects to appease the president. There's no transparency, who's holding the money that he supposedly has for this project and really what is this going to cost the American people? It is absurd! Please stop and think about what you are doing and just don't rubberstamp what Trump wants.

Name: Gray Brechin

Date: March 4, 2026 8:58:49 am

President Franklin Roosevelt said of the White House "I never forget that I live in a house owned by all the people and that I have been given their trust." FDR did not claim to own it by building a grotesquely gaudy addition so large that it would make the original house an annex to what he intended to make a lasting monument to himself. Please stop this desecration of the "house owned by all the people" in clear violation of the people's trust.

Name: Carla Markwart

Date: March 4, 2026 8:59:23 am

Please don't build this ridiculous out-of-proportion ballroom. It is a terrible design and a terrible precedent. Thank you

Name: Christopher Afful

Date: March 4, 2026 9:00:58 am

Terrible, gaudy, and reminiscent of the "palaces" of other countries wherein a "ruler" is set far above everyone else. The destruction of route and view from the Executive mansion to the Legislative Capitol is symbolic, for all of the wrong reasons. As an American who dearly loves my country, it is my firm belief that the balance of power in the greatest country in the world is exactly what makes this country great. Ostentatious presentations of power do not make one "powerful"; instead it makes one reviled.

I have traveled and personally seen other castles, palaces, and homes of state leaders. I've always viewed the White House (as it was) to be the best, since it quietly communicated it's strength through it's reserve. This proposed renovation screams "respect me because I'm big", which, as history teaches us, is an invitation for disrespect.

This is the wrong path. Please restore the building (which remains the American people's building) to its original design and proportions.

Name: Carol Landis

Date: March 4, 2026 9:01:33 am

I believe that the scale of the proposed ballroom is excessive and will dwarf the rest of the White House complex. According to architectural standards, the layout is 47% greater than would be needed to meet the stated goal of having space to host 1,000 people. Furthermore, I think the plans that were first put forth give little to no consideration of the aesthetics and history of the capitol area and grounds. The kitchen is more than 2.5 times the size that would be met by the existing standard, and I think the first floor should have more publicly accessible areas.

Name: garry fay

Date: March 4, 2026 9:02:00 am

The Peoples' home was recklessly demolished without proper permitting. Where is the permit to build the new? Force this into non-partisan hands to have it done right.

Thank you.

Name: Allison Smith

Date: March 4, 2026 9:03:17 am

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to oppose the plans for the monstrosity of a ballroom being proposed to replace the east wing of the White

House that was torn down without permission.

This project is not necessary, is costly, and will be an eyesore. The White House is the people's house and not Mar-a-lago II.

I feel the east wing should be restored since there was never permission to remove it.

The ballroom proposed is just another notch in the ego of a president trying to leave his name anywhere he can.

Name: Sarah Faldetta

Date: March 4, 2026 9:03:19 am

I just tried to submit my comments on this Project within the timeframe (prior to 11 am on March 4, 2026).

I pressed Submit but nothing happened and I received no confirmation. I'm trying again on a different device, with a different shorter comment:

I am a proud citizen of the United States. I urge that the footprint of the oversize and incongruous proposed ballroom plans be downsized, in consultation with architectural historians and regulatory agencies, to be much more consistent with The White House, the most valued of our country's National Historic Landmark (NHL). The proposed ballroom will fete the invited rich and powerful in the East Wing, which historically has been the area where the public can visit. I also request public visitor access to the East Wing be restored to provide a quality experience to public visitors.

I hope this public comment is Submitted. It is my 2nd one today, within the public comment period.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sarah Faldetta

Proud US citizen

Name: Lisa Siegal

Date: March 4, 2026 9:04:34 am

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

Here is my public comment regarding the East Wing Modernization/White House Ballroom proposal.

It is important that we respect the historic planning of Washington, D.C. and the White House.

1 - the L'Enfant Plan symbolic axial view connection between the White House (the People's House) and the Capitol MUST be maintained.

2 - The ballroom should be in keeping with the Hoban Plan Design for the White House.

3 - Keep the circular drive as laid out in the original Olmsted Plan for the White House grounds.

I strongly urge the Commission to adopt the plan presented by David Parker and Bill Bates in the recording of February 25, 2026 (at @ the 29 minute mark). Their plan is:

1 - very handsome, reducing the height and scale of the building, bringing the design of the White House back into balance,

2 - maintains the axial view to the Capitol, respecting the historic planning of Washington, DC and symbolic connection per the L'Enfant Plan.

3 - in addition to the above, I would like to see the portico columns removed so as not to block the views from the windows.

This will allow for the Trump ballroom while lessening the harmful impacts on the historic Executive Residence and grounds.

Name: Thomas Lorandean

Date: March 4, 2026 9:05:56 am

Building a gold glittered tacky ballroom as proposed would be a monument to the filthy rich elite and demolish the stature of the peoples' house. It is outrageous that this project has advanced this far primarily through manipulation of the laws and rules surrounding such construction. This process so far has been in total disregard of the democratic process and instead this has been an effort to appease an egocentric disgraceful rich old man. I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BUILDING.

Name: Daniel I Sheff

Date: March 4, 2026 9:06:03 am

In Greek mythology, the Sirens were dangerous creatures who tried to lure sailors with their enchanting voices toward the rocky coast of their island. The term "Siren song," therefore, refers to an appeal that is hard to resist but, if not heeded, will result in a disastrous outcome....

Name: Susan Abel

Date: March 4, 2026 9:06:26 am

Good Morning,

Although I have no architectural background, I feel compelled to comment on this project. I feel it is important that the new East Wing does not dwarf the White House itself. It needs to be in proportion to the most recognizable structure in our country. Furthermore the design also needs to be in the same Neoclassical design as the White House.

I strongly encourage you to consider a plan such as has been submitted by Laurel Bern of Boston, MA. She points out many problems of the current proposal; ones that will make the Ballroom a horrible place to spend time and one that is grossly larger than it needs to be, both in height and size. She also has proposed solutions that will add to the grandeur of the White House and the grounds surrounding it.

Rather than spending all the funds on an over-sized East Wing Ballroom, wouldn't it be better to use the surplus to also upgrade the West Wing to keep the symmetry of the structure, in a way such as Laurel Bern has proposed? Don't rush into constructing something that doesn't fit. Respect the architecture that exists, Build an East Wing that is multi-functional, with grandeur that compliments the White House and adds to its beauty. A scaled down version of the plan, built in the Neoclassical design would be more practical, functional and beautiful. It would add to the White House's beauty rather than detracting and be something we could all be proud of, rather than being embarrassed by it.

Just because you can build something big, doesn't mean it should be. Bigger isn't always better.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Name: Norma Jean Kelly

Date: March 4, 2026 9:06:39 am

In late 90's, early 2000's I worked at the White House as a volunteer. My enormous respect for the plan & design of the historic grounds cannot adequately be expressed. We are now in planning for a replacement of the East Wing, which was torn down without the input and permission of the true owners of the property.

Please allow us to have some say on what will be built to replace it.

The historic plan of the city itself and the layout of the home of our President should be of primary consideration in the design. It is not a Palace! Our leader is NOT a King. Please use the ancient principles of proportion in accepting the final design. Please do not allow the grand 90,000 sq. Ft monstrosity to be constructed on our People's Property. Thank you

Name: mardell bass

Date: March 4, 2026 9:07:03 am

As a trained interior designer (MS degree), I totally agree with Laurel Bern's suggestions and plead with you to honor those comments and do the right thing, architecturally, for the East Wing addition.

Thank you , Mardell Bass

Name: Elizabeth Abbott

Date: March 4, 2026 9:07:09 am

It is extremely misleading to call the proposed ballroom a "modernization" of the East Wing when it really involves complete demolition and replacement. It is despicable that the historic East Wing of the White House has already been demolished without proper oversight or approvals. Even more concerning is that the debris and dirt from the project, likely containing hazardous materials, are being carted to East Potomac Park for a potential overtaking and refurbishment of the golf course there, which the public also does not want. The desire for a larger event space could be valid, but does not justify the rash, harmful actions by the administration which completely ignored the approval processes required for alterations to historic buildings, and cannot be undone. Continuing to allow this brazen disregard for laws and norms will only pave the way for worse abuses. The enormous proposed ballroom would completely change the character and destroy the balance of the current White House site and should not be approved.

Name: Jody Weidemann

Date: March 4, 2026 9:07:28 am

The massing, height, scale, and especially the volume of the proposed 90,000 square-foot construction will overwhelm the 55,000-square-foot central structure and disrupt the carefully balanced classical design of the White House, with its East and West wings. Classicism is predicated on overall symmetry.

The scale of the proposed South Portico is too large; as is currently designed, the proposed ballroom South Portico is 166% larger than the current White House Portico and 40% larger than Treasury's South Portico.

The architectural industry high standard space for ballrooms is 15sq.ft. Per person (the low standard is 10 sq. ft. per person). The proposed ballroom is being designed for 1,000 people, which means the proposed ballroom should be 15,000 sq. ft. maximum. The proposed ballroom is 22,000 sq. ft. which makes it 47% larger than the industry standard.

The proposed ballroom massing is nearly 3x the original White House volume. The volume and oversized massing challenge the classicism on which the White House is based. Classicism is predicated on balance and symmetry, and the central main structure should always be the largest.

The 4,000 sq. ft. South Portico as designed has no access whatsoever to the interior and is not ADA accessible. The doors shown on its South elevation are fake. The massive grand staircase leading to it is gratuitous with no function or purpose. Lastly the South portico constrains 24 (5 ft. Diameter columns) that only block views from the interior.

The original vistas of the White House conceived by L'Enfant and our founding fathers would be blocked and restricted with the construction of the ballroom as proposed. The axial vista from the US Capitol steps looking northwest up Pennsylvania Ave. is one of the most important views and relationships in L'Enfant's Original 1791 design for Washington DC.

The proposed east portico is 170% larger than the White House north portico. Following the principles of classical architecture the White House north portico should always be larger and more prominent than a portico on an ancillary wing.

Most spaces shown on the primary entrance level are service (non public) and do not need daylight or need to be above grade. The kitchen areas are immense (13,000 sq. ft.) more than 2 1/2 times the industry standard to serve the proposed 1,000 guests. This creates the opportunity to lower these functions below ground and reduce the overwhelming height of the bldg.

Moving non-public kitchen and service spaces from the main floor to the lower level while sizing the ballroom to the high industry standards and eliminating the non-accessible South portico would reduce the immense volume of the proposed structure by approximately 38%. This would lessen harmful impacts on the Historic Executive Residence while preserving the highly important symbolic axial relationship and viewshed between the White House and Capitol.

The ballroom as planned would block any view of the White House (The People's House) from their view from Pennsylvania Ave. This is just wrong. The ballroom as proposed is a symbol of the destruction of our Democracy that can not be allowed.

Name: Sarah Barnett

Date: March 4, 2026 9:08:28 am

[Attachment](#)

Name: Wendy Fewster

Date: March 4, 2026 9:08:31 am

The East Wing Modernization Project is more correctly titled the Donald Trump Vanity Project. He illegally tore down the East Wing, stacked all reviewing organizations with his loyal people who do not have the appropriate expertise in this matter, and has submitted plans for an overly-sized addition to the White House. When the addition is larger than the main structure, something is seriously wrong. Add to that the lack of transparency regarding the cost and funding for this project. How do we really know that no taxpayer dollars are being used for this project? Aesthetically, it is typical Trump gaudiness and gold, like all of his other White House "improvements" to date. He is turning the People's House into his own Mar-a-Lago North. Just say no and put a stop to this madness. How often will a 1,000-person "ballroom" actually be used? For what purposes? How to they promote the business of the USA? Do not allow this desecration to move forward.

Name: Cathy Fink

Date: March 4, 2026 9:08:32 am

To whom it may concern,

I am thoroughly disgusted at the President's lack of respect for the White House, its history and the legal and correct procedures for making such a huge modification to not his house,, but OUR house. We don't need a ballroom. If he wants to raise money for a project, feed the poor, help the people who are unable to get health insurance or whose rates just went up. The ballroom does not serve the majority of Americans, it simply serves his ego.

I urge you to stop this nonsense and make it clear that there is little support amongst the people ("we the people" in this project. He has garnered support from very wealthy people who he will return favors to, but that is not how this is supposed to work.

Sincerely,

Cathy Fink

Name: Curtis Betzler

Date: March 4, 2026 9:08:44 am

Please keep the White House in view of the public by decreasing the footprint of the planned ballroom. This ballroom is being built for the ego of only one man and is not necessary for our National Historical treasure.

Name: Christine Campbell

Date: March 4, 2026 9:08:55 am

The unilateral and unlawful destruction of the East Wing by Trump is a travesty. His current plan for a 90,000 square foot ballroom is a second travesty. First, I object to the need for a ballroom/event venue. But more importantly, I object to the size of this plan. The East Wing should not be larger than the White House. Not only is the plan ugly aesthetically, but also diminishes the dignity and historical importance of the central portion of the White House. The new East Wing should be no larger than the original East Wing. Aim for symmetry of the entire building. And what about the offices that were in the East Wing—those should also be accounted for in the plan. Mr. Trump must be made to understand that he is the President of the United States, not an elected real estate designer and developer of Washington DC and its government buildings, and especially not so for the People's House. The USA is a democracy, not a kingdom or second Mar-a-lago subject to the whims of Trump. Regardless if this renovation is being paid for by Trump's billionaire cronies (or his PAC

funds), this project in its current form must be stopped, and the historic preservation commission should be involved in a major way to ensure the integrity, dignity, and purpose of the White House. Also, if it is in the preservation commission's purview, the proposed triumphal arch should be quashed.

Name: Jane Ishibashi

Date: March 4, 2026 9:09:10 am

I strongly object to the unapproved razing of the east wing as well as the monstrous plans for constructing a hideous oversized ballroom. No president should be allowed to destroy public historic property without proper review and authorization. The plans for reconstruction should also have the input of historic preservation architects and be approved by Congress.

Name: James Dubo

Date: March 4, 2026 9:09:22 am

There is no East Wing. Why call it that? It is a cafeteria two football fields in size. It will be an eyesore and as gaudy as the person who ordered it. Who pays to maintain this oversized cafeteria? Will bribes fund its upkeep? DISGUSTING best describes it.

Name: Vanessa Rini-Lopez

Date: March 4, 2026 9:09:47 am

Please make Donald Trump restore the East Wing to how it was when he originally moved in on January 21, 2026. He is not the owner of the building and did not legally have the right to demolish the East Wing. Additionally the way he is raising funds for the project may be a violation of the anti deficiency act.

Name: Joye Gephart

Date: March 4, 2026 9:10:50 am

I am offended by the destruction of the East Wing of the White House. My objections to the proposed ballroom design as submitted are:

- it has a grossly larger scale in relationship to the main building
- it blocks the crucial line of sight from the White House to the U.S. Capitol which symbolically connects these two branches of our government
- the proposed ballroom would destroy a portion of the Olmstead designed grounds
- the South portico has no purpose and is ADA non-compliant
- the ballroom design does not follow high industry standards.

It should be held to the highest industry standards sized for the 1,000 people it purports to hold, the South portico should be eliminated and the non-public service area and kitchen should be moved to the lower area. Doing these things and sizing it so it doesn't destroy Olmstead's wonderful landscape design or obstruct the view to the Capitol would be preferable to the monstrosity that is proposed. Thank you.

Name: Theodore Oldham

Date: March 4, 2026 9:10:59 am

I urge members of the National Capitol Planning Commission to consider the basic needs for this project and then what design could meet these needs while supporting the primacy of the White House in this National Park property. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has shown that the size and scale of the proposed East Wing Modernization Project is substantially larger than needed to meet the project's stated goals. The White House complex is a part of the original L'Enfant Plan for Washington. The view corridor between the White House and Capitol is intentional. The proposed design would violate the careful balance of the L'Enfant Plan and close off the view between the White House and Capitol. Adding to the unjustified scale of the design, the Portico is an inaccessible space and element. It upstages and overshadows the White House portico design, being more than 150% larger than the White House portico. If the lower level of the proposed building could be built underground, reducing the visible scale of the addition, and the main ballroom be reduced in size and scaled to industry standards for spaces of similar use, if the extreme height of the

proposed floors could be moderated, an East Wing addition could be scaled to maintain the basic character of the L'Enfant Plan, the view corridor to the Capitol and the historic and classic character of the significant Olmsted Landscape Plan.

Please read and carefully consider public comments on the proposed project and bring creative skills to bear to maintain the historic and iconic character of this National Park property while addressing the needs for the modernization project.

Name: Christine Ethier

Date: March 4, 2026 9:11:16 am

I fail to understand how the destruction of an historic house was allowed without review. The proposed ballroom is ugly. It will ruin the view people get of the White House and surrounding area. All this for a ballroom that will not be used everyday.

Name: Jacqueline H.

Date: March 4, 2026 9:11:31 am

Greetings,

I am seeking to submit that the scale of the East Wing Modernization Project is not in the best interest of the White House aka The Peoples House. The size of the proposed ballroom way exceeds high industry standards and should be capped at the high industry standard for accommodating the hosting of 1,000 people. What is the purpose of the 3rd floor? The height of the whole project should not exceed, overshadow, or block the view of the White House as one walks down Pennsylvania Ave or gazes down the axial relationship vantage point from the US Capitol building. All non-public kitchen and service spaces should be moved to the lower level to also help achieve this aesthetic. Also, no structure in this day and age should be being built without being fully ADA compliant. This is considered the People's house and all people should be able to have accessibility to visit and be comfortable in transitioning to various public areas. The elimination of the non-accessible south portico would definitely be a step in the right direction to ensure the entire project is fully ADA compliant.

Thank you for your time, attention and consideration of these items in this matter.

Kind regards,
Jacqueline H.

Name: Twyla Wilson

Date: March 4, 2026 9:12:05 am

It was with horror I watched the demolition of the East Wing. How was he able to do that without repercussions? The White House is the people's house. The plans Trump has for the new wing are gauche and not in keeping with the design and dignity of the structure, its history, and quiet elegance. He is a showman and his plan needs to be demolished like the East Wing crumbled under that horrifying wrecking ball. Stop him!

Name: Kimberly Toomey

Date: March 4, 2026 9:12:46 am

I am not in favor of the plans that President Trump has for the East Wing. Beyond concerns about a single resident of the White House making unilateral decisions about the historical structure, the plans seem wildly out of step with the look of the White House. The structure appears to dwarf the existing/remaining parts of the White House. Its gargantuan size affects the look of the entire edifice. It is not in keeping with original architecture and it seems to be an enormous waste of space and resources. I urge the NCPC to reject these plans on behalf of the American people who own the White House and find a more useful and tasteful replacement for the East Wing. Thank you.

Name: Rick Zajac

Date: March 4, 2026 9:13:22 am

FUCK THE TRUMP CRIME FAMILY SYNDICATE!!! WHAT PRESIDENT SHITFORBRAINS IS CRIMINAL. INDICT, ARREST, CONVICT AND IMPRISON THE WHOLE LOT OF THE LYING, THIEVING, SCAMMING CON ARTISTS. DEPORT THAT SLOVENIAN WHORE.

Name: Joyce Breitman

Date: March 4, 2026 9:14:33 am

I have significant concerns with the proposed White House ballroom design. It is in conflict with the White House itself, the people's house, in size and functionality. One would no longer be able to see the White House from Pennsylvania avenue. The view between the White House and the Capitol would be obscured. For someone who prides himself on being a premier builder, I'm surprised that President Trump would want to be forever associated with something so ugly and out of proportion. I'm not convinced that a ballroom is necessary, but surely it could be designed so that it doesn't make future generations think President Trump was an incompetent builder and destroy his legacy.

Name: Mary Simons

Date: March 4, 2026 9:14:48 am

The current design plan simply does not work. Too large. Too ostentatious. Destroys views and symmetry.

The whole design process has been at best ill advised at worst illegal. Please build something that reflects the heritage and classical design of the peoples house.

Name: Jill DeWitt

Date: March 4, 2026 9:15:35 am

The scale of the proposed East Wing ballroom is completely out of balance with the rest of the White House complex. The plans show a structure that would dwarf the Executive Residence and diminish it's prominence. The White House was intentionally designed by James Hoban to *not* resemble a castle or a sprawling palace. It was never meant to rival French palaces or Louis XVI's style, but quite the opposite. It is a building of simplistic dignity and restraint that demonstrates early American aesthetics and values we should continue to hold dear. I urge you to reject this proposal and halt the project until a proposal at a smaller and more reasonable scale is submitted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Jane Page

Date: March 4, 2026 9:16:03 am

I am writing first to acknowledge the illegal and brutish manner in which the President bullied his way into demolishing an entire wing of the White House without due process or public input. Not a very democratic way to go about doing things.

Now that the demolition is done, I am recommending the viable reconstruction alternatives laid out by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as opposed to the uninformed plans currently proposed by the President. The ballroom plans, as proposed by the President, are 47% larger than high industry standard, NOT in proportion to the remaining structure. It is 166% larger than the White House Portico, and 40% larger than the Treasury South Portico. The proposed ballroom massing is nearly THREE TIMES the original White House volume. This plan would skew Classical architectural symmetry in grotesque proportions. The ballroom floor does not connect to the portico or the kitchen! It is 12' higher than those two areas. There is no internal connection to the portico whatsoever. Ridiculous. There is NO access to the interior and NO ADA accessibility. The doors shown on the south elevation are FAKE. The massive grand stair leading to the portico is gratuitous, completely useless and non-functional. Vistas, views, and Olmsted's meticulous landscaping and symmetrical drive are skewed and destroyed. The Ballroom's proposed East (entrance) Portico is 170% larger than the White House North Portico and 35% larger than the Treasury North Portico. All scale and symmetry is thrown off. The kitchen areas are more than 2.5 times industry standard for the maximum number of people to be served. The whole thing is a disaster. Please demand that the viable reconstruction alternatives laid out by the National Trust for Historic Preservation are thoroughly studied and employed. Thank you.

Name: Phoebe Prentice

Date: March 4, 2026 9:16:56 am

This atrocious monstrosity is not in the interest of the American people. We do not want it. Reject this plan and save the beauty and dignity of our capital, please!

Sincerely,

Phoebe

Name: Candice Guillaudeu

Date: March 4, 2026 9:17:44 am

Hi,

Below are my concerns:

1) - Utility:

- a) - This ballroom is so huge, 2.36 million cubic feet vs 875 thousand cubic feet of the White House itself, is that this ballroom will go unused.
- b) - When it is used, it will require additional staff to service the guests.
- c) - From what I understand the kitchen is not accessible to the ballroom, or it is very difficult to get to the ballroom from the kitchen, so what modification / adaptations will have to be made in the future to make this space "work"?
- d) - Space defines the feeling of the people who move around in it, this space is so large, how long will it take for guests to literally walk from one part to another to speak with other guests? Won't this ballroom do the reverse and make guests literally feel "small" and insignificant?

2) Tax dollars to support this ballroom, the extra energy required to heat and cool the space, how much extra taxpayer's money will be needed to "run" this ballroom, including the staff to support any "balls"?

3) Where are the artifacts that were in the East Wing prior to its demolition?

4) Aesthetics -

- a) - definitely not in proportion to the original White House
- b) - this will be a "sore" thumb and will it hamper tourism to D.C.? Generally speaking, in my mind, people don't tour places that are ugly. D.C. is probably one of the most beautiful cities in the world, but not any more with this monstrosity.

5) Symbolism

- a) - this is the Americans' Peoples House, not one person. The Symbolism of this addition comes off like they are sealing the President away from the U.S. Citizens.

6) To be done:

- a) reduce the size of the addition so it's in proportion to the White House itself and to the surrounding area
- b) Accounting of the paintings and artifacts that were in the East Wing prior to destruction
- c) Construction debris to be handled more carefully instead of just dumping at the Jefferson Memorial Park
- d) modify the interior so its utility is more easily accessible by kitchen staff and waiters who will be catering any events.
- e) Is there an agenda of how many "Balls" that will be held there each year?
- f) - accountability to the corporations who donated to build this wing, will this be open to those corporations for their use too?
- g - Accounting of the extra energy costs to keep this addition in working order.

Overall, my main concern is that it will go unused and thus be an unnecessary use of taxpayer's dollars.

Thank you,

Candice Guillaudeu

Fairfax, VA.

Name: Sheila Zuschlag

Date: March 4, 2026 9:20:12 am

I am opposed to the building of the ballroom as planned. Historically, the building does not follow the patterns set forth by the original designers of the city. Architecturally, it does not follow the designs used by the original architects for all of

the buildings. Together, these two things will upset the symmetry of the area, including blocking the views from afar. Aesthetically, the design of the new building reduces the beauty of the area. Functionally, it appears that it is not ADA accessible, it is too large, and, because of the proposed grandeur, not multi-functional.

Name: Robin Berggren Boyle

Date: March 4, 2026 9:21:06 am

These comments were copied in part from a respected and classically trained interior designer. The sentiments reflect my own opinion.

Classical architecture is fundamentally rooted in proportion—relationships derived from nature and often expressed through mathematical ratios such as the golden mean (1.618). When these principles are ignored, the result inevitably feels discordant with the historic structure it is meant to complement.

By contrast, a thoughtful design developed by a classically trained architectural firm—one that respects proportion, scale, and historical context—could produce an addition worthy of the White House and capable of enduring for centuries.

Please think of both the storied past, the present and especially the future of this remarkable building and how it represents our great nation.

Thank you,

Robin Berggren Boyle

Name: JOSEPH SCHUMACHER

Date: March 4, 2026 9:21:42 am

Whether to undertake this project or not should have discussed among a wide array of people, including Congress and all relevant committees/organizations. The White House belongs to the American people, not the sitting president. The fact that Trump went ahead unilaterally is reason to revisit all details.

As to the actual plans, they look, like all things Trump, cheap and tacky. If a ‘renovation’ is going to go forward, input on design should be sought from relevant parties. This ballroom is one way that we’ll present ourselves to foreign leaders and to the world. It shouldn’t be tacky and embarrassing, as the Oval Office now is.

Name: Megan Munkacsy

Date: March 4, 2026 9:22:11 am

Reduce Overall Size and Visibility. The size, volume, and massing of the proposed new construction (90,000 square feet) should be reduced or disguised (such as by placing portions underground, as recommended in the 2000 Comprehensive Design Plan) so the new building appears smaller than the Executive Residence itself (55,000 square feet). Its height should also be substantially lower than the Executive Residence.

Reduce Footprint and Protect Key Views. The footprint of the proposed building should not extend past the existing south-facing façade of the historic Treasury Building, nor further interrupt the views of the Executive Residence from Pennsylvania Avenue.

Respect the Established Classical Composition of the White House Complex. The new addition should retain the carefully balanced classical design of the White House complex with its two smaller, lower, and substantially symmetrical East and West Wings.

Preserve the Historic East Façade of the Executive Residence. The connection of the colonnade to the Executive Residence should protect and preserve the original historic materials of the east façade of the Executive Residence and should not cover or demolish the existing fenestration and detailing of the east façade.

Ensure that the Proposed South-facing Portico Is Subordinate in Scale to the White House South Portico. The proposed portico on the south façade should be smaller and less grand in scale than the existing portico on the south façade of the Executive Residence.

Name: Timi McGary

Date: March 4, 2026 9:23:13 am

Please retain the historic integrity of the White House by keeping the proportions and design of the East Wing consistent with the original structure.

Name: Lawrence Peck

Date: March 4, 2026 9:23:55 am

The White House does not belong to the President, it belongs to the American People, and he is just a tenant. What Trump has already done and his plans for his "ballroom" and Arc de Trump or whatever it is called, are simply personal vanity projects and do nothing to help the people of our country. It should all be stopped and the East Wing and Rose Garden returned to their previous state.

In terms of design, the taste shown in redecorating the White House, and plans for the rest of the project, could at best charitably be called nausea inducing vulgarity. The hideous gold filigrees and silly trappings of attempted projected wealth would be at home in a third world tin pot dictator's home. The American President's home should be one of confident humility and quiet strength.

Step up to the plate and stop all this nonsense right now.

Name: Laura Kenton

Date: March 4, 2026 9:24:33 am

Should the proposed modernization go ahead, it will be regretted. It will soon be seen as a symbolic destruction of America's greatness. The proportions are grotesque and would destroy the vistas linking monuments, landmarks, and important buildings that were central to George Washington's and Pierre L'Enfant's design of the Federal City.

Not everyone gets an opportunity to take a stand that (in Lincoln's words) will light them down, in glory or infamy, to the latest generation. This is one of those times. Anyone on record in support of this grotesque disfiguration of The People's House and destruction of the Federal City will remain infamous for all time.

You know what the right thing to do is. Preserve the national capital, its buildings, symbols, and vistas admired the world over.

And thank you.

Name: RObert Warrington

Date: March 4, 2026 9:24:39 am

The razing of this historical site has happened without required approvals. The project should be stopped immediately and the site should be restored to its original form. I don't understand how such an illegal attack on our heritage can be allowed to stand.

Name: Mary Thompson

Date: March 4, 2026 9:24:52 am

As someone who has spent time in our beautiful capital city, I was mortified when I saw that the east wing of the White House was demolished. I was even more mortified when I saw that the vision for a new ballroom was horribly out of scale with the remaining White House structures.

I humbly ask the people making decisions on this ballroom to consider the current classical architecture of the main house and west wing and design and size the new structure accordingly. I would imagine that there are times when a larger ballroom is needed but it doesn't need to be Versailles! The current president will eventually be gone but this structure will live on. The style must be something timeless that will appeal to future leaders and the citizens of our country. This is still our house and will be maintained by our taxpayer dollars in the future regardless of how funds are being raised for the initial build.

Name: Barbara Bane

Date: March 4, 2026 9:27:32 am

The proposed ballroom is too large in scope and will overpower the existing White House facade and footprint. Please do not approve this project.

Name: Lisa strickland

Date: March 4, 2026 9:27:48 am

The East Wing of the Whitehouse should not have been demolished without approval from Congress and in conjunction with the National Historic Preservation to ensure the plans keep the history of the East Wing of the Whitehouse. We need to be very careful and cautious when updating our historical buildings and not take money from corporations that may want some type of political "kick back" in the future for their contribution. We are on a dangerous slope with the current President not being held accountable to checks and balances that our forefathers built into our constitution and our government . Please hold this President accountable and ensure the plans for the new ballroom hold to the historical accuracy and integrity of the Whitehouse. He had no right to demolish it without congressional approval.

Name: Linda Standish

Date: March 4, 2026 9:29:23 am

I am opposed to ballroom in its entirety.

East wing must be rebuilt at trump's personal expense.

Name: MaryKay Moe

Date: March 4, 2026 9:29:23 am

Dear Commissioners,

Please consider and encourage the use of reused and sustainable materials in all aspects of design and construction. Let The People's House be a shining example of a wonderful collaboration of art, history, architecture, and sustainability. Consider the installation of a green roof and renewable energy sources.

Thank you for all that you do.

Name: Carol Buckley

Date: March 4, 2026 9:30:52 am

Dear Commission members,

Years ago, I worked as a local reporter in DC covering Georgetown. I therefore attended many meetings of the Commission on Fine Arts and absorbed some principles of historic preservation along the way. The proposal under review appears to completely overshadow the historic building--a nonstarter, in my limited understanding, for any historic property, but surely this one in particular. It also ruins any hope of symmetry at the complex, which was clearly a goal for the designers. Please reject this monstrous alteration to a home that does not belong to one person, but to all Americans.

Name: Tamara Candella

Date: March 4, 2026 9:31:14 am

I will keep this short and to the point. I concur with the thoughtful and knowledgable letter and schematic proposal presented by Laurel Bern of Boston, Massachusetts. My hope is that you place great weight and serious consideration to it as she is supported by a multitude of followers, myself include (for many years.)

Sincerely,

Tami Candella

President, Trumbull County Historical Society
Warren, Ohio

Name: Mark Rosenfeld

Date: March 4, 2026 9:32:24 am

I oppose the project

Name: William Boone

Date: March 4, 2026 9:32:29 am

Ugly is as ugly does...and this is going to be ugly.

Name: Edward Lynn

Date: March 4, 2026 9:33:14 am

I am writing to oppose spending \$300 million on the East Wing Modernization project. In my opinion, it razes an important era in American history, when the White House became a place that embraced the work of the First Lady and her staff. This proposal was initiated without proper authorization, or permits, or design review. The East Wing was destroyed with no warning, no Architectural & Engineering Request for Proposals, no bids from contractors, and no abatement of hazardous materials; all as required by federal law.

I would like to see the East Wing rebuilt to its former design (that was scaled and in proportion to the rest of the building) and the administration's project canceled. The current design is for an out-of-scale, out-of-place, and out-of-time pseudo-historical building.

No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding American

Name: Silvia Gonzalez Roman

Date: March 4, 2026 9:33:16 am

I am writing to urge you to vote against the East Wing Modernization Project.
The demolition and destruction of our historical buildings at the whim of the executive is not acceptable.
I urge you to protect and preserve our national landmarks.

Name: Judith and Phil Hooper

Date: March 4, 2026 9:33:28 am

Do not approve the proposed Trump Ballroom. The proposed Ballroom is monstrosly out of proportion relative to adjacent federal structures, especially the White House.
The proposed scale and square footage are unnecessarily large and will ruin the historic integrity of our nation's Capitol.

Name: E Cannell

Date: March 4, 2026 9:34:19 am

It is un-American for an individual to order the destruction of the people's house by fiat.
It is un-American to expend countless resources on a colossal facility for indulgent, luxurious parties.

It is un-American for people's properties be manipulated and designed to accommodate activities befitting a monarchy. It is un-American to throw generations of preservation efforts, consensus, and carefully crafted and managed procedures out the window; it compromises the value of all preservation work and makes it vulnerable to whim. It is un-American to discount and nullify design training and expertise.

The callous and reckless demolition of the most important historic building in the country cannot be ameliorated by the hasty and heedless construction of a colossus. The planned vulgar, wildly over-scaled facility for elites flies in the face of the nation's founding principles. Elected officials are public servants, not nobles to be cosseted. Visiting officials come on the serious business of the international greater good, not to be feted and flattered.

The whole East Wing demolition project is shockingly unAmerican. Even the moniker "East Wing Modernization Project" seeks to camouflage the aberrant and unacceptable process behind it. It should not be treated with any sense of normalcy.

E CANNELL

Name: Barbara Jackson

Date: March 4, 2026 9:34:34 am

A large, fancy ballroom for the East wing, I believe, would not be what the majority of Americans would vote for or want. This is supposed to be the people's house. There would be far fewer Americans who would ever be able to see within those walls than there would be if all or a large part of the wing was used in a way that provides public spaces for people to visit and includes historical information that educates us. I understand the need for a nice space for events, especially when leaders, domestic or foreign, are visiting the White House. However, if a large ballroom is built that takes up the entire space or the majority of the space, very few average Americans will be able to be participants and have enjoyment of this building. Also, I believe that the building itself should not be larger than the main, central building of the White House. The architectural scale of the complex should remain what it has been. Last of all, I believe that the majority of Americans would like any event space in the White House to be appropriately elegant. That said, the cost, which is paid by the American taxpayers, should be considered, and an oversized and overly extravagant event space is not in the taxpayers' interest.

Name: Carolyn Curtis

Date: March 4, 2026 9:34:38 am

The White House is a National Historic Landmark and National Park, owned by the American people and maintained by the National Park Service. It has been home to our presidents since 1800 and is perhaps the most significant historic site in the United States.

L'enfant, Olmstead and Hoban are the original designers of this area of Washington DC. The classical design of the buildings is balanced and follows formal rules.

The L'enfant city plan emphasizes symmetry and classical proportions, with a main north-south axis acting as a central spine. Recent proposals for a ballroom dwarfs the White House and destroys the axial connection which has existed for hundreds of years. It does not follow classical design rules.

The proposed ballroom is garish and much larger than necessary. It is 47% larger than what is needed according to industry standards. The design often makes no sense. It's like the main purpose was to tower above everything around it. The porticos are needlessly much larger than those on the White House and nearby buildings, like the Treasury. One of the porticos has no doors and, ultimately, no purpose. The north portion is taller than the White House. Why would they do that?

The focus should be on the White House, not a ballroom. The American people do not want to spend our hard earned money on a ridiculous ballroom that looks hideous and we'll be forever maintaining. Please bring it back into proportion keeping with the original elements of design for the White House and surrounding area. Thank you.

Name: Pamela Bender

Date: March 4, 2026 9:34:55 am

Preservation of our historic buildings has been well established as a way to ensure our buildings that have significant history and architecture features stay here for generations.

How with all the provisions in place to preserve structures does this project even start? We need to have accountability for all, that includes even the political people who are making life long decisions for our country, actually they are supposed

to be an example of how to preserve our history not tear it down.
This is a travesty to change the landscape Washington DC.

Pamela L Bender

Name: Carolyn Kropp

Date: March 4, 2026 9:35:18 am

The massing, height, scale, and especially the volume of the proposed 90,000 square-foot construction will overwhelm the 55,000-square-foot central structure and disrupt the carefully balanced classical design of the White House, with its East and West wings. Classicism is predicated on overall symmetry.

The scale of the proposed South Portico is too large; as is currently designed, the proposed ballroom South Portico is 166% larger than the current White House Portico and 40% larger than Treasury's South Portico.

The architectural industry high standard space for ballrooms is 15sq.ft. Per person (the low standard is 10 sq. ft. per person). The proposed ballroom is being designed for 1,000 people, which means the proposed ballroom should be 15,000 ft. maximum. The proposed ballroom is 22,000 sq. ft. which makes it 47% larger than the industry standard.

The proposed ballroom massing is nearly 3x the original White House volume. The volume and oversized massing challenge the classicism on which the White House is based. Classicism is predicated on balance and symmetry, and the central main structure should always be the largest.

The 4,000 ft. South Portico as designed as no access whatsoever to the interior and is not ADA accessible. The doors shown on its South elevation are fake. The massive grand staircase leading to it is gratuitous with no function or purpose. Lastly the South portico constrains 24 (5 ft. Diameter columns) that only block views from the interior.

The original vistas of the White House conceived by L'Enfant and our founding fathers would be blocked and restricted with the construction of the ballroom as proposed. The axial vista from the US Capital steps looking northwest up Pennsylvania Ave. is one of the most Important views and relationships in L'Enfant's Original 1791 design for Washington DC.

The proposed east portico is 170% larger than the White House north portico. Following the principles of classical architecture the White House north portico should always larger and more prominent than a portico on an ancillary wing.

Most spaces shown on the primary entrance level are service (non public) and do not need daylight or need to be above grade. The kitchen areas are immense (13,000 sq. ft.) more than 2 1/2 times the industry standard to serve the proposed 1,000 guests. This creates the opportunity to lower these functions below ground and reduce the overwhelming height of the bldg.

Moving non-public kitchen and service spaces from the main floor to the lower level while sizing the ballroom to the high industry standards and eliminating the non-accessible South portico would reduce the immense volume of the proposed structure by approximately 38%. This would lessen harmful impacts on the Historic Executive Residence while preserving the highly important symbolic axial relationship and viewshed between the White House and Capitol.

The ballroom as planned would block any view of the White House (The People's House) from their view from Pennsylvania Ave. This is just wrong. The ballroom as proposed is a symbol of the destruction of our Democracy that can not be allowed.

Name: David Landis

Date: March 4, 2026 9:35:34 am

Please spend time to develop a more aesthetically and functionally appropriate historically representative space. As proposed, the scale of the proposed ballroom will dwarf the rest of the White House complex. The layout is 47% greater than would be needed to meet the stated goal of having space to host 1,000 people, and the original plans do not adequately consider the aesthetics and history of the capitol area and grounds. The kitchen is oversized what would be

needed according to the existing industrial standard. Also, the first floor should have more publicly accessible areas. Please spend the time to develop a more thoughtful design.

Name: Rhonda Hodges

Date: March 4, 2026 9:36:19 am

Dear NCPC,

I am writing to comment on the current plans for the new East Wing of the White House. The new plans, to be blunt, are awful.

The size, scale and details are not in keeping with America's most historic home. The current plans show this addition dwarfing the main house, or residence, and are not sensitive to matching the integrity of the original residence. The new project, if built as currently designed, would also impede the Olmsted landscape design which is also of historic significance not to mention would block the view to the Capital Building. The new East Wing should take advantage of putting kitchens and other things like a family theatre below grade thereby lessening the visual impact.

There are so many things that could have been drawn differently to lessen the effect of this addition that just were not. You have to ask why the columns on the new addition's portico were not drawn to match existing columns on the White House which also match those of nearby buildings. There is so much in the current plans that I find objectionable, from the non-functioning portico that has no access from the ballroom to the colossal waste of space throughout, that I suggest starting over with the plans and scale it back significantly. From what I can tell after viewing the presentation by David Parker and Bill Bates as put forth by National Trust for Historic Preservation their analyses and ideas are spot on. Therefore, I ask the committee to please watch their presentation, if you have not done so already, and take their commentary to heart.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that I would like to see this scaled back significantly. If built as currently designed it will ruin one of our country's most historic and important places. Certainly having a new, grand, modern ballroom with wonderful and secure amenities would be desirable, but only if the size, scale and details of this new addition are in keeping with symmetrical design and architectural details of the White House, its grounds and would thereby preserve current views and site lines.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Hodges

Name: Beverly Bender

Date: March 4, 2026 9:37:48 am

I am extremely disappointed in the demolition of the East Wing of the peoples" house, the White House. Destroying it for the construction of a " gilded ballroom" is un-American, embarrassing, and unnecessary.

Shame on all who have approved and contributed to this.

Name: Jerry Hodges

Date: March 4, 2026 9:37:49 am

Dear Committee,

I am writing to express my support for resizing the proposed ballroom at the White House.

After reading, listening and learning more about the proposed plans and the historical landscape, I strongly feel that adjusting the scale of this project ensures the addition remains consistent with the historic character and architectural integrity of the Executive Mansion.

A more appropriately sized space balances the need for modern functional requirements with responsible historic preservation and fiscal oversight.

Thank you for considering this perspective on maintaining the heritage of this national landmark.

Best regards,
Jerry Hodges

Name: Gregory Penk

Date: March 4, 2026 9:38:44 am

Dear Members of the NCPC

The White House and its surroundings are part of a beautiful heritage that helps bring us together and inspire us. While I completely agree that we need a ballroom space that will allow formal state dinners, the building housing that ballroom should not overwhelm the actual main White House building.

Please downsize, particularly then height, of the proposed ballroom addition. Protect the overall beauty of the White House and the surrounding buildings and maintain the proportions of the area.

Thank you
Gregory Penk

Name: Lee Lindahl

Date: March 4, 2026 9:39:26 am

“The White House is owned by the American people and stewarded by the National Park Service.”, as stated on the U.S. National Park Service website. It is one of the most important historical sites in this country. As owners of this site, we, the people of the United States, extend the privilege of residing here to our elected national president. As owners, we entrust the care and respectful habitation of this historic structure to the residents during their stay there. It would be expected that any significant changes made by the tenants to the structure be made with the owners’ express consent and under the best-practice guidance of historic preservation. Recommendations on how major expansions to this site could be accomplished while maintaining the historical fabric of the existing structure have already been made by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and should be followed. Especially on the 250th anniversary of this country, we should be celebrating and honoring our rich historical national treasures.

Name: Michael and Beth Dorfsman

Date: March 4, 2026 9:40:01 am

We are writing to register our strong opposition to the proposed plan to create a 90,000 square foot ballroom as an addition to the White House. As planned, the ballroom is not constructive in representing what the country stands for. Rather it is destructive in its overwhelming scale and design and would be a monument to a misguided attempt to add spectacle when the building should inspire a sense of dignity, which it did before the recent East Wing demolition. The house for the President of the United States should be designed to signify serious purpose, a sense of public duty, a reminder of the country’s history and the momentous decisions made within its walls. It is a reflection of all the presidents, and their families, who have lived within it — not the design taste of merely the most recent occupant. Presidents are transient; no one inhabitant of the office should have the ability to dictate his or her lasting design preference on the White House. Rather, their lasting legacy should be determined by how they led the country, achieved a common good, kept the country safe and lifted up the populace. Not by imposing a massive addition on the building capable of hosting 1,000 guests once in a while, if ever.

As a ballroom for a head of state, the size should be fitting for a range of typical functions. But as designed, the ballroom’s magnitude would seldom, if ever, be appropriate for the events being held. Even when hosting a state dinner, much of the 90,000 square feet contemplated would go unused with vast expanses of empty space, or partitioned off. Initially estimated to cost \$200 million, the cost has quickly doubled. And, while supposedly the construction cost is contemplated to be derived from private sources, rather than public coffers, that raises its own concerns as the donors might, just possibly, expect more in return than their names on a welcoming plaque.

We strongly urge the The National Capital Planning Commission to reject the ballroom addition, as proposed, and seek either a restoration of the building’s wing to its original design with modest revisions, or a new plan that reflects and

represents the nation's principles, its history and mirrors the design of the White House as conceived by James Hoban and the grounds as conceived by Frederick Law Olmstead.

Name: Lynn Smith

Date: March 4, 2026 9:40:28 am

This beautiful house does NOT belong to Donald Trump. It belongs to all of us and we should have a fair share in making such decisions.

ABSOLUTELY SHAMEFUL

Name: Lu Garrison

Date: March 4, 2026 9:40:40 am

Please STOP all further mutilation of the sacred Whitehouse! This President has already ruined too much, he should pay to have all the damage done already restored

Name: Raymond Whelan

Date: March 4, 2026 9:41:40 am

The ballroom scale is totally wrong and the gold style is for King's not for the Peoples' House!

Name: David Schultz

Date: March 4, 2026 9:41:41 am

Regarding the proposed 90,000 sf ballroom addition, speaking as an architect with 40 years of experience in large scale projects, I find the proposal to be out of scale with the existing historic White House and the site's context. The design significantly diminishes the historic importance of the White House by dwarfing its scale. Architecture has evolved and transcended the period architecture found at the White House. What is proposed is a fake or faux design that mimics 19th century classic building facades. The design for this significant project would be better to embody and be true to the spirit of architecture today and avoid a "Disney like" copy of a 200 year old structure. This is an opportunity to represent and express current technology and design in America, not succumb to a copycat approach.

Name: David Ramsey

Date: March 4, 2026 9:41:51 am

The 1902 report created by the architectural firm McKim, Mead, & White has served as the basis for all exterior architectural renovation projects since that time. On page 9 of this report, the architects state in the fifth challenge was 'To remove such excrescences as had been allowed to accumulate about the White House to the detriment of its fine architectural features and its dignity as the home of the President of the United States.' I add that these fine architectural features were deemed appropriate by our first President and all Presidents until now have attempted to honor this aesthetic.

I challenge the Ballroom team members to read this book, which has served as the basis for all exterior construction done to the White House since 1902. You will note that on the first page of this document there depicts a rendering of the new East Wing entrance. The inclusion of this illustration on the first page confirms the importance of this concept to the showcasing of the President's House intended by George Washington and all subsequent Presidents.

A link to the McKim, Mead, & White architectural report is noted below.

<https://archive.org/details/restorationofwhi00unit/page/n7/mode/2up>

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

David Ramsey

Lord Aeck Sargent Architects

Name: John Dimarchi

Date: March 4, 2026 9:42:18 am

I oppose the unnecessarily large expansion of the east wing. I propose reconstructing the east wing back to its original configuration. I propose making DJT pay for the entire project.

Name: Mike Villar

Date: March 4, 2026 9:44:20 am

I strongly oppose this project and it's unauthorized use of taxpayer funds. The destruction of the White House East Wing was done without any sort of review, permits or authorization which was required. If any funds are to be used to rebuild anything, it should be the reconstruction of the East Wing as it was. No temporary occupant should be allowed to make a historic impact for his/her own glory.

Name: Cindy Jaworski

Date: March 4, 2026 9:44:27 am

Dear Members of the NCPC,

I appreciate the concern and attention you are giving to updating the White House. I have read that it has needed some changes for quite some time. My ask is that you match the reconstruction projects to the existing atmosphere of our existing beautiful Capitol building.

I am disappointed with the total destruction of the East Wing, and the plan for the Ballroom is altogether gaudy. It reminds me of the Palace of Culture building in Warsaw, Poland described by one resident as "a large birthday cake derived from the dream of a crazy baker!"

Please consider other designs before embarking on this project.

Thank you,

Cindy Jaworski

Name: karen Christof

Date: March 4, 2026 9:44:35 am

The White House is the people's house. As such, the people's voices must be heard. Stop this project from moving forward until there are discussions and alternative plans for doing such a massive change to such a venerated and valuable landmark. To go ahead with this poorly conceived project for one man's vanity is a disgrace to our country.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Karen Christof

Frederick, MD

Name: Shelby Clark

Date: March 4, 2026 9:44:41 am

There is no need for a "ballroom" to have 40 foot ceilings. Whatever is built to replace the iconic and historic east wing should complement the architecture that is already on the site. The entire project is a waste of money and an affront to the American people.

Name: Tyrene Johnston

Date: March 4, 2026 9:45:06 am

This is just a short email to express my profound sadness about the proposed East Wing Ballroom project. I am a retired middle school teacher who passionately taught American History to her students throughout my career. I took many

classes of 7th and 8th graders to Washington DC over the years, each time making sure to celebrate the fabulous architecture and historic meaning of all the buildings on the Mall, including the Capital and the White House.

Please do your best to block this atrocity. I appreciate all your hard work in this matter.

My best,
Tyrene B. Johnston
West Tisbury, Massachusetts

Name: Stefanie Mair
Date: March 4, 2026 9:45:19 am

I am firmly opposed to Trump plan to alter the White House. It is not his right and is clearly illegal.

Name: Sarah Semerjian
Date: March 4, 2026 9:48:30 am

The plans for the new ballroom depart from respectful consideration of the People's House, our Nation's proud history, and basic design principles. In the renderings, the Executive Residence is diminished in stature by an out-of-proportion ballroom. In addition, the ballroom footprint is so large that it requires part of the oval drive around the South Lawn to be moved, destroying the South Lawn's symmetry.

Beyond these comments on the plans themselves, there remain many questions about the legality of proceeding with the demolition of the historic East Wing and beginning a new, significant construction project on the White House grounds without necessary discussion and approvals. In a project of this size and stature, private funding is not a loophole.

Name: John Whelan
Date: March 4, 2026 9:51:26 am

If a sitting President is allowed to demolish a portion of the White House and rebuild it in accordance with his on notion of what is appropriate then what is to prevent a future President from demolishing the entire building. Surely this is not an appropriate process for dealing with a national historic building and a symbol of US democracy, not just in the United States, but all around the world.

I am obviously opposed to this project but not just because of the above but also because of the fact that it is completely out of proportion with the main building reflecting the poor taste of the current holder of the office.

Name: Jaffs 160
Date: March 4, 2026 9:52:07 am

I am writing this today in opposition to the East Wing Modernization Project, aka "The Ballroom." The American people have not asked nor wanted a Ballroom at the White House. While the President may reside there, it has always been the People's House. The President tore down the East Wing without prior approval from this Commission. This is unacceptable. The East Wing held the office of the First Lady. This is a Historically Diplomatic position and an inspirational position for young girls in our country. Even if this project is being funded solely by private donors, it is an affront to the American people. I would ask that this Commission stop the Ballroom construction and order the funds to be redirected to reconstructing the East Wing with a larger office for the current First Lady and future First Ladys. I implore this Commission to block further construction on a Ballroom that no one asked for. Thank you

Name: Kory Salsbury
Date: March 4, 2026 9:53:08 am

I am concerned that the proposed ballroom is significantly oversized and would overwhelm the existing White House complex. Based on established architectural standards, the current design exceeds what is necessary to accommodate 1,000 guests by approximately 47%. Additionally, the initial plans appear to give insufficient consideration to the

historical character and visual integrity of the Capitol area and surrounding grounds. The kitchen, in particular, is more than 2.5 times larger than required under prevailing industrial standards, and the first floor would benefit from a greater allocation of publicly accessible space. I recommend revisiting the design to develop a space that is more appropriately scaled, aesthetically thoughtful, functionally efficient, and reflective of the site's historical significance.

Name: Howard Fugitt

Date: March 4, 2026 9:53:34 am

The East Wing Modernization Project represents a profound disregard for the historic integrity and character of one of our nation's most irreplaceable landmarks. This is not merely a renovation; it is a reckless alteration that erodes the very essence of a structure steeped in history and symbolic significance. The East Wing is more than just a building; it is a tangible piece of our national heritage that should be preserved with the utmost respect and care. Pursuing modernization in the name of vanity undermines the legacy that generations before us have entrusted to our stewardship.

Moreover, the fact that demolition proceeded without proper permitting and adherence to established legal and procedural channels is deeply troubling. Such actions set a dangerous precedent, signaling that even the most sacred public spaces are not immune to unilateral decisions lacking transparency and accountability. The people's house belongs to the citizens, and any substantive changes should involve their voice and consent, not be imposed behind closed doors.

This disregard extends beyond the East Wing to other cherished spaces like the Rose Garden, which similarly suffered irreversible changes without proper public consultation or oversight. These spaces hold collective memories and represent democratic ideals that should be safeguarded, not sacrificed for fleeting aesthetic preferences. I stand firmly opposed to this project, calling for a halt to the modernization efforts until full transparency, appropriate processes, and respect for history are prioritized. The people deserve no less.

Name: Mara Spencer

Date: March 4, 2026 9:53:39 am

There is no East Wing Modernization as the East Wing was demolished without regard to guidelines. The proposed ballroom is substantially larger than required to seat 1,000 persons per high industry standards. The portico is 3 times the size of the White House which is the primary focus of this land. This project is against standards for treatment of historic properties per Secretary of the Interior. It runs against historical architectural plans dating to the 1700s. The portico is non-functional; the outdoor space has no use and its columns eclipse the view from the ballroom. The ballroom is 25 feet above street level - why???? The kitchen is 2 times industry standards. If built as planned the ballroom would obstruct the view of the White House from Pennsylvania Avenue and block the viewshed between the White House and the US Capitol.

Several modifications can be made which will still allow for 1,000 seated guests:

1. Move non-public kitchen and service space to a lower level.
2. Size the ballroom in accordance with high industry standards.
3. Eliminate the non-functional, unused South Portico.

These simple modifications reduce the volume of the proposed ballroom by 38%, creating a more proportional balance with the White House. They also significantly lessen the harmful impacts to the White House and preserve the historical relationship and viewshed between the White House and the US Capitol.

Name: Collins Kathleen

Date: March 4, 2026 9:54:37 am

I hope it is not too late to comment on what President Trump is doing to the East Wing of the White House. The White House is not his personal property and he should have gone through proper channels before taking a wrecking ball to our nation's history. If the cheap, gold plated look of the Oval Office is any indication, it will have to be redone as soon as he is out of office. Two words: GARISH and TACKY! And two words for our commander in chief: UNMITIGATED GALL! Americans are struggling to put food on their tables and pay their medical bills but he will be busy picking out gold toilets for his ballroom (when he is not busy starting World War III).

Name: Aine Brazil

Date: March 4, 2026 9:54:58 am

The scale of the new ballroom is far too big for the White House grounds. The proposed construction will destroy the classical design of the building
It should not be approved

Name: Aimee Houck

Date: March 4, 2026 9:55:05 am

It is unbelievable what this President gets away with, with no repercussions. Disgusting.

Name: Laura Lee O'Donnell

Date: March 4, 2026 9:55:47 am

I am terribly upset at what is happening at the White House. Presidents are guests of the people of the United States and the process for making any major changes should be faithfully followed.
He is committing our money and disrespecting our input by not going through proper channels.
Since we no longer have any other option, I ask for the proper planning and execution of a tasteful addition and that only the necessary size addition be constructed.
Thank you,
Laura Lee O'Donnell

Name: Carol Ann Getter

Date: March 4, 2026 9:56:37 am

Please reduce the size of the building. It should not have to accommodate more than 500 people. Please make it handicapped accessible and balanced in view of surrounding buildings. Please consider the least possible impingement of the views of the White House for surrounding buildings. Thank you.

Name: Nicholas Cobbs

Date: March 4, 2026 9:57:00 am

The proposed ballroom is a wasteful and ugly indulgence of the president's ego. It should be scaled way back following careful study.

Name: christopher Brown

Date: March 4, 2026 9:57:16 am

I strongly oppose the E. Wing Modernizaion as currently proposed. It is criminal for the President to have torn down the E. Wing in the first place, and now to put up a way-out-of-scale , overly grandiose edifice is an abomination. Please, NCPC, block this affront to the White House complex and to the whole Nation's capital and insist on a full redesign that subordinates the new building to the White House itself.

Name: TerryLynne Marx

Date: March 4, 2026 9:57:20 am

I do not consider this a modernization project. It is a building project after a complete demolition of part of the People's House.

When reviewing the plan for the ballroom, kitchen, etc. building, I thought only of the damage that has been done to the People's House without prior approval.

With the demolition of the East Wing, the symmetry of the People's House was lost. This potential new building seems unnecessarily large and would not recreate the balance (symmetry) that was lost with the demolition. Architects have stated it would accommodate 1500 people. Is this size necessary?

It will not blend into the (carefully designed) Capitol Complex.

Another oddity, the facade of the potential new building, has no doors for ingress/egress. Is this a safety hazard?

This whole project appears to be based on ostentation. Please modify.

Name: Dana Barney

Date: March 4, 2026 9:57:24 am

From 200 to 400 Million to build a behemoth ballroom that will overwhelm the size of the existing White House is egregious financially and aesthetically. The plans should reflect the classical structure of existing buildings and does not need more than a 15,000 square foot ballroom.

Name: Dina Marenstein

Date: March 4, 2026 9:58:26 am

What Trump is doing is disgusting, illegal and unethical. Firstly, this building is gross, and flaunting riches that the American people don't have and have been robbed of. Secondly I completely agree with prior comments that state "It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history." I too want this project canceled. Thirdly, Trump is using donations to this building as a way for people to curry favor with him, again breaching our legal and ethical norms. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Judith Shipengrover

Date: March 4, 2026 9:58:39 am

"The lack of transparency and apparent bypassing of the normal, rigorous review process for a structure of this magnitude is deeply concerning. The NCPC must uphold its responsibility to ensure this project complies with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital."

Name: Josh Sxhmidt

Date: March 4, 2026 9:59:37 am

I am opposed.

Name: Donita Mudd

Date: March 4, 2026 10:00:14 am

This Ballroom is not needed, when was any other administration pressing for a ballroom? I listened in on NCPC's public hearings, saw the Architects design review. 1. The Project name is purposely deceptive, why is it not called the Ballroom Project? The East Wing was demolished with NO notice to the public. The Demolition of East Wing should be illegal. There should be some responsibility, major penalty for tearing down East Wing with no public review. What is to stop this administration for demolishing the White House.

2. The proposed Ballroom is too large, it dwarfs the White House. This proposed building as currently designed EXTREMELY DISRUPTS the visual of the White House. 3. The flag pole that Trump put up in front of the White House is another DISRUPTION of the White House view. Were questions and concerns raised at that installation? Should have been reviewed 1st. Just as the West Wing and now unlawfully demolished East Wing were built at a lower height, to not compete with the view of the White House. 4. This massive Ballroom could be anywhere else in Washington DC. It will be a High security risk location to have the overpowering, massive structure on White House grounds, open to over 1000 attendees.

4. This is a Trump Vanity Project which will likely be constructed because no one stops him from doing whatever he wants. Hopefully as soon as he is out of office the next administration will thankfully use public funds to demolish this Russia-looking gold plated temple.

Name: Paul Girdzis

Date: March 4, 2026 10:00:15 am

Hello,

I urge you to reject the proposal for the expanded ballroom at the White House.

The proposed building will have a feel of a convention center rather than the home and office of the chief executive of the United States. It is not just the residence of the current president, but also of past and future presidents

In addition the expansion it is not sensitive to the history of the building, and not sensitive to its importance adjacent to the Capital Mall. The location and site of the White House symbolically and physically reflects the balance of power between the three equal branches of U.S. government, through hundreds of years past and future.

Please reject the proposal.

Name: Rona Gundrum

Date: March 4, 2026 10:00:51 am

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

Yesterday I submitted the below comment. Make no mistake, I would prefer the East Wing and the Rose Garden be restored to their original condition, however if the Committee is in favor of allowing the ballroom to be constructed, I support the plan proposed by David Parker and Bill Bates that mitigates the impact of the ballroom.

I am respectfully submitting my public comment regarding the East Wing Modernization/White House Ballroom proposal.

It is imperative that we respect the historic planning of Washington, D.C. and the White House.

- 1 - the L'Enfant Plan symbolic axial view connection between the White House (the People's House) and the Capitol MUST be maintained.
- 2 - The ballroom should be in the spirit of the Hoban Plan Design for the White House.
- 3 - Retain the circular drive as laid out in the original Olmsted Plan for the White House grounds.

I strongly urge the Commission to adopt the plan presented by David Parker and Bill Bates in the recording of February 25, 2026 (at @ the 29 minute mark). Their plan is:

- 1 - very attractive, reducing the height and scale of the building, bringing the design of the White House back into balance,
- 2 - maintains the axial view to the Capitol, respecting the historic planning of Washington, DC and symbolic connection per the L'Enfant Plan.
- 3 - in addition to the above, I would like to see the portico columns removed so as not to block the views from the windows.

This will allow for the Trump ballroom while lessening the harmful impacts on the historic Executive Residence and grounds.

Name: Jen Alvarez

Date: March 4, 2026 10:01:25 am

I have 30 years experience with the redevelopment of historic buildings and complexes in both the private and public sectors and have the following comments.

The East wing ballroom as proposed is out of scale with the main white house building. By definition a wing should be

secondary to the primary structure in massing and design. Additionally, the practicality, comfort, and acoustics of a ballroom that seats 1,000 is questionable.

A smaller discreet and symmetrical east wing must be planned instead that respects the history, scale, materiality, and character of the white house, one of the most important historic resources and symbols in the United States. The founders intentionally created and named this the White House not the White Palace.

Name: Priya Jain

Date: March 4, 2026 10:01:41 am

Please see attached formal written comments from the Society of Architectural Historians.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Barb Rahier

Date: March 4, 2026 10:02:14 am

When my family cannot afford groceries and now the huge fuel increase, the "ballroom" discussion gets more disgusting. Talking about "gold curtains" during a war where soldiers are being killed is even more disgusting.

Name: Elizabeth Servetar

Date: March 4, 2026 10:02:53 am

All of the president's actions regarding the East Wing so far seem to have sidestepped true review. Stop the White House Ballroom! The proposed structure is too big, both for the site & our overall needs, and a real waste of resources and precious space. If a bigger reception venue is absolutely needed going forward, another DC site should be vetted and proposed in a way that reviews design, traffic, resources and environmental impact. Our shared history was decimated by a lawless head of state who, I can imagine, would be happy to just walk away with all of the donated ballroom cash himself. Better that, though, than a monstrously oversized, gold-encrusted barnacle attached to the White House after he is gone.

Name: Lori Glaza

Date: March 4, 2026 10:03:27 am

Today i am writing to voice my strong opposition to Trump's East Wing Modernization Project. Like so much of his disastrous presidency, he's recklessly destroyed a vital portion of our shared American history without concern for opposing perspectives. Consent Counts Donald!

What's demolished is done, and i have no desire to see an obnoxiously disproportionate ballroom to compensate for all that Trump lacks.

Additionally, adding gilded accessories to the decor of the White House makes it look tasteless and cheap. Trust me, the American public already knows he's cheapened the office... he doesn't have to trumpet it. No doubt his aspirations for the ballroom will be gold plated to match his pathetic country club aesthetic.

Lastly, going into the pockets of his billionaire buddies to pay for this architectural abomination does not make me feel warm & fuzzy. You think any of these mega rich American oligarchs ever give something away without expecting something in return? To quote one of Trump's favorite inspirational figures; "Quid Pro Quo" - Hannibal Lecter

Name: Patricia Liquard

Date: March 4, 2026 10:03:33 am

The only recently released plans for the East Wing are disturbing to say the least. From these plans it appears that no effort was made to preserve the classical structure and the original design intent of George Washington for our White House. This is the peoples house, not one president's house - and it seems no effort is being made to preserve the style,

proportional balance, and historical significance of the White House, as well as the axial symbolic relationship between the White House and the capital - two branches of our government.

Both the size and style in this plan do not follow the original design intent for the People's House.

The plan presented is many times larger (both height and width) than needed for the stated intent. If this building is being built to hold 1000 people, the stated size is 50% larger than it needs to be (10-15 square foot per person is industry standard).

There are many facets of the design that do not follow the original intent. One example is the columns. The style of the original columns should be followed (Ionic order freestanding columns). The Corinthian order is preserved for the White House, not on a wing that would upstage the people's house.

It is important to protect the legacy that we, as American's have inherited. Please do not approve this plan that will abort the original intent of our forefathers for the People's House - the most important house in America and the most recognized building in all of America. One cannot overstate the impact this design will have on this historical structure.

We the people own this house - and our voices should determine the future of this historical building.

Name: Tamara Rozhon

Date: March 4, 2026 10:04:29 am

Please stop this from being built. Please rebuild the East Wing and restore our history. This ballroom is not needed, not does it appear to be well designed. It will become an eyesore to the peoples White House.

Name: Angelique Bamberg

Date: March 4, 2026 10:04:57 am

This project is inappropriate in the extreme. The site, scale, massing, and volume of the proposed new construction will overwhelm the carefully-considered and maintained (until now) character of the People's House. It will disrupt the Classical symmetry of the White House complex, interfere with the important, symbolic, historic sight line between the White House and the Capitol, and mar the historic Frederick Law Olmsted-designed landscape of the White House lawn and drive. In purpose, it is grandiose, unnecessary, and antithetical to the ideal of democratic leadership that the White House is designed to embody. Thank you for the opportunity to communicate my vehement opposition to this project.

Name: Christine Glover

Date: March 4, 2026 10:05:16 am

Although this project is supposedly privately funded, the property is public land and this is the people's house. It is imperative that a permanent change in the people's house have the voice OF the people in concert with architects who have focused on classical work.

The people's house must remain as the visual treasure it is and not plunged into the whims of personality for one man.

Please use the upmost caution in seeing that this treasure remain a beautiful symbol of our nation for decades to come.

Thank you and to all the designers and architects, I bid you strength and resolve.

Name: Michael Nolan

Date: March 4, 2026 10:05:20 am

It needs to be put back the way it was. One persons whims should not override a historical building that belongs to all the people. You wouldn't hook a condo with a carport on Lincoln's home in Springfield. Why would you desecrate the White House.

Name: Tom Bish

Date: March 4, 2026 10:05:23 am

I object to the East Wing ballroom project as a citizen and as an architect.

First, the president is not single handedly in charge of renovations on federal lands.

Demolitions cannot be unilaterally authorized.

Proposed plans should be submitted for review to the public, congress, courts, or any planning commissions before any demolition starts.

Second, the project that is still evolving is woefully inappropriate for the site. From a massing perspective it is much too big and overwhelmingly tall. From a programmatic point of view a ballroom for state dinners and the like has been discussed for many decades and could be an attribute at the right scale if it did not otherwise detract from the iconic White House site. Other solutions and locations were and are possible and should have been part of the ballroom discussion from the beginning.

Thirdly everything about this project's inception has been inappropriate and undemocratic. I urge the NCPC to halt the ballroom project at this week's meeting and lay out clear steps for debate, review and approval of any project on this site or any other federal capitol site as there is sure to be continued over reach on the part of this administration.

Name: Leonard Harsy

Date: March 4, 2026 10:05:46 am

Please change the plans for the East Wing. It overwhelms the White House and looks more like an expensive indoor stadium. The White House is owned, not by any current president, but by the people of this nation. While there may need to be improvements to the White House, the current plans are not acceptable. Please adjust the design to bring it in scale with the rest of the building.

Thank you.

Name: Jennifer Hill

Date: March 4, 2026 10:06:08 am

I have real concerns about the size, scope, scale, and design of this project. I'm a direct descendant of President James Monroe and understand how seriously the founders took their republican ideals and rejected a monarchy. The taste level is gaudy at best, the scale is overwhelming to the space, and it is an antithetical representation of what this country means - the people should decide, not some stacked commission of loyalists. Trump is not a king and we should not allow him to act as one.

Name: John Tatlock

Date: March 4, 2026 10:06:25 am

The proposed plan for trumps ballroom is better at materializing djt's contempt for history, proportion and foundational national principals, than enhancing any functional or aesthetic aspects of the whitehouse complex. It should be scrapped.

Name: Warren Waldron

Date: March 4, 2026 10:08:17 am

To whom it may concern,

I am aware of some properties owned and managed by Donald J. Trump. Among these, the White House of the United States is absent.

I was therefore surprised and saddened to learn of the demolition of the East Wing. This strikes me as an act of vandalism against public property. In light of this, as an American Citizen and a Member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, I would respectfully ask the NCPC to sue for nothing less than complete, total and accurate restoration of the historic East Wing of the U.S. White House.

Thank you for your consideration and involvement in this very important matter.

Respectfully,
Warren R. Waldron

Name: Thomas Adamski

Date: March 4, 2026 10:09:11 am

The changes that have been made to the White House, and those that are proposed, are destroying the esthetics and the architectural history of the Whitehouse. The proposed ballroom is gaudy, degrading, unnecessary, and an insult to the people of this nation. It is something a king would add to his palace, and is certainly a part of Trump's kingly delusion. The White House is the peoples house, not the Trump house. All further construction and demolition should be halted. The site should be cleaned up, and planning for at least a partial restoration should be undertaken by a bipartisan, independent commission with no input from the present administration. Perhaps a small portion of the ruins of the east wing could be preserved as a monument to a government off the rails.

Sincerely
Thomas Adamski

Name: Tom McManus

Date: March 4, 2026 10:09:15 am

Dear National Capital Planning Commission Members,

I am writing regarding the East Wing Modernization Project, also known as the "ballroom" for the White House.

I believe firmly that the ballroom project should never have started. It is an outrage that what has been done so far was allowed to happen. As far as I am concerned the East Wing of the White House should be returned to look exactly like it did before it was torn down, and that Mr. Trump should pay for this out of his own pocket.

I further believe that Congress should pass a law to prohibit any president from doing something like this ever again. I have written to my Congressional representatives requesting they take action to accomplish this.

Very Truly Yours,
Tom McManus

Name: Denise Pacilli

Date: March 4, 2026 10:09:59 am

The East wing project has been enlarged to the point of not appropriately fitting in with the design and schema of the Washington DC design layout for our White House, capital building and other official buildings. The project needs to be scaled back to fit into the plans that were first designed 200 years ago. The cost of this project has also become exorbitant. Please reconsider how this should be designed to meet the needs of our people and our country while maintaining the beauty of the White House landscape.

Name: John Cooke

Date: March 4, 2026 10:10:23 am

This is the People's House and I'm totally against this addition to a once beautiful Government building. It is ridiculous that an President would need a ballroom this size for an event. This is all about Trump -bigger and better. Put his stamp on every building if you allow him. Isn't anyone on this commission willing to stand up to the President and tell him NO. I'm frustrated with the lack of direction this commission has shown for this stupid Trump project. That you, as a commission, would allow the destruction of the People's House is beyond words. Shame on you for allowing this nightmare to even get started.
I'm puzzled by your lack of committment to preserve our National Treasure.

Best wishes,
Mr. John Cooke

Name: Sharon O'Connor

Date: March 4, 2026 10:11:06 am

Dear Gentlemen & Ladies,

I urge you to take the necessary time to explore fully the long lasting implications of your design decisions on the project regarding the development on the proposed new ballroom..

Such a historic endeavor deserves careful attention to scale, size, location, & architecture to showcase the reverence we the people have for our democracy and this beautiful country of ours. The quick decision & demolished East Wing was a complete historic failure.

I urge you not to make the same lasting mistake making this new structure a gilded garish subpar parody of an ill conceived idea that is out of place for 1000 people.

Thank you

Name: Joy Barsetti

Date: March 4, 2026 10:11:22 am

I am totally against this project as our President had the old east wing torn down without consent just to build yet one more thing in his honor! Undoubtedly, at some point in time or maybe already, taxpayer money will be going to help fund this project. All the while the American people continue to suffer with high costs of food, gas and housing and without the benefit of affordable health insurance.

Name: Paul Luyben

Date: March 4, 2026 10:11:25 am

I am appalled and disgusted by Trump's vanity project in building the ballroom. This should be opposed at every level. It is not needed, is a waste of money, will be aesthetically incompatible with the White House, and is nothing more than an expression of his ego. He has shown absolute disdain for the normal, established processes of government, including renovations and building projects. I have zero confidence that the building will be financed by private money and even if it is, it will be on a corrupted quid pro quo basis. I am appalled and disgusted. This is not how we do things in America. Not the American I know, or have known

Name: Constance Beyer

Date: March 4, 2026 10:11:40 am

Dear Members of the NCPC,

I am writing to comment on the proposed design for a new addition to the White House. Please reject this design. The proposed design is inappropriate; it is completely over-sized and over-scale to the existing main White House.

If this amount of square footage is required, the expansion should be designed to situate as many square feet as possible underground so that the cherished landmark is not diminished.

Name: Ellen C

Date: March 4, 2026 10:11:52 am

I must insist that this entire project, in all aspects, is a horrific affront to the rich history of our nation and should be stopped immediately.

The pretense of this project is reckless at best, and criminal at worst. To witness an entire wing of a historic building, and no less the White House itself, to be razed like an old Pizza Hut was the most gut wrenching sucker punch I have ever experienced from an inanimate building. I can only equate that experience as being akin to witnessing the destruction of a temple or the desecration of a church, but it was personal, as we all share deep ties to our shared national history.

This project is an affront to our democratic values as the processes and procedures for demolition might as well be

classified as a blitzkrieg with no notice or forward planning whatsoever.

This project is a stain on our shared history as zero respect was employed with seemingly zero consideration for the American people with no regard to the historical value of this building.

This project is an opulent farce and an out of touch slap in the face to perform this caliber of destruction for the sole purpose of building a gilded ballroom for the upper echelons of society just to assuage the delicate ego and insatiable petty vanity of a president who wishes to see himself a king.

This project is a shame and a sham, and I never thought that those in Washington could have such little regard for our nation by proverbially and literally bulldozing a rich monument to our democracy, and then pissing on it's grave- You should all be ashamed of yourselves.

Put it back how it was.

Name: Daniel Stipe

Date: March 4, 2026 10:13:19 am

I am strongly opposed to this project. We do not need a Monsterous ballroom on the site where the East Wing once stood. Besides, the design is hideous. Do not approve the continuation of this project!

Name: David McElroy

Date: March 4, 2026 10:13:37 am

I am writing to oppose spending \$300 million on the East Wing Modernization project. In my opinion, it razes an important era in American history, when the White House became a place that embraced the work of the First Lady and her staff. This proposal was initiated without proper authorization, or permits, or design review. The East Wing was destroyed with no warning, no Architectural & Engineering Request for Proposals, no bids from contractors, and no abatement of hazardous materials; all as required by federal law.

I would like to see the East Wing rebuilt to its former design (that was scaled and in proportion to the rest of the building) and the administration's project canceled. The current design is for an out-of-scale, out-of-place, and out-of-time pseudo-historical building.

No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Thomas Baker

Date: March 4, 2026 10:13:51 am

As a retired National Park Service Park Superintendent whose duties for half of my career included being the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) lead, I am appalled by the flagrant, unlawful destruction of an historic resource, the East Wing of the White House, for which Donald J. Trump — the self-admitted perpetrator of this obvious violation of Section 106 regulations — should be held personally responsible for full restitution under the regulations of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), as any other person would.

Trump and his 'administration' should not be given a free pass merely because "the damage is done" and 'we should move forward from here at warp speed.' It is up to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) to fully apply the brakes on this proposed action. The NCPC should direct that an interdisciplinary design team of bone fide historical architecture professionals should be assembled, including landscape architects, to properly address the reconstruction of the East Wing. Should they find an essential need for greater capacity than the previous iteration, then plan that expansion in an appropriate manner, being sympathetic to the established historical character to the White House and its grounds.

This has been the most egregious violation of our nation's resource protection policies, regulations, and laws. Please perform your duties in accordance with the NCPC mission, goals, and objectives, and put a stop to this maniacal path that has been put in motion. It is not unstoppable!

Name: Natalie Larson

Date: March 4, 2026 10:13:53 am

My family has visited the White House numerous times, and we are horrified at the lack of professional oversight in this misguided venture.

1. It's unnecessary. There is a perfectly suitable ballroom at the State Department WITH parking available.
2. The historic East Wing was removed without consulting preservation architectural historians, archaeologists, or curators.
3. The scale is outrageous, dwarfing the historic White House. A moderate design WAS proposed earlier, until one man got grandiose ideas.
4. The loss of the Kennedy garden without consideration is outrageous.
5. The expense of heating, cooling, and maintaining a space this size, to say nothing of security, for use once or twice a year is ridiculous, and will be born by taxpayers, not donors. Parking would be non-existent and security delays to enter are already difficult.
6. Last but not least, it's tacky. It would be a literal White Elephant with no added value to the Executive compound.

Please stop this madness and allow competent, moderate, thinking individuals and professionals to fix this mess, rather than one man's ego. Historic preservation is a process, not a slam dunk.

Name: Betty Barnett

Date: March 4, 2026 10:15:16 am

I oppose the building of a ballroom on the grounds of the White House because of the destruction caused by preparation for the construction of that ball room and also because I do not think it is necessary. I particularly oppose the construction of a ballroom as currently planned. The ballroom in size completely overshadows and is out of balance with the most important structure on the site, the White House. It is much larger than needed to host the 1,000 guests it purportedly should serve. The South Portico seems to have no purpose and doors there are fake. What a waste!

Name: JEREMIAH MEAD

Date: March 4, 2026 10:15:46 am

I am a retired teacher of Latin and longtime student of American Literature. In my professional and personal life I have become an enthusiast for Classics -- books, compositions, ideas, observations, and likewise buildings that were built to last, not subject to transitory whims, nor vulnerable to one person's vanity. I object strongly to this project.

Name: Patricia Luzio

Date: March 4, 2026 10:15:58 am

I will never forget my visit to the White House many years ago. I was awed by the sobriety and elegance of one of our most cherished buildings of our nation.

I respectfully request you to reconsider building this ballroom that is ill thought and does not line up with the proportions of our beautiful White House.

The current plans are excessive, distasteful and will be a massive mistake that we will come to regret in the coming years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Jon Greenfield

Date: March 4, 2026 10:16:23 am

The image of bulldozers tearing into the facade of the East Wing may well end up in our grandchildren's history textbooks as reflecting a time when rules and laws were subordinate to the whims of one tyrannical man. Like the destruction of old Penn Station, this act will forever be a mark of shame on our shared architectural heritage. The NCPC is duty bound to reject this project as an affront to historic preservation and an usurpation of its authority.

Name: Tammy Westney

Date: March 4, 2026 10:17:09 am

To the Committee,

I am appalled at the Trump Administration's unwillingness to follow the standards, norms and rules like past administrations did. Watching a bulldozer destroy this historic building as part of a vanity project is beyond the pale. To call the construction of this monstrosity a modernization project is dishonest. I fail to see how this serves the American people. The East Wing could have been modernized and a smaller scale ballroom could have been added. But as usual, this administration tore everything down and asked permission afterwards. Please do your job and rein in this administration before the face of Washington is forever defaced.

Sincerely,
Tammy Westney

Name: John Sims
Date: March 4, 2026 10:17:16 am

I am highly concerned that the plans that have been shared are too massive in scale and will have a negative impact on the aesthetics of the White House grounds. I believe that the final plans should only allow for a building roughly the same size as what was demolished to preserve the dignity of this historic location.

Name: Karen E. Lund
Date: March 4, 2026 10:19:11 am

As a United States citizen, I submit the following comments on the "modernization" of the East Wing of the White House.

First, I point out that this is not, in fact, a "modernization." The whole of the East wing has been razed. This was done without debate, without public comment, and seemingly without much forethought. A historic building, home to our nation's Presidents since 1800, was demolished.

Second, it is not lost on me that it is the East Wing that was destroyed. The East Wing has traditionally housed the First Lady's office and staff. The incumbent President is known to objectify women and was found guilty in a civil lawsuit of sexually assaulting a woman before his presidency. He is additionally suspected of abusing--even assaulting--underage girls at the notorious private island owned by Jeffrey Epstein. Of course he would demolish the part of the White House associated with our First Ladies.

As to the aesthetic aspects of the East Wing, it was a close but not exact mirror of the West Wing. It provided symmetry and balance; without it the White House appears lopsided and incomplete.

I therefore ask that the damage done to the White House be repaired as much as possible. In an ideal world I would ask that the East Wing be rebuilt as it was, only modernizing the mechanical elements. As this is unlikely, I join with the National Trust for Historic Places in demanding the following:

- Respect the Established Classical Composition of the White House Complex. The new addition should retain the carefully balanced classical design of the White House complex with its two smaller, lower, and substantially symmetrical East and West Wings.
- Preserve the Historic East Façade of the Executive Residence. The connection of the colonnade to the Executive Residence should protect and preserve the original historic materials of the east façade of the Executive Residence and should not cover or demolish the existing fenestration and detailing of the east façade.
- Ensure that the Proposed South-facing Portico Is Subordinate in Scale to the White House South Portico. The proposed portico on the south façade should be smaller and less grand in scale than the existing portico on the south façade of the Executive Residence.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Elizabeth Lund

Name: Jeffery Biss

Date: March 4, 2026 10:19:27 am

Fuck Trump and the GOP. they should hang for insurrection, replacing our constitution with their unitary executive who has NO power to destroy our national property. [REDACTED]

Name: Laura Kennedy

Date: March 4, 2026 10:19:28 am

This president has gone too far in his destruction of the People's House. Any further construction should be immediately halted and the property should be restored as closely as possible to its condition before this horror show began. Allowing this president to act in such a lawless manner sets an incredibly harmful precedent. While it's hopefully unlikely any future president will try to get away with as much as this guy has, shutting down the illegal activity now will hopefully prevent any further destruction the symbols of our national heritage. This activity is a stain on this country and has done lasting damage to the White House and we should not stand by and watch it happen. Thank you.

Name: Lily Howard

Date: March 4, 2026 10:20:24 am

I'm not in favor of this modernization project. It does not fit the mold that the People's house was built on, and I really think the People's voices should be heard. There has to be a middle ground we can find on this issue.

Name: Sandra Noll

Date: March 4, 2026 10:21:20 am

I write from my native New Mexico, as a proud and concerned American, the great granddaughter of the first governor of the State of New Mexico. The White House, the People's house, reflects me and all the generations before me as well as those to come and no renovation or modernization project should overwhelm or negate the White House Itself. I have been privileged to visit the White House on several occasions and feel a deep connection to it.

Specifically, the project, as proposed, is not in architectural proportion. The new portico lacks symmetry and harmony with historic relationships . It is out of balance with the White House and the West Wing in size and volume. It is larger than needed for its stated purpose. Furthermore it negates the historic planning and connections (via PA Ave.) with the US Capitol - an important connection historically and symbolically. From a closer perspective, it skews the view from PA Ave and destroys the symmetry of the circular drive.

What could be improved? The overall size could be reduced to fit the intended purpose of serving 1000 in a seated dinner. The kitchen could be downsized and situated below grade to reduce the overall height, and the portico, which is not ADA compliant, blocks the view from the interior, and serves no real function, could be eliminated. I am no architect, but have an appreciation for scale and symmetry and history. Please don't let the "new and improved" East Wing destroy the People's House!

Name: Martha Dippell

Date: March 4, 2026 10:21:30 am

The need for a functional proper ballroom at The White House is evident. The proposed architectural style, Classic Revival, is complementary to The White House.

However, the proposed scale of new ballroom dwarfs The White House. It would visually diminish symbolically the importance and gravitas of the Presidency. In physically overwhelming the actual workplace and residence of the President, the implicit messaging hollows any projection of power and influence of this Office.

Remedies exist to ameliorate this proposed plan. For example, kitchen and staff areas do not need to be above ground. A basement placement could easily reduce the imposing height of the ballroom building.

In conclusion, do not grab defeat from the jaws of opportunity. In our nation's Capital, three structures represent our three balancing branches of government. Amend this proposal to enhance, rather than detract from, the center of the Executive Branch, The White House.

Name: James Keller

Date: March 4, 2026 10:21:40 am

To Whom It May Concern,

I firmly reject the bid to build a ballroom that no one asked for or wants, with the exception of Donald Trump. This \$400 million vanity project was initiated in violation of historic preservation laws, lacks transparency, and sidesteps congressional approval.

Thank you,

James F. Keller



Name: Paul Homeyer

Date: March 4, 2026 10:23:14 am

Although the need for a larger space for state dinners and other events is understandable, the addition to the White House, as currently presented, violates the very standards governing historic buildings issued by the federal government and recognized for decades as the gold-standard for additions to historic buildings. According to the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, an addition to a historic building should "be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment."

The proposed ballroom addition is grossly out of scale with the historic residence and an affront to the original concept envisioned by George Washington and Peirre L'enfant of a direct line of site and axis between the Capitol building and Executive Mansion. As planned, this addition to the White House blocks this historic view both physically and symbolically. The current plan also compromises the vision of the original designers James Hoban and Thomas Jefferson as well as noted landscape architect, Frederic Law Olmstead.

A ballroom to accommodate one thousand people for a seated dinner does not need to be any larger than 15,000 sf plus some support functions. The proposed plan could be scaled down significantly in deference to the historic building. Additionally, the awkward application of classical elements such as massive colonnades, Corinthian columns, arched windows to the addition distract from, and overpower the understated elegance of the original historic building.

As an architect and educator with an expertise in historic preservation, I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to reject the current proposed plans for the addition to the White House and send the president and design team back to the drawing board to develop a scheme that is more respectful to the original iconic structure.

Respectfully,

Paul Homeyer, FAIA

Name: Martha Cullimore

Date: March 4, 2026 10:23:20 am

I feel very strongly against the current "plans", as proposed by Donald Trump for the following reasons:

– The scale of the building should not dwarf that of the White House, which is the historical center of the administration. The scale should also not lack balance with the entire set of buildings.

– The cost of the building, projected at \$4 million, will be a burden to the taxpayers that will otherwise serve other projects requiring sensible funding. While Donald Trump insists that the cost will be covered by his friends and corporate contributions, that has already been proven to be false. It will be the burden US citizens.

– The size of the building is projected to be far larger than anything necessary to entertain guests of the White House. A building that size has never been needed, and I doubt will be needed in the future.

This project originated without any legal authority by demolishing, without permission, an historic building at the whim of one man whose sole purpose was to establish his presence in the form of another “personal “building “his honor “. The design is garish, oversized, and architecturally out of sync with the rest of the surrounding buildings and mall.

I am counting on those with authority to modify this building, and replace the unnecessary East wing demolition with something appropriate.

Name: Melissa Stockbridge

Date: March 4, 2026 10:23:44 am

To the National Capital Planning Commission:

I am submitting this public comment to express my strong objection to the White House East Wing modernization and ballroom plan as presented. I am disgusted by the apparent willingness to tear down or materially alter an internationally significant historic landmark in a way that diminishes its integrity and meaning—especially absent clear, transparent public review and approvals before irreversible actions occur.

The White House is not a private residence in any ordinary sense. It is a national symbol, a living museum, and a civic space that belongs to the American people. When decisions are made that remove or replace historic fabric, the cost is not just financial. The cost is cultural and irreversible: the loss of history, the loss of authentic continuity, and the loss of the stories that occurred in that space—stories that cannot be reconstructed after demolition.

I am also deeply troubled by messaging that suggests the project “will not cost us anything.” Even if private funding is proposed, the American public still bears real costs: oversight burdens, security impacts, long-term maintenance obligations, and—most importantly—loss of historic character. Saying it costs “nothing” is not truthful when the project’s first and most permanent price is paid in heritage.

If the East Wing requires modernization, then modernization should be done with a preservation-first approach: improve safety, accessibility, building systems, and resilience using modern methods and materials while restoring and maintaining the exterior appearance and architectural coherence of the historic complex. As currently proposed, the result reads as an addition rather than an integrated, symmetrical component of a carefully composed landmark. The White House should not be made visually asymmetrical and architecturally compromised for the sake of a new program element—especially a ballroom that will inevitably be interpreted as a discretionary and stylistic intervention rather than a necessity.

I urge the Commission to require a plan that prioritizes historic preservation, design integrity, and public accountability. Specifically:

No demolition or irreversible alteration should proceed without clear, documented compliance with required review processes and meaningful public transparency.

Any replacement of the East Wing should match the historic exterior form and symmetry of the White House complex, even if constructed with modern materials and best-practice building techniques behind the scenes.

The Commission should scrutinize claims about “no cost” and ensure the public is not misled about impacts, risks, and long-term obligations—financial and cultural alike.

The White House is not the place for architectural experimentation, vanity additions, or messaging games. It is a national landmark. Preserve it with the seriousness it deserves.

Respectfully,
Melissa Stockbridge
Massachusetts

Name: Sarah Rubin

Date: March 4, 2026 10:24:52 am

Trump has shown us over and over again that his guiding style is gaudy and tacky. He has already destroyed historic

architecture by demolishing the East Wing without proper oversight and approval. Do not allow him to exacerbate the indignity by building a massive, gold-plated monstrosity that would look more at home on the Vegas strip (and no shame to Vegas!) than attached to the historic White House. This vanity project that no one wanted will cost millions. DC will already have to pay to rip his name off the Kennedy Center; don't add more costs to the taxpayers' tab by building a Versailles replica that will then need to be torn down and rebuilt in a manner befitting the dignity of the White House. Trump has also consistently underpaid or not paid his construction teams. Will we even be able to trust that whatever structure he can cobble together will be safe? I'm begging you, act like adults and hire proper architects with actual training in historical preservation and design.

Name: Carol Wasserman

Date: March 4, 2026 10:25:50 am

The proposed ballroom design does NOT respect the legacy of DC planner L'Enfant, architect Hoban & landscape architect Olmsted.

- 1) The design is not to scale of the White House. Looks like a convention center or part of a college campus or an instead of a tasteful home of the US President.
- 2) The design is off-balance with too heavy mass and height of the East Wing, as compared to the West Wing, destroying the "symmetrical " appearance of the White House. The design also destroys the symmetry of the south grounds layout.
- 3) The new East Wing's ballroom should be no larger than 15,000 sq ft and should be entirely wheelchair-accessible.
- 4) Other than a new ballroom, most of the new East Wing's space should be below ground: kitchen (sized appropriately to industry standard), bathrooms, offices, family theater, etc.
- 5) New East Wing's plans should incorporate a better visitor security checkpoint, as security will now always be essential. We can do better than using a tacky trailer is for The People's House.

Name: Carolyn Taylor

Date: March 4, 2026 10:25:52 am

To the Commission:

My overarching concern is the corruption behind having private donors paying for "our house"--we, the people's house--with obvious, inescapable quid pro quo selling out of the nation's agenda to special interest billionaires. (See, for example, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/11/03/trump-ballroom-donors-contracts-enforcement/>) No reformation of the White House or, I believe, any federal property has ever been conducted in such a way and never should. Any such change should be taxpayers' money for a taxpayers' (not a president's) house.

As to the design specifics, size alone is enough reason to reject the plan as depicted here to be a looming monstrosity meant to dwarf all else: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/feb/15/trump-white-house-ballroom-renderings>.

The previous White House consisted of "The Residence" 55,000 sq ft, East & West Wings combined 40,000 making the total W.H. complex = 95,000 sq ft.

Now he wants to replace the East Wing with a monstrous coffin of a building of 90,000 sq ft, i.e., the size of the entire previous White House, four times bigger than the East Wing had been, and, worst of all, taller enough to tower over the Residence and West Wing.

This project in its present plan is the self-serving delusion of someone wanting to dwarf the world, dwarf "our house" that had a grace and proportionality and balance that was aesthetically pleasing.

Besides the size alone, the obvious gaudiness of the interior that he envisions is a horrible message about hubris and oneupmanship, nothing at all communicative of the wisdom and honesty and anti-pomposity of our nation's *raison d'être* whose 250 year anniversary is upon us. And it really does look like a giant coffin astride the residence. It's a travesty that i implore you to stop in its tracks.

Now that alas the East Wing is history and must be replaced, what is called for is a building that balances the West Wing, definitely in terms of height and no more imposing than the remaining buildings. If there is need for a larger room to seat more than 200 at state dinners, such a need is a far cry from a 90,000 sf monstrosity. The building could have a larger 'footprint'--not height--to accommodate a room perhaps twice the size (horizontally, not twice as high ceilings) of the East Room that has served state-dinner purposes for two centuries.

I beg of you. Please reject this plan.

Carolyn Taylor, Ph.D., M.F.T.

Name: Kristie Person

Date: March 4, 2026 10:26:24 am

The current design is completely out of scale with the extant historic resources. It dwarfs one of our nation's most important historic buildings and would be wholly rejected if properly considered through the lens of our existing guidelines.

Thank you.

Kristie L. Person

Architectural Historian

New South Associates, Inc.

Athens, Georgia

Name: Gina Dallabetta

Date: March 4, 2026 10:27:06 am

I feel that the ballroom needs a major redesign to be in keeping with the scale and historic nature of the White House. Specifically the scale/size is out of proportion to the rest of the White House. I agree with the option of putting much of it underground if space is essential, similar to the African American Museum, to keep the scale in line with the rest of the White House. Second I would like to see the Symmetry of the White House restored which again speaks against the current size. Second the current drawings depict a building that is too grandiose with the staircase and two story windows in the drawing. A building this important deserves a careful review by a qualified panel of architects charged with guiding the nation's civic art and architecture, of which the White House is a key element. Given the centrality of the monumental core of the National Mall, home to the nation's many important memorials and museums, to the overall plan of Federal Washington, extensive input and review are part of the design/approval process for any public building or memorial. The Council of Fine Arts was established by Congress in 1910 as a permanent body to guide the architectural development of Washington, DC ensuring "that the McMillan Plan for the National Mall was completed with the highest degree of civic art". The current plan does not do this nor is it undergoing the rigorous vetting of designs for consideration. A real plan would include a competition for design concepts, a finalist, and then rigorous review and refinement of the design. Not the current process of finding an architect willing to design a building that reflects on person's vision. The White House is the people's house and deserves a careful process like all other public buildings on the National Mall. I won't get into what I fear will be the interior decorations "brothel chic" which describes the current interior of the Oval Office. If this building gets built without the careful rigorous input of the other buildings on the Mall, I will advocate and vote for it to be torn down and rebuilt with the appropriate processes and rigorous, knowledgeable consideration by experts.

Name: Karin O'Connor

Date: March 4, 2026 10:27:22 am

I am opposed to the ballroom, especially its size but also its cost. The White House is a historic building. It should be respected and not be used as a personal project of one person.

Name: Veronica Szalus

Date: March 4, 2026 10:28:58 am

The new work on the East Wing should not be 3 times the size of the White House. It needs to be compatible with the scale and size of the original central White House to protect the integrity and history of this site that belongs to the American People.

We need a more sensitive and responsive East Wing Modernization and Ballroom Addition. It needs to be respectful of the original White House including the North and South Portico and not dwarf it.

Name: Linda Wynne

Date: March 4, 2026 10:29:19 am

The president has no idea what he is doing.
He destroys whatever he touches.
Stop this project and let the experts do the planning.
This should be the people's house

Name: Carol Gallo

Date: March 4, 2026 10:29:44 am

The proposed addition should not be built in the current iteration as it is grossly oversized and will completely overshadow the current White House Structure. The plans have not been properly vetted and has not been shown to be necessary. There is also the ongoing issue of the disposal of the East Wing structure and its environmental impact.

Name: Laurie Collins

Date: March 4, 2026 10:30:16 am

I am writing to inform you that I am against the East Wing Modernization Project as it now stands.

I have lived close to DC my whole life, and I worked downtown, near the White House, for a few years. I have taken out-of-town friends downtown to visit the sights, and one place they always want to visit is the White House. What a beautiful building, replete with history. Sadly, some of that history has already been demolished, with no input from the American people.

It doesn't matter to me what President is in the White House. They are there as a guest of the American people. The White House is not their own personal home to renovate as they choose. Obviously renovations have been done over the years, but once the West and East Wings were added, there was nothing that changed the look from the outside. The building and grounds were symmetrical.

The proposed ballroom will change all that. People don't go to DC to see a ballroom towering over the White House. They go to see the White House. People don't go to DC to see a ballroom when they stand on Pennsylvania Avenue. They go to see the White House. People don't go to see a new ballroom that has nothing to do with history. They go to see historical buildings.

I am very surprised the Commission of Fine Arts approved the project without even seeing the final plans! I hope this Commission does not do the same.

While I would prefer the East Wing to be restored as it was, I understand there may be some need for a larger space on the White House property for entertaining. However, when you think about how few times tents were put up on the lawn to host events, you can see how often the ballroom will stand empty. And while taxpayers "may" not be paying to build it, they certainly will be paying for utilities and staffing and upkeep, and it doesn't make sense to have such a huge space sitting empty most of the year. It's not like the American people will be able to use it.

I believe the National Trust for Historic Preservation has presented some very good reasons for not proceeding with the huge ballroom that is proposed. If a ballroom is to be built, please do not let it override the White House. Please keep the beauty and the symmetry of the original builders and planners, and please do not turn an historic landmark into a second thought. The focus should not be on the ballroom. It should be on the White House.

I understand the Commission of Fine Arts, as they approved the project no matter what the final plans are, ignored the percentage of people who did *not* agree with the proposed project. Please don't do the same. Please don't make a final decision until you see the final plans, and please pay attention to the American people when they say no, this is not what we want! Please honor our history. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: John Davidson

Date: March 4, 2026 10:30:25 am

I oppose the East Wing Modernization Project, not just for its ethnics, but for its lack of proper process and review.

Name: William Lester

Date: March 4, 2026 10:30:33 am

I am very much opposed to the planned “ballroom” project. The destruction of the former East Wing was shocking and appalling. I could not believe that this could happen by decree with no checks by this commission or Congress. I urge you to not approve this project and to require a competitive design review to restore the East Wing.
Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Sarah Zimmerman

Date: March 4, 2026 10:31:49 am

Thank for your service on behalf of the American people in your role as conservators of National Capital Planning. I write, as many, many others are doing, to encourage and support your vigorous review of the proposed East Wing Modernization Project.

While justifiable in meeting the needs of a modern executive operation, the proposal as presented so far exceeds the parameters of the necessary programmatic functions as to be ludicrous. Ill-considered, hasty, non-functional, impractical, wasteful and overblown, the design fails at every level.

Most concerning however is the harm done to the democratic principle inherent to L'Enfant's aspirational and inspirational urban plan with its primal intention to balance the visual and functional relationship between Congress and the Executive. To lose that foundational principle would be tragic.

Thank you.

Name: Wendy Bishop

Date: March 4, 2026 10:31:59 am

The proposed East Wing has many issues. The proposed portico has no access to the interior and is not ADA accessible. Also, the doors are fake and serve no purpose.

The proposed structure is out of balance with the existing White House and also will block visual connection from the White House to the Capital. George Washington instituted this visual axis and if the proposed East Wing proceeds, this historical view will be forever blocked. Classical architecture needs to show a balance and this new ballroom creates an imbalance with the existing White House.

Name: Katherine Farnham

Date: March 4, 2026 10:32:17 am

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Katherine Farnham and I am an architectural historian with 27 years of experience as a professional historic preservation consultant. My work involved numerous projects within the District of Columbia and environs. I am also a former resident of the District of Columbia and adjacent communities, and a former member of the D.C. Preservation League where I was active in preservation advocacy initiatives in the District during several years of local residency. I appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the East Wing Modernization Project.

I acknowledge there is a need for a larger function space to hold events at the White House. However, I have questions: how often would a space of this scale be used? Would it be usable for other purposes? How much will it cost to heat and air-condition this large of a space (as compared to the former East Wing), and how sustainable will it be for future generations? While the initial cost to design and construct the ballroom will supposedly come from private donors, taxpayers will bear the future costs of maintenance and repairs for the ballroom and any related upgrades or staff to support these (rarely needed) larger functions. The now-demolished East Wing contained office, tourism, and other practical spaces used on a daily basis. Given the spatial limitations of the White House complex, is removing these areas of frequent/daily use in favor of an outsized space used only on rare occasions truly the highest and best use of limited

square footage? Is this project creating something impractical that will mostly sit idle, have high maintenance needs and costs, and be regarded in future as a white elephant?

Although the White House is not subject to Section 106, it is a National Historic Landmark, one of the most iconic and historically significant buildings in our country, and deserving of the highest standards of care in terms of historic preservation. Alterations and additions to it should be carefully planned and meet federal historic preservation standards, specifically the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The Standards state that an addition "must be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and design of the historic building while differentiated from the historic building" and "New additions should be designed and constructed so that the character-defining features of the historic building, its site, and setting are not negatively impacted. Generally, a new addition should be subordinate to the historic building. A new addition should be compatible, but differentiated enough so that it is not confused as historic or original to the building. The same guidance applies to new construction so that it does not negatively impact the historic character of the building or its site."

The design as currently conceived does not meet these Standards, and would negatively impact the historic character of the building, site, and setting. Classical architecture, supposedly a favorite of President Trump, emphasizes symmetry, balance, and proportion. The central portion (main block) of a three- or five-part building should be the largest, and the side wings and connecting colonnades should be balanced with one another and subordinate in both height and massing to the main block. However, the project design results in an unbalanced appearance, with the proposed East Wing substantially larger than the main block of the White House, and grossly out of balance with the West Wing. The setting within the overall complex would sustain a major loss of integrity due to the large scale of the ballroom and resulting loss of garden/lawn space. Treasured views of the building from the exterior of the property, particularly the iconic primary view of the complex across the South Lawn, would be altered greatly because the addition is out of scale and not subordinate to the main block of the White House.

The East Wing design should be downsized so that it more closely resembles the former East Wing in scale. Surely it is possible to create a functional ballroom space that can host larger functions than existing White House facilities, without this massive scale. Reducing the footprint, lowering the building further below ground, using interior second-floor balconies to create additional square footage within a smaller envelope, and other options to minimize the footprint and visual impact of the addition should be considered.

The goal here should be building something that will meet the SOI's Standards and NCPC design standards, be compatible with the existing historic building, and stand the test of time. The goal should not be destroying the aesthetics, character, symmetry, setting, and historical significance of a beautiful and iconic American building. I am concerned the project will do just that.

President Trump clearly cares about making improvements to the White House and leaving a legacy. However, destroying a sizable portion of an iconic historic building without approved plans in place or going through the proper and publicly transparent permitting and legal procedures, removing historic fabric and landscape features without prior review, not performing a thorough HABS/HAER recordation of existing conditions before this demolition, and the addition of an oversized ballroom that does not meet the SOI's Standards, are not a good legacy. If the project proceeds as currently designed, this will set an unfortunate precedent that even our country's most important historic buildings are not subject to protection under federal historic preservation standards and policies, nor the NCPC's usual design review process, if enough money or political influence is exerted by project proponents. If a project proponent can tear down part of the White House and build an addition that on any other building would be considered an adverse effect, in blatant violation of long-held rules and standards, why should any other project proponent have to follow the rules in future?

You, as the commissioners of the National Capital Planning Commission, have the ability to stand against this administration's political influence, exert control of this situation, and act in the interest of historic preservation and your specific role in promulgating and maintaining the strict aesthetic design standards of the District of Columbia. I respectfully urge you to reject the current plans and require a design that is more respectful and sympathetic to the existing building.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Shannon Kelly

Date: March 4, 2026 10:32:20 am

I live in Los Angeles and work at an iconic five-star hotel in Beverly Hills, built in 1912 that is on the National Historic Registry. We are currently undergoing a restoration. There is a deliberative process to get permits and architect plans

approved which takes over a year. We aren't allowed to change the outside structure.

The White House surely must be on the National Historic Registry as the People's House and subject to the same rules of preservation. We the People, want our iconic, historic White House preserved and respected!

How the East Wing was approved for demolition so quickly defies logic! Please take the time with an architect who understands the importance of symmetry and respect for historical continuity.

One mad king should not be allowed to desecrate Our House without restraint. Remember, history is being written with each bad decision. We still live in a country where the rule of law matters...for now.

Please review the rule of law as it applies to The National Historic Registry.

Consider building a ballroom underground if necessary. Visit the Texas Capitol in Austin to get an idea how to do it. They built a 650,000 square foot extension underground with skylights in order to leave a park above and to preserve the symmetry of the Capitol above. It can be done!

Imagination, creativity, and ingenuity can create the necessary ballroom without destroying the symmetry above.

We must have respect for our historic buildings to remember where we came from and all the extraordinary founding fathers (and mothers!) who dreamed up the idea that is America, which began with "We the People". Please preserve the People's House!

Name: Frances Matkowski

Date: March 4, 2026 10:32:57 am

Any additions or changes proposed to the White House should be kept to the scale of the original and historic building. It is the People's house, not the sitting President. Therefore citizens should have a say and vote on such a huge change to this building. This current proposed change is much too large, dwarfs the original building, and is an eyesore. At a time when so many suffer economically this overt grandiose display of greed is distasteful at best.

Name: Gary Carter

Date: March 4, 2026 10:34:38 am

The new East Wing should not be so large as to overshadow the rest of the White House. The planned East Wing is too large; it would destroy the symmetry of the overall White House complex. The structure that is built should be smaller—at least by half — than what is shown on the current plan.

Name: Martine Canfield

Date: March 4, 2026 10:34:50 am

I fully support the building of the WH ballroom as proposed by President Trump. It makes complete sense to me and it's long overdue. Why are we wasting money with endless expensive tent rentals that can't protect the VIPs in attendance from gunfire? Please go forward with the construction. The only people against this project are those who hate everything that our president does. This is not logical behavior on their part. Thank you. BTW I used to work banquets in major hotels.

Name: Claire Goldstein

Date: March 4, 2026 10:34:52 am

The White House has been a potent symbol of the American people and our democracy. I strongly object to the message of demolishing the East wing without public consultation - trashing our symbol, trashing our place in the government — and now building a project that emulates the style of absolutist monarchy (Louis XIV's Versailles) and enshrines the exclusive party culture of billionaires into the architecture of what is supposed to be the people's house. Shame!

Name: nils Bruzelius

Date: March 4, 2026 10:36:01 am

I strongly oppose plans to build a grossly oversized ballroom as a new East Wing addition to the White House. It violates the historic proportionality of the People's House.

Name: Brian Bergfeld

Date: March 4, 2026 10:37:09 am

He, DT, should be forced to put it back the way it was. He had no right to destroy it. I'm disappointed that we're even entertaining any other options. He is not a king.

Name: Christopher Patten

Date: March 4, 2026 10:37:27 am

As an architecture and design professional, I strongly oppose this project. Aside from the fact that the project so far has been sloppy and uncoordinated, any design project focused on a monument as important to American history as the White House should require thoughtful planning and oversight. There has been no planning and oversight whatsoever.

The design itself is out of scale with the rest of the campus and does not align with The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing Historic Buildings, which the rest of us all have to follow.

Name: Paul Connors

Date: March 4, 2026 10:38:55 am

The ballroom needs to be in scale with the rest of the White House and of the same architectural style.

Name: Katie Bevil

Date: March 4, 2026 10:39:37 am

This ballroom is a waste of money. In 5 years when we all collectively recognize that Trump led America into fascism, we'll be recovering and backstepping the way Germany did in 1946, and we'll have to tear the ballroom down, as well as any other relics of the Trump era. Building it and then reckoning with it is going to be yet another drain of taxpayer money while people are going without food, education, and healthcare. A shame. Stop this ridiculous project and put the money towards the people, not towards the corrupt pigs in power.

Name: Karen Painter

Date: March 4, 2026 10:39:45 am

Dear Members of the NCPC,

I am an interior designer based in Seattl, Washington. I would like to thank the Commission for the careful attention you are giving to this important matter concerning the White House. As you know, it is one of the most historically significant examples of classical architecture in the United States.

I was deeply concerned by the demolition of the existing East Wing without meaningful oversight, and even more troubled by the currently proposed design for the new ballroom addition. It appears to be dramatically out of scale with the existing architecture and the historic character of the White House. One question that deserves careful consideration is the actual programmatic need for such a large ballroom.

Aside from inaugurations, are there events that genuinely require seating for more than 500 guests? My research indicates that state dinners in recent decades have typically been smaller than that. If there is no practical need for a 1,000-seat

banquet hall, it is difficult to justify constructing one.

Beyond questions of scale and function, there are also practical concerns. A room of this magnitude raises significant issues of acoustics and usability. If such a space is frequently only partially occupied, it risks becoming uncomfortable for the guests. Professional acoustic design would be essential.

Most importantly, from an architectural standpoint, the current proposal fails to respect the principles of classical design that define the White House itself.

Classical architecture is fundamentally rooted in proportion—relationships derived from nature and often expressed through mathematical ratios such as the golden mean (1.618). When these principles are ignored, the result inevitably feels discordant with the historic structure it is meant to complement.

By contrast, a thoughtful design developed by a classically trained architectural firm—one that respects proportion, scale, and historical context—could produce an addition worthy of the White House and capable of enduring for centuries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laurel Bern

Boston, Massachusetts

Name: Charles Burkert

Date: March 4, 2026 10:40:09 am

The proposed structure will forever destroy the L'Enfant plan, commissioned by President Washington for DC which goes back to founding of capital. The White House was established then, and always shall be, the people's house. This is not Donald Trump's house and he has zero right to make any changes without the people's approval.

The balance and symmetry will be destroyed. The design was inspired by classic design which has endured for more than 2,000 years. This structure is not consistent with the original plan and intent. Other building designs Trump has promulgated in the past reflect his personal taste and are regarded by a majority of Americans as gaudy, ostentatious, and of little if any lasting architectural value. The scale of the building itself embodies his own outlandish sense of self-importance, and overshadows the White House. The White House should never be overshadowed by an ancillary building, especially one so inconsistent with the style and scale of the White House.

In addition, the plan will compromise the wonderful symmetry and grandeur of the Olmstead plan for the White House grounds.

Let us not forget that this is the peoples house and any changes thereto MUST be approved by citizens through their representatives. It is NOT the prerogative of any President to do as he wishes with a national landmark that he is only a temporary resident of. I strenuously object to the current plan and hope that the original plan and vision for the White House grounds will be maintained through the careful and thoughtful planning and recommendations put forth by the NCPC and the American people.

Name: Jeffrey Thomas

Date: March 4, 2026 10:41:05 am

The White House belongs to the American People not to Donald J. Trump. Even if his plans were not gaudy, tacky, tasteless and not in keeping with the esthetic of American public buildings -- which truly they are -- please do not reward the ABOMINATION of his destroying the existing structure without duly following process by rubber stamping his plans to further aggrandize his cult of personality. History will judge YOU.

Name: Bruce Marshall

Date: March 4, 2026 10:41:06 am

Dear friends,

I am a supporter of the President and understand the need for a larger ballroom to accommodate state occasions.

However, I am in agreement with the analysis and recommendations of the National Trust. Please have the planners

revisit the project in light of their criticisms and suggestions. There needs to be a functional and proportional addition more in keeping with classical ideals and Washington's / L'Enfant's plans and vision.

Respectfully,
Bruce Marshall, Philadelphia

Name: Anne Marie Anderson

Date: March 4, 2026 10:41:26 am

The proposed project is not acceptable to our national heritage because it destroys the symmetry and classical design of the White House complex. The proposed building is out of proportion with the White House, blocks views of the White House, and is far too big for its context. The rerouting of a circular drive impact the original Olmstead design of the grounds. Our national heritage has forever been damaged by the destruction of the east wing of the White House. Please do not further compound this pain with such a building.

Name: Ilana Mair

Date: March 4, 2026 10:42:00 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review.

It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history.

I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design.

No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Tess Mikel

Date: March 4, 2026 10:42:04 am

I believe that this alteration to the White House will cause irreversible character-altering visual and spatial changes to a hugely important symbol of our country and a protected national historic landmark. I believe that we have these designations to protect from alterations like this. Please do not allow for this ballroom protect our history and our future by not allowing for this renovation to take place.

Name: Marcia Ruff

Date: March 4, 2026 10:42:09 am

The ballroom design is completely out of scale and style visually and functionally. The White House is modest, as befitting a Republic that gets -- or loses -- its prestige from the virtue of our nation. The ballroom design is garish and outsized, overwhelming and dominating the White House, elevating the entertainment function over the governing function.

Functionally, the ballroom is too big. The point of a State Dinner is to be large enough to be imposing but intimate enough to be limited to those who are relevant to the purpose and able to meet each other. An appropriate-sized group -- 300-400 -- will be lost in the space and it will encourage an oversized guest list to fill the space, thereby degrading the point of a State Dinner -- to honor the guest and bring together people who have a commonality of interest.

I am appalled that our system can be broken by one man who acts without permission and fills the oversight boards and commissions with loyalists who will rubber-stamp whatever the current President wants. His wanton and impulsive destruction of the East Wing without permission and his railroading of an appalling design, funded corruptly by those who want to curry his favor, is a stain on our nation. If this goes through, I look forward to the day it will be bulldozed.

Name: Judith Herrick

Date: March 4, 2026 10:42:11 am

Destroying the existing wing is totally unacceptable. Add my name to the list of responders who are in favor of rebuilding the area no taller than the previous structure. It should not over shadow the White House. Also our country should not display it wealth with gold decorations. May these "donated" monies be spend helping to raise people from poverty through education and better medical care.

Judith Herrick

Name: Charles Delbaum

Date: March 4, 2026 10:42:13 am

I oppose spending hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars on the East Wing Modernization project. This proposal was initiated without proper authorization, or permits, or design review. The East Wing was destroyed with no warning, no Architectural & Engineering Request for Proposals, no bids from contractors, and no abatement of hazardous materials; all as required by federal law.

I would like to see the East Wing rebuilt to its former design (that was scaled and in proportion to the rest of the building) and the administration's project canceled. The current design is for an out-of-scale, out-of-place, and out-of-time pseudo-historical building.

To permit this project to go ahead would be an affront to history, tradition and all law-abiding Americans.

Name: Patricia Buck

Date: March 4, 2026 10:42:22 am

Historically and aesthetically, this project is monstrous. It's way too big for its purpose and for the site, and we know DJT has the worst taste imaginable.

Name: Deborah Grushkin

Date: March 4, 2026 10:42:36 am

Trump's vanity project is disgusting. He just wants to satisfy his own insatiable ego, and has DESTROYED an icon of American history. This psychopath will never be content until he destroys everything in his path. This ugly, outdated, piece of shit "ballroom" is an anti-democratic disgrace. NO ONE WANTS THIS! This entire project should be canceled immediately! Stop kissing this maniac's ass!

Name: Karlene Kristich

Date: March 4, 2026 10:42:56 am

I do not support the proposed East Wing Modernization Project and encourage all in positions of power and approval to deny any and all requests for plan approval and construction continuation. It is important that the nation's historic and cultural landscape be preserved and that any plans to alter landscape and buildings, such as those of the White House, be designed with respect for the spatial organization, circulation, views, small scale features, cultural traditions, and building style of the original landscape and buildings. The proposed East Wing Modernization Project fails to do this and compromises the historic integrity of one of your nation's most iconic landscapes and structures.

Name: Sarah Masters

Date: March 4, 2026 10:44:41 am

The proposed East Wing Ballroom Project is beyond inappropriate for so many reasons. The scale is completely out of keeping with the White House itself. The manner in which this project has been thrust upon the nation is also inappropriate: no careful planning or gathering of input from anyone, especially qualified professionals (architects, architectural historians, National Preservation experts, etc.). The building and surrounding vegetation has been torn down and ripped out before a plan - in particular an approved plan - was in place . This is disrespectful of the structure and both its history and place in the hearts and lives of the citizens of the United States. The White House is the people's house and is not a toy for or the property of the current administration to use for self aggrandizement. Please do everything possible

to avoid moving forward with this!

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,
Sarah Masters

Name: Daniel McSeveney

Date: March 4, 2026 10:45:07 am

First, I am very displeased at how the destruction of the former East Wing occurred. This was a reckless action which does not serve the American people, but only the ego of one man.

The plans to modernize the East wing fail to follow rules of classical architecture (proportion, balance and function), fail to respect the history behind the original design (commissioned by our first President Washington) of not only the White House building itself but also overall design and relationship to the US Capital (direct and unimpeded line/line of sight between the two - the new plans block the view and require altering the circular drive in front of the White House). The planned new wing is bigger than what was announced, the ground floor is 26' above the ground with 19', 21' and 14' ceilings for each of the three levels so visually it dominates the WH itself (grotesquely disproportional and unbalanced); a lot of false windows and doors with exterior Greek columns that block the view from inside the ballroom, covers up historic elements of attached buildings, and is not handicap accessible. The ground floor (1st floor that is already 20' above street level) is a 13,000sqft kitchen which is grossly over standard design. The ballroom area is on the 2nd floor, and the 3rd floor with 19' ceilings has no public purpose that I can find. The full details of this new design were not revealed, and I find this secrecy troubling.

I would much prefer a restoration of the original design, with appropriate modernization of the kitchen area and upgrades to accommodate handicapped persons. Thank you.

Name: Susan Ceccacci

Date: March 4, 2026 10:45:13 am

As an architectural historian with more than thirty years' experience as a historical architecture consultant to New England cities and towns and nine years' experience as education director for Preservation Worcester, Worcester, Massachusetts, I write to comment on current planning for the East Wing Modernization Project (NCPC file # 8733) for the United States president's house, the "White House," in Washington, D. C., which is scheduled for review by the NCPC on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

I have seen the video of the architect's January 2026 presentation of project plans to the NCPC. Those plans clearly demonstrate efforts to maintain elements of the Classical style of James Hoban's 18th century design of the residential section of the White House. However, in the current plans the height and overwhelming scale of the proposed new addition diminishes both the visual and symbolic importance of the residence of the President of the United States. Both the height of the "colonnade" link connecting the central residence to the new ballroom and the height and size of the new ballroom itself are not compatible with the residential section of the complex.

Any attempt at achieving symmetry in the placement and size of the wings flanking the main residence, a key feature of grand Classical style residences of this period, is lost in current plans. Reevaluating the necessary square footage per the 1,000 person accommodation accounted for in planning the current design, the eventual rearrangement of interior spaces as currently designed, including ceiling height, could make possible a more compact design. Although trees may be planted to help disguise the size of the new addition, a "tree screen" is not an appropriate solution before a true design effort has been accomplished.

The client's pressure to move quickly to complete East Wing Modernization construction in record time overlooks the care in planning and execution deserved by a building of such outstanding significance as the White House to the history, architecture, and landscape architecture of United States. Careful evaluation of the significance of style, symbolism, history, and the value of historical architecture and historical landscape design, all affected by this proposed project, should be included in additional planning.

I urge the NCPC to insist on additional planning by the project architect and his client to find appropriate ways to minimize the size and height of the proposed ballroom and the height of the "colonnade" link to the historic White House.

Susan McDaniel Ceccacci, March 4, 2026

Name: Kevin Manno

Date: March 4, 2026 10:45:40 am

The new ballroom is an abomination and an eyesore. The destruction of the White House (aka the People's house) without any plans, coordination, or conservation is absolutely terrible.

Name: Robert Miller

Date: March 4, 2026 10:46:41 am

Hello: My name is Robert Miller; I urge you to modify the current plan for a ballroom on the East Wing of the White House. The current plan is oversized and graceless. It does a disservice to the existing structure, to the nation's capitol, and to the country as a whole. Architecture has meaning. You should consider the meaning of the current plan and ask for substantial revisions to it.

Thanks you,
Robert Miller

Name: Bethany Jordan

Date: March 4, 2026 10:47:58 am

The historic east wing of the White House should not have been demolished without public notice and the required federal approvals, nor should construction have begun. The President has taken action outside of the president's legal authority by commencing construction prior to the required approvals, regardless of if the work has been above ground or not. The new proposed ballroom will create an adverse affect on the remaining portion of the White House and grounds, along with adjacent historic landscape. The design is not consistent or appropriate for a National Historic Landmark, nor does it follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. This project should not be approved.

Name: Jacqueline Peu-Duvallon

Date: March 4, 2026 10:48:14 am

This 'ballroom' is a gross pastiche that shows little understanding of the Classical orders. It dwarfs the Whitehouse, where as an addition should be a subservient structure. Its massing, and that of the two-story connector corridor, completely alters the composition of the Whitehouse complex. Do not approve this monstrosity.

Name: Diane Mesler

Date: March 4, 2026 10:48:45 am

I could not figure out how to see the video, so please forgive me for not knowing all the information that was attempted to be shared.

* Why do we need such a huge ballroom?

The White House is to: (among other things)

** Provide space for our government leaders and other dignitaries to gather, have discussions and make decisions.

** Provide space for formal recognition of special accomplishments of individuals and small groups.

** Provide facilities such as a swimming pool, bowling alley, tennis court, basketball court to help those government leaders clear their minds to make better decisions. There is nothing like taking a break, sleeping on it, or whatever you want to call it, to help one make the best decision. If there is an activity that the President truly enjoys and helps them mentally, great, within reason. There should be limit to those facilities. Don't put in an Indy 500 type Race Track or Kentucky Derby type Race Track around the White House. Don't put in such a huge ballroom.

* How often will this huge ballroom space be used? It will need to be maintained 365 day of the year at taxpayers expense.

* Can the huge gatherings be put together overnight, or even within a week or two?

* What about the expense of the security required at such a huge gathering?

* How will everyone get there? It sounds like a traffic nightmare. What changes will the city need to make with the roads?

* What will actually be accomplished at these huge gatherings?

That is my 2 cents. Or should I say, my 2 nickles.

Sincerely
Diane

Name: Hope Yancey

Date: March 4, 2026 10:49:16 am

The White House is a historic resource of vital importance to Americans. Former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy said it belongs to the people, according to the White House Historical Association. As a symbol of our democracy, any major changes should be done thoughtfully and with respect for its history. The National Trust for Historic Preservation notes problems with the proposed ballroom in volume/massing, scale, context, landscape design, entrance level use and size. All of these issues are concerning. It is especially worrying to me that the proposed ballroom would disrupt traditional sight lines connecting the White House with the Capitol, and would alter the landscape design envisioned by Frederick Law Olmsted. There are reasonable alternatives to the proposed plans, according to the National Trust. It appears the "modernization" project is being handled much the same way as the destruction of the historic East Wing was done to make way for it – hastily, and with insufficient regard for historic preservation principles or public sentiment.

Name: Jeanne Ebersole

Date: March 4, 2026 10:49:25 am

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to share comments about the enhancement of the people's house. I do not support the current design of the ballroom. The scale exceeds what was planned for Washington. The strength of our nation is not about the size of our monuments, and a new, very large asymmetrical, non-functional design that is not meant to fit into the true classicism and quality of our original capital design is discordant with who we are and what we want to portray after this administration is long gone.

Name: Alaina Johns

Date: March 4, 2026 10:49:51 am

The "East Wing Modernization Project" or the massive ballroom Trump wants to build on the site of the East Wing, which he illegally and dangerously razed in fall 2025, is a symbol of America's humiliation under this corrupt and incompetent regime. Listening to Trump brag about the ballroom curtains as reporters attempt to get him to answer critical questions about his war on Iran is a national embarrassment. This ballroom is nothing but a chance for millionaires and billionaires to pour more money into the Trump regime, and most Americans know it. I would be surprised if the president has the wherewithal even to see it completed, but either way it will have served its purpose as a corrupt slush fund for the president and his family of grifters. I heartily oppose the "East Wing Modernization Project." Thank you for including my comment.

Name: Craig O'Donnell

Date: March 4, 2026 10:50:09 am

Folks:

There is too much to be said about this "Modernization" of the iconic White House.

The process has been tainted from the very beginning, with demolition happening without the required process, including public comment and review by specific boards and commissions. This is doubly important where "the peoples' house" is concerned.

Any prior "review" is tainted by the fact that the responsible public bodies were in cahoots with Donald Trump, as is clear from the record.

So the process makes a mockery of the intent of the applicable laws, laws that apply to any other individual, corporation, or administration.

As far as the structure itself, it is too large. It is as unremarkable as a Home Depot or any other big-box store. The proposed facade is cheap faux classical.

The footprint outstrips the original East Wing. Its footprint outstrips the iconic Lincoln Memorial.

Finally, the method of financing the project is open to waste, fraud and abuse -- assuming that has not already begun. Private money must not be involved with alterations to the historic fabric of the city without due diligence at every stage of the process.

I am involved with the renovation and repurposing of a National Register-listed black church in Delaware. We have had to go through more hoops and hearings for our \$1 million local project than this so-called "Modernization" has. That is wrong.

Name: Eric Ash

Date: March 4, 2026 10:50:54 am

Here's a prediction for you, and food for thought: I predict that if the next president were to offer to demolish the monstrosity that this fascist moron is seeking to build and rebuild something like the old East Wing in its place, and then set up a "GoFundMe" page for Americans to pay for it voluntarily, the whole project would be fully funded and then some within days. I know I'd contribute a decent sum. If you allow this to happen, that's where I expect it'll wind up. And as it happens, there's already a working precedent for a president doing such a thing without consulting anyone else about it...

Name: Joe Bee

Date: March 4, 2026 10:50:59 am

This project has not gone through proper NEPA process. Starting with demolition, it was a foregone conclusion. It won't hold up in court.

Name: Jonathon Geels

Date: March 4, 2026 10:51:47 am

George Washington envisioned the White House as a modest yet dignified "President's House," avoiding monarchical extravagance to symbolize a new democratic republic. As described by many historians, President Washington aimed for a residence that was refined but not overly opulent, representing a leader of a free people. The East Wing "Modernization" is antithetical to that vision, distorting proportions of the structures that diminish emphasis on the main building, and thereby subverting the White House's symbolic role for democracy both domestically and around the world. Please do not proceed.

Name: Debra Perry

Date: March 4, 2026 10:52:06 am

The White House has been an enduring symbol of our country. We are a young country and preserving those symbols is important.

While there is great pride in our nation, we have made many mistakes; but prior to this presidency we have worked on acknowledging and correcting those mistakes.

Tearing down the West Wing of "The People's House" epitomizes what is wrong with this administration. And to replace it with a ridiculously large, gaudy ballroom encapsulates the excess, avarice and lack of compassion of this president. In addition, I have heard no plans to replace the office space destroyed which was used by the First Ladies. Please, find a way to rectify this destruction by building a suitable structure.

Name: Gregg DeAngelis
Date: March 4, 2026 10:52:15 am

Please see attached PDF

[Attachment](#)

Name: Katherine Matheney
Date: March 4, 2026 10:52:20 am

To whom It may concern...

I have reviewed the potential plans for the enormous modernization project. As most Americans no longer waltz or do the fox trot a ballroom does not represent the American people! This is the Peoples House!! The design of this new monster is not a continuation the current architectural designs of the White House aka The Peoples House. I would like to see a significant downsizing of the building and a continuing of the current architectural integrity of the original White House. Also replace Jackie Kennedy's rose gardens. We must keep our American History alive and well.

Sincerely,

An American Patriot
Katherine Matheney
Venice Florida

Name: Michele Ediger
Date: March 4, 2026 10:52:27 am

RE: NCPC File Number: 8733

Hello, I am a little nobody in the middle of the Country. But I love my Country, and I love history. It hurt my heart when I saw that our President had authorized the demolition of the East wing (and Jackie's Rose Garden). Please preserve our historical buildings. If our President wants a grand ballroom, suggest he build it somewhere that won't damage historical buildings or views.

Thank you.

Michele Ediger


Name: Charlotte Kroll
Date: March 4, 2026 10:52:28 am

March 3, 2026
Mr. William Scharf
Chair
National Capital Planning Commission
401 Ninth Street NW, Suite 500N
Washington, DC 20004

Re: The East Wing Modernization Project; the Proposed Construction of a White House Ballroom/ NCPC File Number 8733

Dear Chairman Scharf and Commission Members:

In my opinion, the most damaging aspect of the proposed plan is the addition of a second story to the East Wing's reconstruction of the Thomas Jefferson below grade design colonnade that was structurally unsound and destroyed in 1866 but rebuilt in 1909, only to be mostly demolished in 1941, but reconstructed quickly during WWII to include a bomb shelter. The wing was again destroyed in October 2025, again as being an unsound structure, but It was also mentioned at the time that it could not hold the weight of a second floor addition.

At the first NCPC presentation of the plans at the January NCPC meeting, architect Shalom Baranes described the second story addition as “a modest one-story addition to the West Wing colonnade.” Nothing could be farther from the truth; it is 20 feet in height, matching the highest ceiling on the second level of the historic White House itself. And, more troubling is the fact that it would be the FIRST time in the 226-year history of the house that there would be a physical intrusion into the historic structure, and directly in the center of Hoban’s design of the East façade piercing and obliterating the East façade’s major design feature, a beautiful Palladian Window. The Sec. of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation state that new additions should not destroy the historic fabric of the property. NCPC’s Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital the commission passed on the same day in January 2026 as the first presentation of the proposal for the modernization of the East Wing requires the commission to preserve and protect the historic East Façade of the White House.

Even during the complete renovation of the White House’s interior structure in the early 1950s, the Hoban designed façades were left untouched. They added a detail on the south façade, what we now call the Truman balcony, but it did not change or demolish the original South façade design of the White House.

Also at the January meeting architect Shalom Baranes mentioned that they were looking at adding a second story to the West Wing for symmetry “This scheme does require a two- story colonnade, connecting the East Room in the White House to the new ballroom,**” said Baranes. “We believe it’s appropriate to evaluate this condition within the context of the broader White House campus. The White House is therefore considering the idea of a modest one-story addition to the West Wing colonnade, which would serve to restore a sense of symmetry around the “original central pavilion.” I assume “the original central pavilion” is a euphemism for the historic presidential residence itself, the stand alone building of 1800 by Hoban.

Commissioner Phil Mendelson questioned the idea that the plans for additions to the White House would be piecemealed, i.e., presented at different times to NCPC, with the obvious observation that NCPC could hardly approve a second floor on the East Wing colonnade by itself, as the symmetry of the complex would be destroyed, a hallmark of the classical design of the White House. The logical conclusion is that Baranes would later justify the addition of a second-floor addition to the West wing to balance the East Wing’s second floor if it were approved, with the result that the Palladian Window, the center piece design element on the West façade would also be destroyed and the historic structure would be pierced yet a second time. This is a flawed evaluation process and would result in doubling the damage to the East and West façades’ original design.

**The reason for the second story addition is Baranes’ plan that the ballroom dependency of the East Wing is to match the exact height of the White House’s second floor, although the ballroom’s planned ceiling is much higher. There is no particular reason why the Ballroom must be at the same level, it is only a design concept by Baranes or the previous architect, and because of this plan, the programmatic desire to be able to walk from the second story of the residence to the ballroom would be nice, but it is not worth destroying the central design feature of the original Hoban design of the Palladian Window to do so. The choices are not equal by comparison, one destruction of historic property and the other not necessary. If rethinking the ballroom dependency at a lower level might solve a multitude of issues, eliminate the second floor addition to the colonnade reconstruction and lower the building height of the Ballroom dependency.

The architects should be asked to return to the drawing board and investigate alternative pathways at a below ground level to the Ballroom dependency and perhaps look at adding a third level to the West wing’s Presidential Office dependency to house the First Lady’s office and staff, thus eliminating the need for a third floor above the ballroom to reduce its mass and height.

If two second story additions to the colonnades are added on the East and West destroying their original façade designs, the White House will never be viewed again as an independent building, the historic 1800 presidential residence as designed by Hoban with all four facades fully articulated in the original drawings and replicated a second time in the building after the British burned the White House in the War of 1814 by Hoban himself. This house has stood the test of time for 226 years.

The resonating and powerful image of the White House is transmitted around the nation and the world today as symbol of one of our democracy’s founding principles, that of shared power. The presidential residence was designed as a house, yes a grand house, but not a palace, which was in the 18th C at the time our country was founded and is today the home of kings.

As proposed, the East wing dependency will permanently disrupt the carefully balanced classical design of the White House complex, which emphasizes the prominence of the Executive Residence in contrast to its two smaller and lower East and West Wings. The wings are generally known as dependencies, a hierarchy easily understood by its nomenclature.

Send the proposal back to the drawing board to explore design alternatives and modifications that would accomplish the objectives of the Administration while preserving the historic integrity and symbolism of the historic White House. Require further design review to bring the plan into compatibility with the existing historic structure and secondary as a dependency to the 1800 historic White House.

Architects David Scott Parker and Bill Bates, both FAIA, have suggested alternatives to comply with the L'Enfant plan and analyzed the Ball Room structure as presented in proposal for the non-architects of our citizenry. Yes, delaying a decision on March 5 to approve will push the start date for beginning construction into the future, however, had the architects and the Trump White House executives followed the required course of action to add a dependency to the landmark President's residence last July, the result would already be well on its way to worthiness. Trump has the possibility to create a great legacy but it is not with the proposal you are reviewing on March 5. It needs revision. I've watched the design review process achieve success over the last 50 years, and the NCPC and CFA have been doing this for over 100 years, the results of which are on view today in the historic core of the capital city, a lasting legacy for all Americans. The NCPC should be very proud of its work over the last 100 plus years to keep our iconic planned capital city great.

Next year, when King Charles comes to visit, he will be hosted in the White House itself or perhaps even in an elegant tent in the President's garden, and the dinner will stand in contrast to the ones he holds in Windsor Castle, his home. In the United States, our president lives in a house, an elegant grand one, but not in a castle. The presidential residence has been the symbol of our sharing of power democracy since its completion in 1800 with over 45 Presidents living there to date spanning the last 226 years. That fact stands in contrast to the small number of royal kings and two queens who preceded King Charles in the royal lineage of Great Britain over the same time period. Our cherished symbol, the White House is the most important best known historic house in the United States. Care for it.

Sincerely yours,
Charlotte Kroll

Name: Shonda Vielbig

Date: March 4, 2026 10:52:57 am

I strongly opposed this project as it is currently proposed. The design is completely out of scale and style with the rest of this historic site.

The size of this ballroom allows for events holding 1000.people. Who will pay for security and staffing for events this size? Who will pay to maintain a facility of this size?

This project destroyed the East Wing, which is part of the People's House and it should have gone through the proper approval process in the first place. Please do not allow this to go forward without review and approval by architects and designers who can try to salvage what is left of our house.

Name: Erika Lebling

Date: March 4, 2026 10:53:18 am

Please do not proceed with the construction of a ballroom at The White House. I am disgusted and ashamed that The East Wing, part of National Historic Monument and National Park, was demolished without approval. At one point, I wanted to take my children to Washington, DC, to learn about our country's history, but this is an absolute disgrace. We'll be staying far away until things change.

Name: Chris baker

Date: March 4, 2026 10:53:19 am

Please pause the East Wing project until a legally required public review process has taken place. There is no reason to rush this project ; it is too important not to have public input into renovations of the People's House.

Name: William Brockschmidt
Date: March 4, 2026 10:53:37 am

Dear Chairperson, Commissioners, and Officials,

I write as a concerned citizen with formal training in architecture and architectural history and twenty-five years of professional experience in interior design, deeply aware of the role historic architecture plays in shaping civic identity and public life.

The White House is not only one of the most important historic buildings in the United States, but also a central architectural element within the L’Enfant plan of Washington, D.C.. Its scale, restraint, and proportion contribute profoundly to its symbolic role as “the people’s house.” The relationship between the Executive Residence, its grounds, and the broader urban composition is integral to its meaning.

The proposed East Wing ballroom addition, as illustrated, significantly alters the established scale and visual hierarchy of the White House complex. The size and architectural expression of the new volume will overwhelm the historic residence and diminish its architectural primacy within the grounds. A project of this magnitude warrants careful consideration not only of functional requirements, but also of long-term symbolic and urban consequences.

It is not clear that such a dramatic expansion is necessary. The White House has historically accommodated state functions and ceremonial events within its existing rooms and grounds with dignity and distinction. The prestige of an invitation to the White House lies not in spectacle or sheer scale, but in intimacy, architectural refinement, and proximity to history. Enlarging the complex with a monumental ballroom risks transforming what should be a rare and meaningful civic experience into something more akin to a large institutional venue, thereby diminishing the very qualities that make it significant.

By comparison, many of the great historic European state residences—including Buckingham Palace, Élysée Palace, and even the Palace of Versailles—host formal events in rooms that, while grand, remain proportionally subordinate to the primary palace structures and are in many cases smaller than the ballroom currently proposed. In numerous instances, large-scale state events are accommodated in separate purpose-built venues rather than through monumental additions to historic residences. This approach preserves the architectural integrity and symbolic hierarchy of the principal building while still meeting contemporary functional demands.

If additional capacity is ultimately deemed necessary after rigorous study, I respectfully urge that alternatives be explored that would be less visually and symbolically intrusive—whether through reversible structures, discreet underground expansion, or the creation of a separate ballroom facility off-site in an existing or newly constructed building designed specifically for large-scale events. Such an approach would preserve the architectural integrity and symbolic primacy of the White House while responsibly addressing logistical needs.

As a National Historic Landmark of exceptional national importance, any substantial addition to the White House should be guided by the highest preservation standards and reviewed with particular care by the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission to ensure compatibility of scale, massing, materials, and setting.

The White House belongs not only to the present administration but to generations past and future. Alterations of permanent and monumental character should be undertaken with restraint, humility, and an awareness that stewardship of this building is a national trust.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these concerns.

Respectfully,
William James Brockschmidt

Name: Courtney Coleman
Date: March 4, 2026 10:55:02 am

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed construction of a 90,000-square-foot ballroom on the grounds of the White House.

As a citizen concerned with the preservation of our nation’s most historic and revered sites, I believe this project

represents a significant, irreversible, and inappropriate alteration of the White House complex. The proposed structure appears vastly out of scale with the historic residence, effectively overwhelming the main building and diminishing its stature—along with that of the nation it represents.

I am also deeply troubled by the apparent lack of transparency, public input, and standard regulatory review surrounding this proposal, including the sudden demolition of the existing East Wing. The White House should not be treated as private commercial real estate, but rather as a protected cultural and historic treasure belonging to the American people.

I respectfully urge the Commission to uphold its mandate to preserve the important historical and natural features of the National Capital. In particular, I ask that the Commission:

- Halt any approvals for the ballroom construction until a full and independent review of the design and its impacts has been completed.
- Reject the current proposal on the grounds that it is not compatible with the historic character and scale of the Executive Mansion.
- Require that any future proposals for modernization be significantly smaller in scale and respectful of the historic footprint of the site.

The White House is not simply a residence—it is a symbol of our national heritage. Decisions affecting it should be made with the utmost care, transparency, and respect for its historical significance. We deserve better than a project that risks compromising the integrity of what has long been known as the “People’s House.”

Respectfully,

Courtney Coleman

Name: STEVEN BAYNE

Date: March 4, 2026 10:55:10 am

As an architect, I understand the importance of preserving the coherence and dignity of nationally significant civic architecture and landscapes. I am urging the NCPC to reject or significantly reconsider this ballroom addition in order to:

Protect the classical architectural balance and compositional integrity of the White House

Preserve the historic Olmsted planning framework for the White House campus

Ensure that any future interventions are modest, contextually sensitive, and fully aligned with established historic and design principles

This current design significantly overshadows the White House, and makes the "ballroom" the center of attention at this site, which was not the original intent for this site.

Name: Lydia S

Date: March 4, 2026 10:55:10 am

The White House is the People's House. Full stop. The demolition of the East Wing cannot be undone, but what happens next matters. As a concerned citizen, I urge the NCPC to adhere to recommendations proposed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in order to maintain the beauty of one of our nation's most iconic buildings. Placemaking is an important part of national identity, and every time a building that is recognized by hundreds of millions of people as one of the sacred places in our nation's story, citizens feel less and less connected to the places that bring us together. The demolition of the East Wing is a physical representation of the damage that wealth-based power structures have had in our country, and the NCPC now has the opportunity to make sure the damage is not made worse by a gaudy, outsized building that does not conform to the design standards laid out by l'Enfant and Thomas Jefferson. The President has stated a desire to return Classical architecture to the American landscape, and part of the principal of Classical design is balance and symmetry. Any diversion in size and scale would be a bastardization of Classical aesthetics.

Name: Mark Cleveland

Date: March 4, 2026 10:55:17 am

As a longtime resident of the National Capitol area, I respectfully request the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) consider disapproval of the proposed configuration of the White House ballroom. The White House belongs to the American people and represents a symbolic and tangible connection to our shared history as a nation and should not be radically transformed without careful public review.

A larger meeting/gathering space at the White House makes sense. However, the sheer mass and height of the proposed 90,000 square-foot new ballroom construction will overwhelm the 55,000 square foot Executive Residence and permanently disrupt the balanced classical design of the White House complex.

As you know, The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation offer clear guidance for construction projects that affect historic properties. The Standards provide that new additions should not destroy the historic fabric of the property, and that the new work should be "compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing" of the existing structure. The current plan does not conform to those standards and should be modified to minimize the impact on the White House complex.

The process of leveling the East Wing without public input, skirting asbestos mitigation, and then dumping 30,000 cubic yards of debris on nearby parkland has raised serious concerns about transparency and effective planning. The long-term implications of the constructions of a ballroom on the character of the White House requires careful consideration given the significance the site holds for the American people.

The preservation of historic places that represent our nation's history has never been more relevant as we approach the 250th Anniversary of our country's founding, As you conduct this review, please consider the deep reverence that all Americans hold for this iconic place and undertake a review process that ensures the protection of the historic White House complex for future generations.

Respectfully,
Mark Cleveland
Silver Spring, MD

Name: Corinne Eberwine
Date: March 4, 2026 10:55:32 am

To Whom It May Concern,

I firmly reject the bid to build a ballroom that no one asked for or wants, with the exception of Donald Trump. This \$400 million vanity project was initiated in violation of historic preservation laws, lacks transparency, and sidesteps congressional approval.

Thank you,
Corinne Eberwine
Buffalo, NY

Name: Ted Funn
Date: March 4, 2026 10:55:35 am

For security, historical preservation and utility the ballroom, meeting rooms and ampertheator should be in a separate facility off Whitehouse property. Up grade the subterranean structure then rebuild the east wing.

Name: Lydia Soo
Date: March 4, 2026 10:55:37 am

I am an architectural historian, specializing in the architecture of the Renaissance, a period in which buildings were designed in the classical style.
Buildings are symbols that send messages.
The original White House building stands for the United States as a people joined together in a democracy.
The Ballroom Addition defies this symbol and stands for one man.
By destroying the original East Wing, dwarfing the main building, and disfiguring the entire ensemble with its gargantuan

size, it conveys the lust for power.

Its image as a colossal temple of the Ancient Roman Empire conveys autocratic and imperial objectives.

Its funding—a huge amount—given by anonymous donors and creating a situation for the exchange of favors, demonstrates corruption.

If the Ballroom Addition proceeds, it will be a physical assault on the beauty and harmony of the original White House building, and a symbolic assault on our democracy.

Name: Cyndi Deanis

Date: March 4, 2026 10:55:46 am

I firmly believe the building should be restored to its former dimensions- no larger. Really it should be returned to its former use as well. If a ballroom is needed there are event spaces locally that could be used and would support the local economy. Any alterations that impact the historical structure and view should most certainly been put to a vote by the people not the whim and questionable taste of a term limited tenant.

Name: Ben Heimsath

Date: March 4, 2026 10:56:01 am

As a practicing architect who works regularly with communities in preserving and adapting existing buildings, I strongly object to the East Wing ballroom project. There are many creative ways to update and modernize historic buildings to accommodate new and expanded uses. This massively overscaled and clumsy design illustrates the lack of planning and participation by the public and the lack of involvement by qualified design and preservation profession.

I urge you to reject this travesty and send it back to the drawing board!

Name: Leckie Conners

Date: March 4, 2026 10:56:25 am

Vehemently opposed to this project for many reasons. Furious about the destruction of the East Wing. Changes the entire nature and appearance of the White House. This does not reflect what the USA is supposed to be and does not serve The People. Etc. I just wanted to register my vote of NO!!!! on this horrendous project.

Name: Betsy Sharp

Date: March 4, 2026 10:56:58 am

I am appalled by what President Trump has already been allowed to do to the White House, and he needs to be stopped. The East Wing that he destroyed needs to be rebuilt as it was, historically. Trump is not a king, and we don't need a gaudy gold-plated castle in Washington DC. History will see the Trump years as a dark time for our country, and we do not want the People's House to reflect his disgusting taste.

Name: Jane Broendel

Date: March 4, 2026 10:57:36 am

What Trump has done and is doing is a travesty. This is not modernization, what he is doing is merely an ego-boosting action and is totally unnecessary. The East Wing should have been left alone. The White House is the People's House, not Trump's. His actions have been with total disregard to the American people. Make his administration put the East Wing back the way it was and make the Trump family pay for it themselves. The White House is historic and Trump and his cronies are destroying it along with other historic places.

Name: Carolyn Taylor

Date: March 4, 2026 10:57:38 am

To The National Trust for Historic Preservation Commission:

My overarching concern is the corruption behind having private donors paying for “our house”--we, the people's house--with obvious, inescapable quid pro quo selling out of the nation’s agenda to special interest billionaires. (See, for example, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/11/03/trump-ballroom-donors-contracts-enforcement/>) No reformation of the White House or, I believe, any federal property has ever been conducted in such a way and never should. Any such change should be taxpayers' money for a taxpayers' (not a president's) house.

As to the design specifics, size alone is enough reason to reject the plan as depicted here to be a looming monstrosity meant to dwarf all else: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/feb/15/trump-white-house-ballroom-renderings>.

The previous White House consisted of “The Residence” 55,000 sq ft, East & West Wings combined 40,000 making the total W.H. complex = 95,000 sq ft.

Now he wants to replace the East Wing with a monstrous coffin of a building of 90,000 sq ft, i.e., the size of the entire previous White House, four times bigger than the East Wing had been, and, worst of all, taller enough to tower over the Residence and West Wing.

This project in its present plan is the self-serving delusion of someone wanting to dwarf the world, dwarf “our house” that had a grace and proportionality and balance that was aesthetically pleasing.

Besides the size alone, the obvious gaudiness of the interior that he envisions is a horrible message about hubris and oneupmanship, nothing at all communicative of the wisdom and honesty and anti-pomposity of our nation’s *raison d’etre* whose 250 year anniversary is upon us.

This vainglorious project began with stealth and lies. Nothing good starts in deception. This president hates "woke" but he woke America one autumn day to seeing a mechanical Tyrannosaurus Rex in the dark of night having gobbled down the East Wing in a jawdropping, symbolically traumatic act of national destruction. And it was a lie: He'd vowed his project wouldn't touch the East Wing. Was he mocking us all because he knew there would be no more East Wing to touch? How can you trust anything this man tells you about the reality of the project he intends when he changes his story and his commandments hourly?

And the current vision of his project really does look like a giant coffin astride the residence. It’s a travesty that i implore you to stop in its tracks.

Now that alas the East Wing is history and must be replaced, what is called for is a building that balances the West Wing, definitely in terms of height and no more imposing than the remaining buildings. If there is need for a larger room to seat more than 200 at state dinners, such a need is a far cry from a 90,000 sf monstrosity. The building could have a larger ‘footprint’--not height--to accommodate a room perhaps twice the size (horizontally, not twice as high ceilings) of the East Room that has served state-dinner purposes for two centuries. Approved by Congress and paid from the general revenue, not subject to any forever-after quid pro quos selling off pieces of our national patrimony for a gilded boondoggle.

Is that what should represent and symbolize the United States? We were not founded as a nation to replicate the trappings of Louis XIV, yet that’s what he seeks.

I beg of you. Please reject this plan.

Carolyn Taylor, Ph.D., M.F.T.

Name: Glenn Kneten

Date: March 4, 2026 10:58:10 am

I am against the President's plans for the East Wing Modernization Project (ballroom). The White House belongs to the people of the United States, and shouldn't be modified to this extent at the whim of one person. It should be vetted by NCPC and any other authorities and be subject to their approval. This modernization project should conform with the scale of the existing architecture. This project shouldn't be funded by wealthy donors vying for influence with the administration.

Name: Karen Atkison

Date: March 4, 2026 10:58:14 am

An immediate halt should be imposed on this project based on lack of formal approval, design flaws, disturbing the historical look and feel of the White House and surrounding structures, the impediments the new building will place on existing walkways and thoroughfares. The expected gold ballroom design is gaudy and does not reflect classic architectural style or design.

Name: Barbara Pahl

Date: March 4, 2026 10:58:19 am

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission

For 250 years American Presidents who have lived in the White House have shown reverence to its simplicity, modesty, and classic design. And while changes have been made to it throughout the years, no President has attempted to remake its simple majesty, until now. As unbelievable as it has been to witness the demolition of the East Wing of the White House, it is possibly more deranged to watch as a new addition emerges that will completely overwhelm and attempt to out shine the White House as if to say Trump is better than all the rest.

George Washington conceived the District of Columbia working with Pierre L'Enfant on a classical plan that carefully laid out streets with precise views, in this case, the view of the White House from the Capitol. This building erases that view replacing it with a view of the ballroom – Trump's ballroom. The height of the ballroom is equal to that of the White House and almost twice the size. It will be 166% larger than the White House and 40% larger than the Treasury. It is impossible to access the Portico from either the ballroom or the floor below. The doors shown on the exterior of the Portico are fake and it serves no purpose except to look grand. The magnificent Palladian window on the east façade of White House, often seen in photographs, will be engulfed by the ballroom.

There is no symmetry to this design, no simplicity, just grandiosity to one man's ego. This building is an abomination and an embarrassment to the nation and for what – a 90,000 sq ft ballroom that will used a handful of times throughout the year. The President said he needed a ballroom to seat 1,000 people. This one will seat 1,500. Clearly there is room to modify the size and scale of this building so that it respectfully and rightfully sits among buildings that came before. At this late hour in the process, you still have time to make a difference. I beg you too.

Sincerely,
Barbara Pahl
Denver, Colorado

Name: Cornelia Atkins Atkins

Date: March 4, 2026 10:58:23 am

We comment to register our opposition to the addition of a 90,000 square foot ballroom to the White House. The size of the proposed addition will dwarf the original White House that is considered "the Peoples' House". President Trump does not own the White House, he is a temporary occupant. Funds are being collected privately from unknown sources, raising concerns about potential influence and corruption. Please vote "No".

Sincerely,
Cornelia and Lawrence Atkins

Name: Sarah Pawlicki

Date: March 4, 2026 10:58:32 am

As a public historian and historic preservationist, I'm appalled by the blatant violations of historic preservation law associated with the White House ballroom project. Taking a wrecking ball to the East Wing without any meaningful regulatory oversight shows a careless disregard for the U.S.' political, cultural, and architectural history. Such a unilateral

decision on the part of the current administration is unacceptable.

My current postdoctoral fellowship involves working with the National Trust for Historic Preservation on their Where Women Made History initiative, so I'm especially disappointed by the choice to demolish the east wing in light of its pivotal role in First Ladies' work in the White House. To quote the historian Elizabeth Rees, "With the West Wing being a traditionally male-dominated space, the East Wing was a unique physical space for women to work...and provided them with their own environment in which to flourish." Ignoring this significant contribution to women's history to build a monument to a single president's vanity is a real shame.

Name: Renee Held

Date: March 4, 2026 10:59:41 am

All construction should be halted. This is The People's House, not Trump's. New construction should be complementary to the White House and should serve a useful purpose. We don't need another Trump vanity project.

Name: Joan Jurenas

Date: March 4, 2026 11:00:13 am

I listened to the webinar in which architects Bill Bates and David Parker explained the issues that this outsized ballroom proposal President Trump is attempting to build. I am grieved that the East Wing was destroyed without warning or cooperation with the Historic Trust or any other governing body concerning design. As a citizen, a legacy of L'Enfant's city design, Hoban's classical design of the White House, and Olmsted's design of the grounds has been preserved with respect by Trump's predecessors for the delight and utility for us all. I was born in Washington, DC and have lived inside the beltway my entire 72 years. This is personal for me. I acknowledge the need for an industry-standard ballroom that seats 1,000 people. The flaws in the Trump design are way out of scale. Bates and Parker have reworked the design so that a better balance is achieved. I urge the Trump administration to accept advice and work with these ideas that the Trust has offered. We don't want to see Versailles-like ego structures in our beautifully balanced classical and classy nation's capital.

Name: Lilly A. Blase

Date: March 4, 2026 11:00:54 am

The current size & site of the proposed East Wing ballroom project will block the vista of the White House from Pennsylvania Ave as designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant. The proposed ballroom south Corinthian columns, exterior doors & stairs are not functional, but extend the structure into the White House vista from the southeast Pennsylvania Ave approach.

The size of the proposed ballroom needs a "kink" in the Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. & Andrew Jackson Downing designed symmetrical south drive. The proposed ballroom needs to be shifted to the north and east so the south drive continues to be symmetrical & the Pennsylvania Avenue vista be retained.

The proposed ballroom shows Corinthian columns, James Hoban's White House has Ionic columns. The US Commission for Fine Arts suggested the current architect Shalom Baranes change out the exiting Ionic columns to Corinthian columns to match the new ballroom. That is not a fix. Original design elements of the White House should have precedence over more elaborate later introduced elements.

The east existing White House west wall Palladian window & upper floor arched sitting room window will be covered by the ballroom connector high ceiling space. The White House east windows match the west windows. This is another example of the wonderful symmetry of the White house. Height of the proposed ballroom and connector need to be reduced. The architect can dig down and have more support functions, the kitchen in a fuller, deeper basement.

In closing, the White House is the Peoples' House. The White House has an understated, simpler, refined elegance with strong ionic columns, balanced symmetry with window placement. The grounds show elegant symmetry from the north Lafayette Square Park south to the White House immediate grounds to the President's Park to the Ellipse.

Name: Margo Lynn

Date: March 4, 2026 11:01:13 am

As a person who has lived in old and historically significant homes, I was appalled that the "modernization project" commenced without any of the required regulations or processes followed. Demolition was without notice or (as I understand) permits. In other situations where demolition occurs without permit, the work is stopped and the instigators fined; this has not occurred.

More importantly, a change of this magnitude should be taken with due consideration for the building and its uses. There are grand spaces within the White House for large events, even balls. A new ballroom is not necessary for the functioning of the building or our government, or for the inhabitants of the White House. Consideration should have been made not just to the wants of the current inhabitants, but for the overall and longterm use of the building and the best way for the inhabitants to fulfill their roles and responsibilities of office and to the American people.

The previous (before demolition) use of office spaces and meeting rooms seems much more to purpose than an unnecessary space. "Modernization" usually takes the form of improved HVAC, electrical, and other services, not a redesign into a completely different use. It is also notable that the plans for the new construction were not submitted for review and approval, which for a historic structure often includes redesign to better integrate into the existing structure and to meet the purpose. I understand from news reports (which may be incomplete) that even as of the deadline for comments, no final plans nor funding are available. It seems to be quite inappropriate to commence a construction of this magnitude without either plans in place, nor the funding available to complete the work.

It also seems inappropriate at this time to commence large-scale projects when funding is not provided for basic needs of the population. Any public funds should be directed to support the American people, and not to unnecessary large-scale works such as the East Wing Modernization Project, the Kennedy Center redesign, or other projects. Protection of existing facilities, providing services to the population, and making a legacy of service are more appropriate to the White House than an unnecessary and historically-unneeded ballroom and similar facilities.

Until the plans are submitted, revised if required, and finally approved, no further work should occur on the East Wing. Consideration should be given to the past (pre-demolition) use of the structure and whether those uses are required for the future. Priority should be given to the longterm uses of the building, and not a space for occasional events, especially when sufficient space already exists in the White House for such events. Building a ballroom at the same time as senior advisors are telling people how to eat cheaply is too much of a "Let Them Eat Cake" moment for Americans, and does not make our government look wide on the international stage.

Name: Maria Pizano-Balatovis

Date: March 4, 2026 11:02:09 am

Good morning,

I am a citizen with no specific knowledge of architecture. However, I care deeply about the history, the legacy, the amazing foresight and planning that our founding fathers demonstrated and approved in the design of Washington D.C and the People's House-The White House.

I am dismayed at the plans to destroy that history. It is already horrible that the East Wing was torned down without a single thought of what it meant for the American People. But, the replacement of it by an enormous, ostentatious building only adds salt to the wound.

I wholeheartly object to the building of the "ballroom" and if it will happen-as I likely think it will-I hope you take into consideration making modifications so that building does not overshadow the White House, as the current proposal does. My deepest concerns are the size of the ballroom(way larger than the White House, which should be the focal point!) and how the current design destroys forever the clear link and view between the White House and Capitol. I think there was reason for that clear view between those two buildings and I also think that obscuring that relationship is purposeful and it represents a desire to destroy that historical link of our government, our democracy. To me, the connecting clear view of the (occupant) White House and our representatives in Congress show that the foundation that our government requires them to work linked, and in full view of the citizens.

I appreciate the history, the legacy of the White House and the planning that went into the total design of our capital city, and I want that to be respected. The obstentatious ballroom that has been proposed for you to approve forever imperils

our history. I am old, but I want my children and grandchildren to feel the love, respect and admiration I have felt for the USA, and for the heroes that have made us proud for almost 250 years. Save the People's House-the citizens own it!

Thank you for doing the correct thing and respecting our history.

Sincerely,

Maria E. Pizano-Balatovis

Name: Linda Grossman

Date: March 4, 2026 11:02:38 am

I am writing to as an American citizen to strongly object to the proposed ballroom project at the White House. There are numerous reasons to oppose this project but I have highlighted a few here.

1. The destruction of the West Wing should not have happened. President Trump did not acquire ownership of the White House on election. He got permission to temporarily live and work there – much like a renter would. The expectation should be that he refrain from any significant changes and that any changes he makes should be easily reversible when he leaves the White House. His destruction of the West Wing violates that in a big way. Ideally he would restore the space to what it was before his destruction of it.
2. The main role of the presidency is to govern the country and administer the programs that are created and funded by Congress. While there is a minor role of meeting with foreign dignitaries and honoring specific Americans (such as veterans who get special awards), the design of this project should be in keeping with the minor role of hosting events and the scale should reflect usual use of the building, not the rare use. Therefore, the scope should be for a ballroom that holds 150 people (or 200 max), not the size of what is proposed. The Presidency should rarely be hosting events for such a large group and can rent other space for the few times that might be necessary.
3. The scale of the building put in place of the West Wing should not overwhelm the site and imply that this is the main function of the White House but should be compatible in size with the existing structure. It should reflect the sentiment that the White House is the People's House and not the house of a royal leader. Our country is not lead by a king or other royal leader but a representative of the people.
4. Finally, ,the funding of any major changes should come from direct and specific appropriations of Congress and not from donations from outside people, whether American or foreign, who are trying to curry favor with our current president – those would represent bribes and should not be tolerated. Similarly, the president should not be permitted to “reallocate” funds for this from other funding approved by Congress.

I hope you take my concerns and the concerns of other Americans seriously as you review this proposal.

Sincerely,

Linda Grossman

Name: Terri Masters

Date: March 4, 2026 11:02:55 am

I am writing to express my concern re: the East Wing Modernization Project. When I first heard about this project, I was sure it would never pass the approval of those with the authority to endorse or deny this plan. I presumed officials would reject this proposal given the billions of dollars to be eliminated from the government budget. Building a “ballroom” is an unneeded and unnecessary huge expenditure, especially given the current state of our economy. The projected plan showed a tremendous-sized structure next to the White House, which took away the majestic, classic beauty of such an historic structure. It was announced this ballroom would not touch the WH itself. In addition, it would be an affront to the American people, whose lives were going to be drastically affected by the removal of the life-saving programs and services needed for mere survival. We were told it was to save money in the national budget. The proximity of this structure to the White House would ruin the historic landscape the American people, as well as world citizens, have come to know and love.

In my opinion, no president has the sole authority to decide to demolish any federal structure and erect another building of his choosing and style preference.

When I saw the pictures in October of the pile of wreckage that was once the East Wing, I was stunned. My heart sank and I could not believe what I was seeing. I thought how could this have happened? Why didn't someone stop this? My disbelief of this carnage lasted for months. I couldn't understand how this was allowed to go forward.

I believe when a new president and his family move in the White House, they are temporary residents and trustees of the WH, given the privilege to live there by the American people. I also believe they should be able to make the WH their home for the time the president is in office and make non-permanent changes, such as paint color, draperies, and furniture from their homes. When the president's term is has expired, the WH furniture could be brought back to the living quarters for the new president and their family and new paint colors added if needed. Even the furniture in the WH is historic and should not be changed or discarded by the current president.

The current president has made changes to the WH and its grounds, such as tearing out the beautiful, an historic Rose Garden, and laid an intrusive white, concrete patio in its place, and installed two large flagpoles each side of the WH. He has removed beloved portraits and in their places, installed plaques with critical descriptions of past presidents. However, this can be restored to its original beauty once his term has expired. Even the classic, traditional Oval Office can be restored to its original grandeur once the president's term has expired. I have been concerned whether the Resolute Desk has been returned to the Oval Office after refinishing. But the ballroom would likely be permanent. As said previously, it would detract from the beauty of the historic WH and grounds. The ballroom is what the current president wants as a way to leave his mark as once being a WH resident. In addition, the president said no government money would be used but private donors would fund the project. I don't believe that is acceptable, given the problems that could arise, such as a conflict of interest. A donor may expect special favors or treatment due to their donation. Also, there would be maintenance, upkeep, and additional staff required of this ballroom and the American people would be paying for that large expense.

There has been discussion of the old bunker not being sufficient. If the Congress deems it necessary, a new bunker could be constructed without defacing the WH. The hole left by the illegal demolition could be rebuilt in the architectural style of the WH, replacing the offices and other rooms.

I have many additional points to mention to try convincing the Commission not to let this project proceed. I plead with the Commission not to let this "project" go forward. This problem could have been avoided had the president followed the rules, laws, procedures, and protocol. The "ballroom" should not be allowed to be built simply because the decision was made not to follow regulations. There are consequences when one fails to respect rules and regulations and there should be no exceptions made in this case as well. By allowing this ballroom to be erected, an unfortunate precedent would be set for any president in the future. Everyone needs to follow the rules and laws made to protect destruction from occurring to any of our precious and historic landmarks.

I apologize for submitting my comment this late but I just learned of this hearing yesterday. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Terri Masters

Name: John Auwaerter

Date: March 4, 2026 11:03:02 am

The proposed ballroom or new East Wing is an example of bad design that does not fit in its context. There has been no consideration, based on media reports of the architectural design, of the new building's effect on the landscape of the White House grounds (there should be landscape architects involved, not just architects). There is a Cultural Landscape Report for the White House that defines the historic characteristics of the landscape, including its spatial character, vegetation, views, and circulation. The NCPC must take into consideration the effect of the project on these defining characteristics, some of which have already been destroyed through the demolition, which is a textbook example of project segmentation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Name: Lydia Roane

Date: March 4, 2026 11:03:03 am

The scale and design of Ballroom plans are troubling for several reasons.

I believe that the scale of the proposed ballroom is excessive and will dwarf the rest of the White House complex.

According to architectural standards, the layout is 47% greater than would be needed to meet the stated goal of having space to host 1,000 people. Furthermore, I think the plans that were first put forth give little to no consideration of the aesthetics and history of the capitol area and grounds. The kitchen is more than 2.5 times the size that would be needed according to the existing industrial standard, and I think the first floor should have more publicly accessible areas. Please spend time to develop a more aesthetically and functionally appropriate historically representative space.

Many thanks!

Lydia Roane
Shreveport, LA.

Name: Brenda King

Date: March 4, 2026 11:03:07 am

I have watched in horror as the Trump administration paved over the Rose Garden and drenched White House interiors in layers of gold tackiness. But the wholesale destruction of the East Wing, which as stood for 123 years, is both outrageous and utterly sad. The new Trump build is an atrocity -- out of all proportion in its hugeness compared to the rest of the White House, out of all decency and proper respect for the history of our country.

Roll it back. Don't let this happen. Your entire reason for being is to make sure stuff like this doesn't happen.

Name: Michelle Baquero

Date: March 4, 2026 11:04:15 am

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,

I'm writing today to express my concerns over the destruction of the East Wing of the White House. It was personally so devastating to see in real time what was done to the East Wing. The White House is the people's house and in a second the entire East Wing was demolished with no regard to preservation of history (specially the First Ladies), environmental impacts and no approved plan in place. The fact that this project is collecting donations from corporations and other sources that are not transparent is very concerning. Also, the fact that an unwanted ballroom is proposed in the place that was dedicated to the First Ladies.

The committee needs to take all actionable steps necessary to stop the building of this ballroom and instead make it back how it was with updates to further create a space for future First Ladies/First Gentlemen in the White House. I will also add that that same type of steps need to be started now on the future of the J.F. Kennedy Center. Right now, the president illegally added his name to the Kennedy Center and the United States Institute of Peace too. I believe that the Kennedy Center will suffer the same fate as the East Wing if action is not taken prior to July 4, 2026 (since it has been proposed that it will be closed on that date). These actions are being done without going through the proper channels and the destruction will continue if action is not taken.

Thank you for your time and understand. Deeply concerned citizen.

Name: PAMELA COLLIGAN

Date: March 4, 2026 11:05:16 am

I am very concerned about the extreme plans for the demolition of the ballroom. It is the people's house and we have a say on any demolition of the historic White House. The plans need to follow a standard and impartial approval process for any federal national historic site. This is not what is happening by appointing sycophants for any oversight. Future generations will ask why was this destruction allowed. This is not a place like tacky Margo Lago where graft, corruption, and narcissism are the goal. We need ethical, honest, and patriotic leaders to stop this. We have allowed too much destruction and advarice to occur already. I get physically sick every time I see the cheap gold rickrack installed in the White House already.

Name: Elizabeth MacWhinney

Date: March 4, 2026 11:05:26 am

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history.

The White House is a National Historic Landmark and a National Park, owned by the American people and home to presidents since 1800. The current president at any given time is not the owner of the property or the structures thereon; the president is a temporary tenant whose interventions are limited by law and by respect for the people of the United States.

The demolition of the historic East Wing without review, without permits and without Congressional oversight is clearly a violation of the law. In addition, it is a violation of the trust of the American people who were given no opportunity to

comment on what should have been presented as a proposal and not as a violent fait accompli.

I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to require reconstruction of the East Wing in keeping with its historic design and size. Anything constructed on the demolition site going forward must be compatible in form and subordinate in scale to the original structure of the Executive Mansion.

Name: Audrey Fine-Marsh

Date: March 4, 2026 11:05:44 am

The proposed ballroom is not a "modernization project". It is a complete redo of an historic building that is completely unnecessary. The proposed ballroom is much too large and will dwarf the rest of the White House building. The East Wing should be rebuilt as it was.

Name: Jane Price

Date: March 4, 2026 11:06:16 am

As an architect I'm extremely concerned about the proposed project. Both the design and the approval process have been rushed to such an extent that a quality outcome is impossible. The new ballroom is far too large and compromises the hierarchy of the White House. The resulting completely asymmetrical outcome is not in keeping with the style. The destruction of large areas of the grounds is disappointing. Installing political friends to approve this is violation of missions of all of the approval agencies involved. I urge you to rein in this monstrosity.

Name: Lois Jacobs

Date: March 4, 2026 11:07:20 am

To Members of the National Capitol Planning Commission:

As many others have undoubtedly noted, the size, scale and design of the proposed ballroom addition to the White House complex is not compatible or complementary with the existing White House structure, a National Historic Monument. Among other issues, the proposed addition would be three times the volumetric size and almost twice the square footage of the White House itself. Thus, the proposed addition would exceed the White House in size and ruin the scale and proportion of the existing complex. In addition, the proposed addition would permanently destroy the approach to and view of the White House.

The White House is a cherished historic place and an enduring symbol of our nation. Accordingly, I urge the Commission to deny approval of the existing plans and, instead, follow the recommendations submitted by the National Trust For Historic Preservation and require modifications of the plans for the proposed project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Lois M. Jacobs

Name: Deborah Oropeza

Date: March 4, 2026 11:07:54 am

Dear members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

As a historian, I would like to express my opinion concerning the East Wing Modernization Project.

It is important to respect the historical context and legacy of the White House and the landscape of President's Park. When contemplating changes within this historic area, principles such as style and proportionality should be carefully observed. The large dimension of the proposed ballroom structure, relative to the White House, warrants serious analysis. In October 2025, planners indicated that the ballroom's intended capacity was 1,000 individuals. According to renowned architects, fellows of the American Institute of Architects, the volume of the ballroom structure could be realistically reduced while still maintaining high industry standards and preserving the White House's centrality.

The White House is a foundational building in the nation's history and identity. The decisions made regarding architectural and design changes set an important precedent for other historic buildings and sites across the nation.

Another key element to consider is the connection between the White House and the Capitol. The proposed ballroom structure obstructs the visual and symbolic axis between the White House and the Capitol that was intended as part of the original design of the nation's capital under the 1791 plan commissioned by George Washington. Changes to historic sites should strengthen our nation's legacy, including this idea that symbolizes unity between the executive and legislative branches.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Deborah Oropeza, Ph.D.

Name: Ann Valdes

Date: March 4, 2026 11:08:31 am

Do not let Trump's plan for a gaudy, tacky ballroom continue! It is bad enough that he tore down a building of historical significance without Congressional approval. Putting up a gilded bordello style building next to our august White House is appalling, and beneath the dignity of the august White House. PLEASE stop his plans, and consider carefully what to build. A monstrosity of a ballroom is not needed!

Name: Robin Luchsinger

Date: March 4, 2026 11:08:37 am

Dear Members of the NCPC,

I am an interior designer based in Seattle, Washington, with more than forty years of experience working in architecture and interiors. To begin, I would also like to thank the Commission for the careful attention you are giving to this important matter concerning the White House. As you know, it is one of the most historically significant examples of classical architecture in the United States.

I was deeply concerned by the demolition of the existing East Wing without meaningful oversight, and even more troubled by the currently proposed design for the new ballroom addition. It appears to be dramatically out of scale with the existing architecture and the historic character of the White

A question that deserves careful consideration is the actual programmatic need for such a large ballroom. Aside from inaugurations, are there events that genuinely require seating for more than 500 guests? It appears that state dinners in recent decades have typically been smaller than that. If there is no practical need for a 1,000-seat banquet hall, it is difficult to justify constructing one.

Most importantly, from an architectural standpoint, the current proposal fails to respect the principles of classical design that define the White House. A thoughtful design developed by a classically trained architectural firm—one that respects proportion, scale, and historical context—could produce an addition worthy of the White House and capable of enduring for centuries.

Thank you,
Robin Luchsinger

Name: Myra Jacobs

Date: March 4, 2026 11:09:23 am

In 1984, King Charles III (then Prince of Wales) described a new extension to the National Gallery in London as “a monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much-loved and elegant friend”. Extending this analogy to the proposed replacement of the White House East Wing with a ballroom having the dimensions of an aircraft hangar, what comes to mind is a giant malignancy that has all but consumed its host.

If indeed a large Ballroom is to be erected here and now at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, I am in favor of the measured pragmatic approach that was proposed in the webinar presentation on February 25th, 2026, by architects David Parker and Bill Bates, under the auspices of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, that mitigates irreparable harm to our heritage.

To preserve the grand architectural legacy of L'Enfant, with its expansive vistas, and harmonious, elegant anchoring structures that symbolize our country's government, history and power, and which naturally include the balanced, classical aesthetic of James Hoban for the White House, coupled with Olmsted's responsive landscaping, the proposed

plan for the Ballroom can be modified in several key respects:

- 1) Rescale the entire proposed structure so that it does not dwarf the White House, and does not intrude on and block the view from the Capitol to the White House
- 2) Much can be achieved by lowering the entire structure starting with the lowest floor, and reducing unnecessarily high ceilings
- 3) Scale back to industry standards for square footage for projected ballroom guest attendance of 1000, and likewise reduce the kitchen size to the appropriate industry standards for food preparation capacity for those guests.
- 4) Remove non-functional structures eg the massive proposed S Portico, and offers nothing but bombastic bulk, and does not give any access to the interior

Those are my comments on the proposed building itself.

Allow me a further comment about this particular process of citizen input solicitation: Whatever is ultimately erected in unseemly haste on the site of the illegally destroyed East Wing, I hope to live long enough to see torn down. The proposed Ballroom has been financed by an opaque and corrupt process, and the ex-poste rubber-stamping authorization for this ill-considered project was likewise achieved by corrupt process. It is not apparent that any public/expert consultation will be taken into consideration regarding this project. The Ballroom will be nothing but a monument to the overt, unrestrained lawless corruption of the current administration and can never be a good fit with our existing civic buildings.

Thank you for your consideration

Name: Charlene Donchez Mowers

Date: March 4, 2026 11:09:29 am

Dear Commission Members:

I have been involved in historic preservation, museums, and historic sites including two National Historic Landmarks and a National Historic Landmark District here in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania for over three decades. During that time, I helped secure the first United States Transnational Serial Nomination and successful inscription on the World Heritage List of Moravian Church Settlements -Bethlehem.

I was very disconcerted with the tearing down of the East Wing of the White House.

After reviewing the plans for the new ballroom, I am very concerned about the size, placement, and design of this structure which will overshadow the White House, destroy the sight lines between the White House and the Capital, and is completely out of proportion to the rest of the White House complex and grounds.

Please do NOT approve the current plans.

Thank you.

Charlene Donchez Mowers

Name: Julie Ottomano

Date: March 4, 2026 11:09:38 am

Good morning,

I would like to add my comments regarding the East Wing Modernization Project and specifically the proposed ballroom. There are several points that I would like to make:

1. The proposed ballroom is 47% larger than high industry standards for 1,000 seated people. It is 7,000 sq. ft. larger than standards require.
2. The proposed ballroom will be three times the size of the White House- this is not acceptable.
3. The White House is a Classical structure. By adding such a large ballroom, the symmetry will be off and will be discordant with the original plan.
4. The ballroom plan calls for a 4,000 sq. ft. Portico which has no access into the building and indeed has fake doors and is not ADA accessible. This type of a structure does not align with Classical architectural design.
5. The ballroom blocks the view from the Capitol to the White House that President Washington requested when he had the city designed.

These are just a few of my concerns. We must respect the legacy we have inherited and not create a vanity project that does not fit with the historical value of the White House.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns.

Julie Ottomano
Maine

Name: Joanne Dehoney
Date: March 4, 2026 11:10:21 am

Please reflect the classical design and proportions of the original White House throughout the final renovation.

Name: Darci Smith
Date: March 4, 2026 11:10:36 am

No, no absolutely not, the ballroom should not be 3 times the size of the White House. I'm not sure why we even needed a new one. No other President has ever hinted it was necessary. I was physically ill when I heard the news that the east wing was being dismantled. All that history gone. President Trump had no right to destroy the people's house and should be required to rebuild it. Not as a ballroom, but back to its original glory.

Name: Laura Levine-Lukas
Date: March 4, 2026 11:10:53 am

I don't think the White House needs a ballroom. Don't build it. Cease work on any ballrooms at the People's House.

Put a modest East Wing back in place of the original. No gaudy gold, make it simple. Also make sure it is energy efficient and carbon-neutral. Maybe give it a green roof.

Name: Karen Wheeler
Date: March 4, 2026 11:11:01 am

PLEASE adhere to the recommendations of The National Trust for Historic Preservation. I trust them to carry out historically correct and practical concepts for any changes or renovations to the White House.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Mary Letzkus
Date: March 4, 2026 11:11:33 am

It is appalling that none of the established protocols for demolition and design of public space in the District were followed in the demolition of the historic East Wing. The plans for a ballroom are esthetically and historically improper. The scale is inconsistent with existing People's House footprint. Further, for our 250 year history as a nation, no other president has voiced a need or desire for a vanity ballroom or space on this scale. We the people do not expect our elected leader to entertain on the scale of a potentiate. Since the East Wing has been brutally demolished, it is obvious that this scar on the White House grounds needs to be remedied, but a plan of this scope, and process inconsistent with established law and practice is not it

Name: Diana Ames
Date: March 4, 2026 11:11:46 am

I am horrified by the destruction of the East Wing of the White House that has occurred at the hands of the Trump

administration. It was bad enough that the previously dignified and restrained Oval Office has been tarted up with random gilded embellishments, but tearing down the East Wing without any process or engagement with the true owners of the White House – American people – feels like blatant vandalism.

In further contradiction of Secretary of the Interior's standards for historic buildings, the new wing, said to encompass 90,000 square feet, will exceed the stated desired capacity it is designed to accommodate by at least half. As currently envisioned, both the new building's excessive height and footprint will overshadow the 55,000 square foot historic White House. The new plan also sacrifices the Palladian window on the east wall, a defining element of Hoban's original design of the White House which should certainly be preserved.

Current renderings of the proposed ballroom do not reflect an understanding of space needs, program, or design execution. The majority of the entrance level is not public space. It defies logic that service support spaces, including a kitchen that is reportedly two and a half times larger than the industry standard required to serve 1,000 people, inhabit the primary space. These services do not need daylight or need to be above grade. The kitchen also has an extremely high ceiling, and the pediment of the new building at its peak will be taller than the White House itself.

With fake windows and oversized Corinthian columns that reduce available floor space, the 4,000 square foot portico lacks functionality, and inhibits views from within the building. The forty foot wide grand outside stairway leads to fake doors, thereby rendering the portico virtually useless due to lack of a direct connection to the interior.

Viewed from Capitol steps the new ballroom would obscure the view of the White House, and become the dominant feature of the view. The symbolism of such an arrangement, along with the location of the ballroom itself, with its floor over twenty five feet above street level, conveys a dubious message to the American People.

L'Enfant's design for Washington D. C. communicates and celebrates the symbolic connection between the Executive and Legislative Branches of our government. The siting of the new East Wing violates that intention. The disruptive scale of the new ballroom and its lack of functionality, balance, and grace would forever diminish the White House, its cherished classical design, and its carefully considered relationship within its iconic landscape. In 1791, L'Enfant's plan for the City was hailed as combining not only "elegance of prospect ... but everything grand and beautiful". It is my hope that a new building will respect the beloved legacy of the Peoples' House, which has stood the test of time.

Sincerely,

Diana Ames

Name: Christine Pittel

Date: March 4, 2026 11:12:18 am

This ballroom is ridiculously huge and will overwhelm the White House, which should remain the focal point of this historic compound.

The East Wing offices, which are actually necessary, are clearly only a secondary concern, submerged under this mammoth party space that will only be used occasionally.

It makes absolutely no sense and the architectural plan is inept. The portico is inaccessible, the forty-foot ceilings are absurd, the double row of columns obscures the views from inside.

If the term historic preservation has any meaning at all, of course it should apply to the White House.

No president should be allowed to unilaterally tear down an historic wing of the White House, and desecrate a national monument.

Please stop this outrageous ego trip.

Christine Pittel

Name: John Trosky

Date: March 4, 2026 11:12:23 am

As a former member of my local Historic Preservation Committee, I am outraged that this administration has flouted established protocols for alterations to the "People's House". This project is totally out scale to the historic main structure of the White House. If erected in it's current form it would totally dominate the landscape and would unbalance classical architecture principals with the much smaller White House in the center and the low rise West Wing on the other side of

it. The applicant is a bit disingenuous when saying that they are looking for a ballroom to seat 1000 guests. Using industry standards of fifteen feet per person, this proposed ballroom would be eligible to seat over 1500 guests at it's current proposed square footage! What use would the main portico be when the doors at the top of the stairs under it are fake as shown on their plans! Not only is this structure too large for the existing property, it would also block the current viewshed from the US Capitol Building. The design of Washington DC was laid out by L'Enfant with serious thought in mind. The avenue stretching from the Capitol to the White House has a clear view of both buildings. It was L'Enfant's desire to show the connection with the Legislative branch of government with the Executive Branch. This would no longer exist if this monstrosity were constructed. I urge this Commission to reject this plan out of hand and send it back to the applicant for revision if they insist on a ballroom to replace the old East Wing. The White House is an historic structure that belongs to the American people and the people should have their say in what happens to it.

Name: Erika Finbraaten

Date: March 4, 2026 11:12:32 am

Attached please find my comments regarding the White House ballroom proposal. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

[Attachment](#)

Name: William Matthews

Date: March 4, 2026 11:13:43 am

The proposed ballroom is a monstrously tacky and inappropriate addition to our people's house. It is a faux gold-plated embarrassment having no relationship to our treasured DC architectural heritage. The commission surely knows this.

Please stop it and order the restoration of the East Wing to its former historical proportions. The White House is a national symbol that must not be defaced by such a tasteless out-of-scale travesty.

This is a matter of millions and millions of citizens vs. the whims of a single man who has no respect for the traditions of a country that made him what he is. This is a real opportunity for the Commission to stand for history, aesthetics, and architectural standards.

Thank you,
William Matthews
Maine

Name: Lisa Buckley

Date: March 4, 2026 11:14:15 am

As a historic preservation professional, I am appalled at the wanton and unlawful manner in which the historic east wing of the White House was demolished. While I gladly acknowledge that buildings cannot be preserved in amber and unchanged forever, modernization can occur without wholesale destruction. The currently proposed design is grossly out of scale with the existing historic structure and is wholly inappropriate. It is garish and frankly, a travesty of architecture. Anything that is built must be drastically scaled down, and preferably resemble the demolished structure in scale and design intent.

Lisa Buckley, M.S., Historic Preservation

Name: Matt Flanders

Date: March 4, 2026 11:15:36 am

I am writing to express concern about the plans (or lack thereof) for modernizing the East Wing. I have attended events at The White House, and while I agree that a larger event space would be beneficial, the fact that the East Wing was demolished before a clear plan and budget were in place is stunning. I fear President Trump is treating the People's House as his own without considering that we are footing the bill and without holding any sort of public forum. To be

completely frank, seeing what President Trump has done to the Oval Office and the Rose Garden does not give me confidence in his ability to oversee the building of a tasteful and practical addition that respects the integrity and history of OUR house. I sincerely hope that preservationists and our representatives will have some oversight in what could otherwise become an architectural tragedy and a financial disaster.

Name: Louise Sloan

Date: March 4, 2026 11:15:55 am

As proposed, the ballroom competes with the White House instead of being a graceful addendum. This will make it an eyesore instead of an improvement. I urge you to have architects rethink the design in terms of size, scale, and the way in which it marries with the White House. Having a ballroom— or any addition —seem to dwarf such an important building does not work.

Name: Nicholas & Adrienne S.

Date: March 4, 2026 11:16:24 am

Regardless of the fact that the construction of an east wing ballroom can be by funded by donations, who will be paying for the long term maintenance? Unless there is a clear crucial purpose for a ballroom, American citizens should NOT foot the bill for something that is NOT essential for running our government. Government operations are NOT business transactions and should not be treated as such. In addition, proper procedures are required for doing renovations on historic buildings. Thank you.

Name: Andrew Kirmse

Date: March 4, 2026 11:16:24 am

The proposed ballroom is gaudy, tasteless, and completely out of character with the history of Washington DC. A future administration will have to spend a lot of taxpayer money to undo this un-American insult to architecture.

Name: Nicole Bonito

Date: March 4, 2026 11:17:18 am

Thank you for allowing public comments regarding the White House changes. The demolition of the East Wing and proposed ballroom presented by President Trump is reflective of the current administration's disregard for norms, values and the people of this country. The proposed ballroom is an oversized, gaudy and tacky design that does not fit with the thoughtful planning of DC. It is not only an eyesore, it is also not reflective of the core values of our country and that this is the People's House not the Palace of Versailles. The White House is meant to be a reminder to all, Presidents included, of the core values of our democracy. Allowing the construction of this eyesore would overshadow the existing White House, negatively impact the balance of the structure and condone a would-be dictators gross behaviors. This building is supposed to represent WE THE PEOPLE, a government of the people, for the people, not the delusions of grandeur of a narcissistic, egotistical, dimwitted fascist. Please reign in the construction of the demolished East Wing and restore the symbol of our country.

Name: Dennis Rodgers

Date: March 4, 2026 11:17:38 am

Complete waste of taxpayer money. There was no need for this wasteful project what-so-ever. This project should be stopped, and the money diverted to something that will actually benefit the American people.

Name: Kelly Whitton

Date: March 4, 2026 11:17:41 am

I'm writing to express my concern regarding NCPC's proposed preliminary and FINAL approval of the White House East Wing "Modernization" Project when no final plans exist. Furthermore, no existing or approved master plan exists for this

campus, which should have triggered NCPC's process for delegated review. Just because the President of the United States is involved does not mean that a Commission, which was chartered by act of Congress, should violate its own rules and processes.

It is also deeply concerning that this project, which included wholesale demolition of the (formerly) existing East Wing, was segmented to avoid NCPC review for either master planning or new construction. That the project is billed as a "Modernization" of a wholly demolished building under the POTUS' jurisdiction to "repair" facilities is a generous interpretation at best, and a willful circumnavigation of authorities and processes at worst.

Name: Robert Berra Jr

Date: March 4, 2026 11:17:44 am

I am writing to express my opposition to the travesty our current President wishes to make of the White House, replacing the venerable East Wing with yet another gaudy showpiece, vulgar and completely at odds with the dignity of the White House and the Presidency. This proposal is a vain embarrassment to the nation, and should be rejected out of hand. The East Wing should be rebuilt as it was, with appropriate modernization but no visible change, and legislation enacted to prevent future desecrations of this sort.

The President needs to be reminded that he is a public servant, not a king. He cannot rule by decree; he is merely first among equals, and the White House is not *his* house, it is the *people's* house, and the people do not wish it to become a monument to his unlimited ego.

Name: Michelle Sivilich Damien

Date: March 4, 2026 11:17:50 am

As a professional that has worked in archaeology and historic preservation for almost 30 years, the wholesale destruction of our national heritage is appalling and illegal. All future work needs to cease immediately and not restoration should begin until all of the proper channels are restored to their functioning role prior to this administrations illegal capture of these overseeing agencies.

Name: Priya Chhaya

Date: March 4, 2026 11:18:07 am

I have always been inspired by the intentional design and symbolism of our nation's capital. After reviewing, listening, and learning about the East Wing Modernization project I am extremely concerned by the lack of planning and forethought going into the structure that will replace the demolished East Wing. In both size, function, and scale it will break the historic design of the city and will visually damage the symbolic line of sight between the People's House and the Capitol Building.

Our democracy only works through checks and balances, and when the city was laid out that balance of power was considered in how these two buildings were laid out on the city grid. This Ballroom's design as it stands removes that critical reminder for all who work for the people of the United States. While a symbolic view, this (seemingly rushed and ostentatious) structure will destroy what was a thoughtful design into something that feels incongruous with the historic building not only by towering over the White House but also by ignoring basic modern day design standards (no clear accounting for ADA, height levels etc).

I ask NCPC to be thoughtful in consideration of the plan as it has currently been presented. If this project goes forward, let's at least do it correctly rather than in a fashion that disregards the importance and integrity of the White House and our nation.

Name: Roberta Wieder

Date: March 4, 2026 11:18:20 am

As a United States citizen from my birth in 1947, I have observed, appreciated and respected "the people's house". I especially appreciated Jacqueline Kennedy's extensive historical and aesthetic restoration of the White House which included acquiring the antiques that were originally part of the White House. Her rose garden was a beloved feature of the

restoration. The classic architecture of the White House has been part of the American soul. My comments here are inadequate to express my disgust for the illegal and hideous monstrosity which has been paid for by illegal contributions which behold the American people to previously unimaginable gift and favoritism which we will owe the billionaire donors. It is an incredibly sad day for the United States. I feel so small and insignificant. Your excellent presentation unveiled the gauche monstrosity which will be in our faces forever. Now that this ballroom has been illegally and immorally allowed, a future President could build an even larger monument to himself or herself and eclipse our entire "people's house". I appreciate all that you're doing to save our White House in its classical architectural style.

Name: Jeannette Truxillo

Date: March 4, 2026 11:18:22 am

As an American Citizen and member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, I am very concerned that the size and mass of the proposed White House Ballroom will threaten the historic integrity of the L'Enfant plan for the Capital city of Washington, D.C. Your own comprehensive plan (Extending the Legacy for the 21st Century) has stated the importance of honoring the basic spatial/axial organization of L'Enfant's design.

If the WH Ballroom is built as proposed, its interior dimensions of 22,000 sq. ft would not only be 47% larger than the industry standard (per David Scott Parker, FAIA one of our member Architects) it will also push the building in the way of the viewshed from the Capital building. The addition of the "South Portico" as planned would further this threat. Reducing the interior dimensions to 15,000 sq. ft would reflect the highest standard, still serve 1,000 people comfortably seated, and allow the viewshed to the Capital.

I agree with the need for an event space such as a Ballroom on the grounds of the White House that would provide opportunities for celebrations we can all be proud of. However, please, reconsider approving this plan as proposed, and instead request a revision.

Name: M Gilbertson

Date: March 4, 2026 11:18:54 am

Firstly, heritage and culture are the basis for any federal capitol structure. With the luxury (so unanticipated by any majority of citizens) of real time access to public space construction for the single most important USA structure, it is imperative to seek balance of scale as well as long view sustainability. I observe the ceiling/roofline excessive aesthetically and consequential to wasted hvac, noise, illumination and exterior scale. The sub level must not be greater ceiling height either, to avoid upper floor expanse. Human comfort and impression on entering or entertaining such a space should not be more than standard ratios of prior east Room or main WHO. The subdued historic simple elegance and appreciation of vintage design and appeal are top of mind.

No exterior lighting beyond current WHO use, no heavy pediments or colonnade should weigh the boxy effect this mammoth 'box' appears to suggest. The light touch of our forebears is the key tool!

Please please honor them and our legacy. I prefer this project not be underway, disapproving the processes evading review and priority of administering our government executive branch.

The secondary impact on the East Potomac Golf Course begs no discussion as the act disregards all categories of disposal compliance and civic preservation on a site of public access.

I pray for willing committee leaders to prevail in this singular re-branding of our peoples house.

In appreciation for all comment accesses. As a well-travelled, enthusiastic city dweller of DC for years, I uphold our commitment to our earliest heritage sites - as is.

M G

Name: Patrick Fisher

Date: March 4, 2026 11:19:40 am

The lack of public communication and public input during the planning process for the East Wing Modernization Project is wrong.

I have never witnessed the Federal government so completely disrespect the people of the United States through its

callous disregard for the views of its own citizens.

First, the building that was torn down belonged to the people of the United States.

By what authority was the investment made in this building since its construction discarded? A valuable property has been razed to the ground and the tax dollars that paid for it are lost through its destruction.

Who authorized this wanton destruction?

Second, the historical value of the East Wing is incalculable. Beyond be a center of operations for past administrations since its construction, events occurred within its walls that are now part of world history. This context to historical events is now lost.

By what authority was this historic building ordered destroyed?

What was it not protected under applicable laws? Have laws been broken?

It is obvious that an independent investigation must occur to ascertain the answers to these two questions.

Until then, ALL WORK MUST CEASE at the White House.

The legality of what this administration has done and is planning to do must be determined. Have crimes have been committed?

Does the Untied States remain a country of laws?

Sincerely,
Patrick Lee Fisher

Name: Mary WALLACE
Date: March 4, 2026 11:20:50 am

White House Ballroom

Move ballroom further back on lot so it doesnt obscure view of White House.

Name: Karen Huang
Date: March 4, 2026 11:22:02 am

The east wing should never have been suddenly demolished as it was. The proposed replacement is a disgustingly tacky gold-plated monstrosity that must not be built. It sends the wrong message and will be exceedingly costly in maintenance, repair, and reputation for decades to come.

Name: Kathy Lincoln
Date: March 4, 2026 11:22:36 am

I do not support the East Wing Modernization Project. All of my 75 years I have admired and felt proud of our classical, and not overly ostentatious, White House. The beautiful symmetry has already been destroyed. Don't let a monstrous monument to greed and ego be constructed on this hallowed and precious property.

Kathy Lincoln
Salem, Oregon

Name: James Russiello

Date: March 4, 2026 11:22:56 am

Dear Members of the Commission:

As a professional preservationist with nearly two decades of experience in the field of historic preservation, I write to express my opposition to the current ballroom design proposal for the White House. Specifically, I am concerned that the proposed massing, height, scale, and overall volume would detract from the architectural integrity, historic character, and symbolic significance of the White House and its surrounding complex.

The White House is not only an architectural landmark of exceptional importance, but also a powerful national symbol. Any addition to this historic complex must be approached with the utmost sensitivity to its established proportions, material character, and spatial relationships. In my professional judgment, the current proposal does not meet this threshold and risks diminishing the coherence and dignity of the existing composition.

I also wish to express my support for the thoughtful and critical analysis provided by David Scott Parker, FAIA, in his February 18, 2026 letter to the Commission. His assessment raises substantive concerns regarding compatibility and appropriateness that merit careful consideration.

Furthermore, I believe that referring to this undertaking as the “East Wing Modernization Project” is misleading. As the former structure has been demolished, the proposal constitutes new construction rather than a modernization of an existing building. Transparency in terminology is essential in matters of public trust, particularly when interventions affect a site of such national importance.

I submit these comments in my personal capacity as a citizen and preservation professional, and not on behalf of my employer of the past decade, the Landmarks Preservation Commission of the City of New York. I meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards for Architectural Historian.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Respectfully submitted,
James Russiello

Name: Bernadette Artus

Date: March 4, 2026 11:23:28 am

Later additions to significant historic buildings should be designed in such a way as to be harmonious and subordinate to the original structure and, unless differentiation would result in disharmony, it is preferable for the addition to be easily identifiable as not part of the original.

Harmonious and subordinate wing additions to classical style buildings, such as the White House, are typically smaller than the original building. There is nothing about the specific context, siting or history of the White House that would make adding a larger wing appropriate to the building.

Having a significantly larger and more decorative wing that is clearly seen in context with the primary historic facades of the White House would result in the new wing being dominant in the overall composition and significantly detracting from the primacy of the historic building, instead of the addition being harmonious or subordinate.

I strongly oppose the construction of a new East Wing that is or appears to be as large or larger than the original building because this would greatly diminish the White House. In addition, all design details of the addition should be carefully considered to help it to be subordinate and harmonious in relation to the original building.

Name: Angele Jack

Date: March 4, 2026 11:23:35 am

After taking the opportunity to watch the excellent webinar presented by David Scott Parker and Bill Bates on the proposed ballroom plan and more reasonable alternatives, I am most forcefully struck by how outrageous the existing plan is. It is nothing short of a monument and one can only assume to whom. We can all agree that a bigger, more

functional ballroom would be an excellent addition to the White House. That said, the building in the current plan is far too big. It contains elements of size and structure that serve no purpose other than to overshadow the original White House, something that cannot be allowed. The new structure cannot be allowed to alter the carefully planned platting of Washington D.C. in 1791 under George Washington's supervision. The planned building's interference with the visual axis to the U.S. Capitol is something that cannot be ignored. Olmsted's design of the drive would also be disrupted by the immense structure. The entire design is visually repugnant. The classical design of the White House has been maintained through previous renovations and additions over the years. Balance, and respect for the main White House structure and its central importance to the American people, are ignored in this plan. The scaled down design proposed by the architects in the webinar is pleasing to the eye and is totally in keeping with the original Hoban plan for the White House and the Olmsted plan for the grounds of the White House. Please do not allow this administration to permanently alter the landscape of Washington D.C. with this building.

Name: Timothy McNally

Date: March 4, 2026 11:24:06 am

This project is an absurd and absolutely unnecessary waste to satisfy one childish man's ego. America does not need a lavish ballroom for hosting dignitaries, there are plenty of existing places for such events. We've gotten by okay for 250 years hosting events without a ballroom, as indicated by the many places hosting large scale inaugural celebrations every four years. The architectural vision and planning of our nation's capital will be forever altered in a negative way by this grotesquely opulent design. The obstruction of sight lines alone should be enough to scale back the ostentatious nature of this poor design. I am opposed to the entire project and, at the very least, outraged by its needless and costly extravagance.

Name: Robert Gordon

Date: March 4, 2026 11:24:13 am

Since the President has stated the renovations for the east wing will be funded by private donors he should be required to place the funds in an escrow account. This would ensure the funds need are available no matter what without using tax payer's funds.

Name: Catherine Schau

Date: March 4, 2026 11:24:40 am

This entire ballroom project is an insult to the American people. The White House is OUR house. It is not a toy to be carelessly renovated and partially demolished at the whim of one man. Stop the project. Repair the damage. Cease this idiocy. Bring back and protect our beautiful national grounds and structures.

Name: Susan Kostas

Date: March 4, 2026 11:25:19 am

The White House ballroom addition is a terrible idea—especially now, as the demolition phase is already underway and the damage to this historic site is actively unfolding. The project violates core principles of historic preservation, which exist to protect nationally significant landmarks from unnecessary alteration and irreversible loss. Adding this "grand" ballroom is a gauche display of excess that undermines the dignity and architectural integrity of a building meant to serve as a symbol of the American public, not a backdrop for extravagance. Even worse, the donor funds driving this effort could be making an immediate, meaningful difference by say: improving D.C.'s public schools, expanding affordable housing, and supporting community programs that strengthen the city. It is not too late to stop this and halt further destruction and preserve the White House for future generations.

Name: Joy Lozano

Date: March 4, 2026 11:26:22 am

President Trump has pushed this ballroom project on the citizens of our country with no approval from Congress or the people they represent. I ask that this process be followed. This size of this ballroom is offensive as is Trump's taste in interior decor.

Name: Olivia Nagel

Date: March 4, 2026 11:27:06 am

As a Washington, DC native I have great respect for the heart of our nation's capital, and have learned its history is significant in the plans of Lafayette. Architectural proportion is key to the beauty, history, and scale of city. I was born in the late 1950's and have a family member who was instrumental in the Pennsylvania Avenue Redevelopment Initiative. I have watched the video reviewing President Trump's proposed ball room and appreciate the explanations of the detailed plans. It's clear the president's design is entirely wrong for the White House.

At this time I must register for the record that President Trump taking a wrecking ball to the East Wing was not legal and wholly disregarded the fact that the White House and all Federal buildings are not his personal property. He, like all other presidents are just passing through. That said, he has broken what I consider to be a sacred trust to respect our nation's treasures, or to work with leading experts to care and thoughtfully manage our treasures. The president has shown us he does not respect our federal buildings or the laws surrounding them.

The president's proposed ball room is not needed, nor wanted. He must be removed from any process to build anything or alter any of the physical facilities at the White House or grounds. That said, the ball room is entirely too large in scale. It has been poorly thought through, with the massive 5 foot columns blocking views to an inaccessible terrace, and fake doors. Its floor heights are strange and again not in balance with the clean elegant and understated federal design of the White House. Restraint is needed and not in the president's vocabulary, as seen in the Oval office, but nevertheless plainly called for. I am particularly concerned that this ball room will be built and the next administration with congressional oversight will have to tear it down, all a waste of everybody's time, attention and money. It's a folly of immeasurable expense. Like the Kennedy Center, the White House is a sacred trust, which should not be commandeered for President Trump's personal use.

Please do not agree to build this ball room. Please hire appropriate architects with deep historical knowledge to start from scratch to correct what is clearly a disaster, and to carefully design a replacement for the destroyed United States property.

Name: Sandra Clothier

Date: March 4, 2026 11:27:33 am

The proposal for the new East Wing of the White House is extremely problematic on several levels. I appreciate that this President wants to leave something for the future, that will stand as a testimony to his vision, but this is a terribly Historic structure. It is "the People's House", and as such any changes must be carefully considered.

The first, and most glaring issue, is the size of the proposed building; as others have noted, this ballroom will feel vast and empty most of the time, even when as many as 1,000 people are gathered there. This will not enhance the space, but make it feel extremely unused, and sparse. Additionally, there is no way to adequately divide it for smaller groups.

The Portico is not accessible, and does not fit in contextually with the rest of the White House. Also, the new ballroom area will obscure any view of the main area of the White House, thus redefining its space as a place to gather large groups rather than the home of the President of the United States, and his/her primary offices.

If we truly want this building to move into the future, it needs to respect the building that already exists, not overwhelm it or dismiss it as irrelevant. The proposed structure does both overwhelm and dismiss the current White House.

I urge a more thoughtful, careful analysis of the needs that will be addressed by this structure, and how to incorporate those needs into a sensitive and respectful design.

Name: Kristin O'Connell

Date: March 4, 2026 11:27:38 am

Very late-- after demolition has occurred-- to get public input. In general I believe private individuals have the right to develop their property within the guidelines of planning and zoning regulations. In this case, the temporary occupant of the publicly held property has been given free reign- in a way no landlord would ever allow. So, at the very least at this late stage, the well known principles of historic preservation should apply- scale and massing, subordination, symmetry and timelessness. As a public project (no matter who is financing it, though that is another problem), they should/could pause and put out for design competition like other monuments and memorials. The NCPC and National Trust for Historic Preservation, AIA should oversee the design of these projects. The temporary tenant should NOT be able to do whatever he/they want with OUR national treasures and public places. This disappointing start could be remedied with proper guidance and oversight.

Name: HOLLIE Petillo

Date: March 4, 2026 11:27:52 am

I am tempted to say that this ballroom project is awful just because Trump is behind it. In the interests of fairness, I will say that I actually agree - the White House does need a larger entertaining space, and the idea of the ballroom in and of itself isn't a terrible one.

What is being planned, however, is not a ballroom. It is a monument to ego that overshadows the White House. You are familiar with the White House? It's the structure that is referred to as THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE. It is not, nor has it ever, been intended to be a monument celebrating one person's fantasies of power and historical greatness.

There is no reason that a building meant to host parties should overshadow the most important residence in America. This is the residence that used to hold the leader of the free world. Now it holds a man who wants his fake gold legacy to overwrite everything that came before.

The fact that demolition has already occurred and that this commission, like the US Commission of Fine Arts, is stacked with people who kowtow to President Trump, tells me that your voting will also be unanimous in favor of this eyesore.

You are selling your country, its history, and your fellow citizens down the river to curry favor with a small, cruel, profoundly tacky man. I hope every member who votes yes to this thing is haunted by it. I hope you see it looming over the White House in every photo, on every newscast, casting its ugly shadow long after this president is gone. And when you do see it, I hope you feel a little bit of shame for your role in cheapening America's collective history. But you won't.

Name: Patrick Fisher

Date: March 4, 2026 11:28:19 am

I am submitting my comment a second time since the browser sent my previous comment in before I finished writing it. Thank you.

The lack of public communication and public input during the planning process for the East Wing Modernization Project is wrong.

I have never witnessed the Federal government so completely disrespect the people of the United States through its callous disregard for the views of its own citizens.

First, the building that was torn down belonged to the people of the United States.

By what authority was the investment made in this building since its construction discarded? A valuable property has been razed to the ground and the tax dollars that paid for it are lost through its destruction.

Who authorized this wanton destruction?

Second, the historical value of the East Wing is incalculable. Beyond be a center of operations for past administrations since its construction, events occurred within its walls that are now part of world history. This context to historical events is now lost.

By what authority was this historic building ordered destroyed?

Why was it not protected under applicable laws? Have laws been broken?

It is obvious that an independent investigation must occur to ascertain the answers to these two questions.

Until then, ALL WORK MUST CEASE at the White House.

The legality of what this administration has done and is planning to do must be determined. Have crimes been committed?

Does the United States remain a country of laws?

Sincerely,
Patrick Lee Fisher

Name: Ann Marie Lowers

Date: March 4, 2026 11:28:20 am

I have reviewed the available plans for the White House East Wing Modernization Project and would like to submit my opinions and comments.

1. Sadly, the East Wing was demolished prior to any approved plan for its reconstruction. I object to this occurrence strongly.
2. The size of the proposed ballroom with its 3 floors, abnormally high ceilings, and dead spaces such as the South Portico are severely out of proportion to any functional entertaining space, and dwarf the original and main White House structure. I do not approve of the plans thus far submitted.
3. The ceiling height and size of the ballroom will not be conducive to comfortable entertainment. Sound will not carry well in such a large space or will make participation unpleasant for guests.
4. The large ceilings for the kitchen area will also make this space dysfunctional for proper ventilation and overall function of the work space. Vent cleaning, etc will be an issue and require cherry picker equipment for such high ceilings. Changing a lightbulb will become an major issue.
5. Has parking and traffic flow at the East Entrance been addressed for the gathering of 1000 or more guests at the Ballroom? I have not seen any plans for this in the proposal.
6. The number of elevators required for staff and guests to access the ballroom space also does not make sense to me.
7. The White House should always be the most prominent part of the structure and not the ballroom. Please rescale it so that the White House and the view to the Capital building are not obscured. The historical preservation of the view of both iconic structures is paramount to the history of our capital city.
8. With the East Wing demolition, we need to rebuild, but we need to rebuild while preserving all of the architectural history of the current White House, the historical plans for the city, and with respect to maintaining the classical architectural rules of design. The building must function well for its purpose for kitchen staff, security staff, and guests. As drawn and proposed, there are a lot of problems with beauty and function.

Name: Jared Huffman

Date: March 4, 2026 11:28:24 am

The attached letter from U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources Ranking Member Jared Huffman was sent to the National Park Service on March 4, 2026. The letter expresses opposition to the East Wing Modernization Project and proposed plans for a White House Ballroom.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Mark Platts

Date: March 4, 2026 11:28:40 am

The current Administration's plan for replacing the improperly demolished East Wing of the White House is substantially oversized, over-scaled, and inconsistent with the historic integrity of the Peoples' House. While the need for additional event space may be justified, the design, scale, and placement of that space is exceptionally important to the historic character of the White House has must be acceptable to the American People. Yet, the project started without any public input or review and was contrary to the processes used for all earlier changes to the site by previous Administrations. Nothing should be built that takes away from the grandeur of the Executive Mansion or dominates the landscape to the detriment of this National Historic Landmark. However, the East Wing replacement plan does all of these things. It's too big, too tall, and too grandiose for the retrained dignity of the existing White House complex. This is most evident with three design elements: 1) The huge south portico and massive arrangement of columns and steps should be removed. These features compete with and overwhelm the restrained South Portico of the Executive Mansion, the steps lead nowhere, and the southward extension of the new East Wing to accommodate them further blocks the historic L'Enfant-designed vista from the Capitol to the White House. 2) The new wing is too tall and the new ballroom is disconnected from the White House grounds. Offices and event support spaces should be below grade, like the main White House, with the ballroom at-grade, from which guests can easily flow into the grounds when weather permits. This will lower the

profile of the new wing and reduce its negative visual impact on the historic White House. 3) The 2nd story enclosed walkway over the new East Colonnade connection to the ballroom has to go. It's been the least talked about but most negatively impacting feature of the project. It destroys the current balanced design of the West and East Colonnades and will turn the wonderful East Room of the Executive Mansion (where Lincoln lay in state!) into a simple foyer for the new ballroom. Restoring the ground level connection from the White House to the new East Wing is essential. Please take your responsibilities seriously and consider these revisions to the current plan and don't just be a rubber stamp for the grandiose dreams of the current Administration. Thank you.

Name: Linda Crosby, ASID

Date: March 4, 2026 11:28:55 am

Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am a retired Space Planner/Interior Designer and concerned about the President's requirements for the "grand ballroom" at the White House. The request for a larger space dedicated to State Dinners and diplomatic functions is necessary. However, the proposed expansion of the east wing is not in proportion or scale of the existing White House nor the surrounding parks and government buildings.

According to the AIA standards, each person should be allotted 15 square feet for seated dining. The space required for 999 guests is 14,985 sf. If 25% or 3,746 sf is added to the total for ancillary space a total of 18,731 sf is far less than the proposed 90,000 sf.

Occasions that exceed 999 guests, such as the Inaugural Ball, and other formal events hosted by the President can be hosted remotely. Currently the Building Museum-Great Hall and the Washington Hilton-International Ballroom both accommodate 1,000 plus guests and are used for that purpose. Both locations can be secured for occupants.

The following tenets of the original Washington, DC city planners should be preserved;

- George Washington, the city planner Peter Charles L'Enfant and architect James Hoban's vision of scale and proportion avoiding the appearance of a monarchy. It was meant to be dignified, not palatial—visible but not overpowering the Capitol
 - The proposed 90,000 sf expansion prohibits a visual connection between the White House and the Capital down Pennsylvania Avenue, a direct visual and symbolic link between the executive and legislative branches of government
 - Scale in proportion to the existing White House, its park-like lawn and surrounding government buildings will be in direct conflict with the founding fathers' vision
- Please reconsider the size of the "grand ballroom" before it is too late.

Respectfully,

Linda Crosby, ASID

Name: Anne Royer

Date: March 4, 2026 11:28:59 am

The proposed ballroom is out of proportion to the existing White House property. The structure should meet the main purpose of a large flexible space, it does not need to be massive to fulfill its intended function.

Name: Megan Clayton

Date: March 4, 2026 11:29:18 am

Everything about this is disgusting: building design, interior decor, and most important of all, total disregard of procedures. We couldn't stop the demolition but we sure as hell should prevent the construction of Trump's ballroom.

Name: Carrol Firmage

Date: March 4, 2026 11:29:24 am

This building is just a gold-plated vanity project for Donald Trump. It is not his building, it belongs to the people of the United States. It is not in keeping with the rest of the White House, and a ballroom is just pretentious. It exemplifies the graft and greed of a second Gilded Age like nothing else could. The current plans are an abomination to the American

people, and the East Wing should be restored as much as possible to its original plan. The White House is a temporary abode for the president who is elected by the people and not a place for building a monument to the current inhabitant.

Name: Amy Dishman

Date: March 4, 2026 11:29:30 am

As a registered commercial interior designer and board member of my local Historic Preservation Association, I am appalled by the proposed addition to the White House. The White House is the People's House and is one of, if not the most, important National Historic Landmarks of this country. There is clear guidance for construction projects that affect historic properties that require additions to not "destroy the historic fabric of the property" and that the work should be "compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale, proportion, and massing,"

The proposed addition's massive size will block the vista of the White House from Pennsylvania Avenue as designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant. It will cover the east Palladian window and upper floor arched sitting room window. And perhaps most importantly, it will dwarf the Executive Residence, which is 55,000 square feet, which would not respect the historic primary importance of the Residence which has always been larger than the East and West wings.

To put it into a clear context, the proposed addition is the same size as a 3-story, 246 bed residence hall I recently designed. I understand the need for a larger event space, but 90,000 square feet is inexplicable and frankly unjustified when a typical US State Dinner hosts 120 to 300 guests. Even tented events only accommodate 400 people at the most. This can be achieved with a room at roughly 6 percent of the proposed size (6,000 square feet). Even if you wanted to make the argument that events need to double in size, the demolished East Wing was roughly 12,000 sq ft. This size would comfortably seat 800 for a banquet.

The revised plans still need to reduce the overall size and visibility of the addition. The volume and mass of the project should be reduced or disguised by placing portions under ground so as to appear smaller than the Executive Residence.

The footprint should be altered to protect key views and not extend past the existing south-facing facade.

The addition should retain the classically balanced design of the White House complex with its two smaller, lower, and substantially symmetrical East and West Wings.

The connection to the colonnade to the Executive Residence should protect and preserve the original historic materials of the east facade of the Executive Residence and should not cover or demolish the existing detailing of the east facade.

The proposed portico on the south facade should be smaller and less grand in scale than the existing portico on the south facade of the Executive Residence.

Materials, symmetry, and details such as using the correct Ionic column type should be used to respect and be compatible with the Georgian and neoclassical architectural principles of the historic property.

On the eve of the 250th Anniversary of our country's declaring our independence from a tyrannical monarch and parliament that continually ignored the will of its citizens and practiced egregious overreach into the governance of the colonies, I urge you to consider the deep reverence that all Americans hold for this historic place. It has never been more relevant or important in representing our nation's history. Ignoring, disgracing, and erasing that sacred history for future generations of Americans would be a truly tyrannical act against the American people.

Name: Wendy Radin

Date: March 4, 2026 11:29:31 am

I am against the project of replacing the East Wing with an outsized ballroom. Also, the project commission needs to be replaced by qualified designers, architects and academics of all persuasions who will judge the proposed design based on specific qualifications, not just a commission chosen by President Trump who will approve of whatever he wants to do. I am particularly concerned about how much this building will cost us annually to maintain and that includes the cost of heating and cooling. He should raise enough money for an endowment that will cover these costs. Furthermore, how often will a ballroom of this size be used? - it makes absolutely no sense.

Trump was elected as President, not as our real estate developer in residence. His brand and style does not represent the People of the United States. Please put a stop to this project so it can be replaced with a project which is utilitarian, classic and dignified that represents the People, and not some golden monstrosity that is Trump's idea of a monument to

himself.
Thank you,
Wendy Radin
Peterborough, NH

Name: howard hebel

Date: March 4, 2026 11:30:06 am

I am writing in response to plans recently proposed for a new East Wing ballroom for the White House, which I have viewed both online in the news media, and in a detailed public presentation by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the American Institute of Architects. As a US citizen and as a licensed architect I vehemently oppose the plans as currently constituted, for three types of reasons.

First, from a historical perspective, the large size and forward position of the proposed wing blocks the view of the original central White House building from the Capitol, the one design requirement for the White House stipulated by George Washington himself in order to symbolize the teamwork he envisioned between Legislative and Executive branches of the new governmental organization he helped develop. In so doing, it reverses the site design developed subsequently by landscape architect F. L. Olmstead, who planned for a large wing to the west and a much smaller wing to the east in order to respect and preserve Washington's original concept and its symbolism.

Second, from social and political perspectives, the sheer size and opulence of the proposed design, together with the extent to which it dwarfs the Presidential residence, makes a mockery of the notion that the President is a public servant. It represents rather that the President is a wealthy autocrat with a gold-plated, elite lifestyle, the largest wing of whose home is a venue for selling influence, for monetizing the Office of the Presidency, for convening million-dollar-a-plate fundraisers to which ordinary voters would never be admitted (and with the currently announced seating capacity of 1,350 people, that would mean \$1.35 billion per such event). This symbolism could not be more abhorrent to a nation founded on the self-evident principle that all people are created equal.

Third, from an architectural perspective, the design of the ballroom wing employs Classicism incoherently. Classicism is not just a "style" but an architectural language, developed and perfected over 2,500 years. When deployed effectively, it communicates clearly the purpose of a building, the location of its entrance, circulation routes through its interior, activities intended for its spaces, and even the values revered by Western Civilization to be transmitted to subsequent generations. The proposed ballroom does not use Classicism to communicate clearly. It combines Classical elements in ways that contradict each other's meanings. And it employs them in ways that show a lack of architectural literacy and design talent too. For example, there are grand public steps leading to a monumental porch with fake doors, all of which seem to welcome entrance but which block it instead, like playing a sick joke on ordinary citizens not invited to the fundraisers inside. The disproportionate scale of the ballroom wing outweighs the central pavilion of the residence rather than deferring to its central role and meaning. Fake windows instead of ornamental panels or architectural orders decorate wall areas where interior uses do not need windows. The result is architectural gibberish which would constitute a national embarrassment if built as proposed. Thomas Jefferson, who created our nation's first original architectural style (Federalism), and understood and practiced Classicism masterfully, would be appalled at such architectural incompetence.

If constructed as proposed, this ballroom wing would transform "the People's House" into an autocrat's palace, memorializing to the world that, after 250 years, as a nation we have forgotten or abandoned the Democracy we were trying to become.

Howard Charles Hebel AIA

Name: Tara Latawic

Date: March 4, 2026 11:30:21 am

I dislike the current plans for the East Wing. The proposed building is overly large with a portico that has no real functional purpose. It also destroys the historic design for both the White House and for the lines of site to the White House. The new building design is too large in comparison with the White House. The ballroom is so large that only the largest events could be held there. And as a resident of Connecticut, I object to the grounds designed by Frederick Law Olmstead being destroyed by the new ballroom.

Another issue that I have seen no commentary on is how much will it cost to maintain and staff this building.

In summary, I would prefer the ballroom to be built elsewhere if at all. At a minimum if it has to be constructed on the White House grounds, I would like a much smaller building.

Name: Susan Berry

Date: March 4, 2026 11:30:37 am

I strongly urge you to adopt the measures outlined by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to mitigate the most extreme harms the east wing design would inflict on the White House, its historic grounds and its visual connection with the Capitol. The plan's utter disrespect for the integrity and historical richness of our highest national treasures is especially appalling as the U. S. prepares to observe its 250th anniversary. It is a crude, heavy-handed mockery of the classical architecture our forefathers embraced to reflect the highest ideals of democracy. Having been active in preservation work for over four decades, my heart breaks for the literal and symbolic loss this means for our people.

Name: Amanda Sutphin

Date: March 4, 2026 11:30:51 am

Please do not approve the proposed design. The approximately 90,000 square foot footprint will dwarf the White House which is an essential icon of the United States. If that much space is really needed, then it should be buried below ground so that it will not take away from the People's House. Again, please do not approve this design.

Name: Anne Luse

Date: March 4, 2026 11:31:04 am

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important project and for your willingness to consider the opinions of a person who is not an architect or a designer, either of cities, buildings or rooms. I am not an artist and have little experience with critiquing art or the designs and plans of others, certainly not professionals. But I know what I like and I can see imbalance and recognize disparity and vulgarity.

The current plan does not respect the history of or message to be conveyed to others by "the people's house" or the capital of our country. For me to speak about incongruous "proportions" or inconsistent "designs" is silly because these issues can be seen by anyone with the naked eye. The extreme size of the new wing and it's unnecessary and inharmonious exterior are also easy to recognize. It obstructs the view from the Capital building and undermines the original design of the city and White House campus, which in part represents the nature of the American system of government. The useless "portico" with no entrance to the interior looks to be "tacked on" as an attempt to counterfeit the grace and beauty of the original White House portico without the talent or restraint or ability to duplicate it. The representations I have seen of the interior appear to be excessively elaborate and overly ornate. The current plans remind me of a child playing with a doll or toy and plastering every type of decoration onto it, leaving a discordant mess that only appeals to an immature mind, or to someone who feels the need to suggest to the world their feelings of strength and superiority because they deeply feel they are actually weak and inferior. It is vulgar and tasteless, trashy and garish. The excessive gilding is gaudy and flamboyant and certainly does not reflect our Founders well nor clearly represent the history and effort of the American people. It appears to be a poorly executed effort to duplicate the "PALACES" of Old Europe, and this is what I feel is its biggest problem.

Our ancestors came to America to escape the power and domination of the people who lived in and ruled from those palaces. They worked hard and sacrificed much to settle here. They lived simply because they had no choice. Rustic homes, both above ground and below. Our Founders, writing our Constitution, attempted to honor and recognize and celebrate the effort of those people, and they almost sacrificed their own lives doing so. They wished, and fought, for Americans to never again be obligated to submit to the kind of power represented by those palaces. They would be horrified to think that the American people have come to a point where conveying the American Spirit of hard work, dedication, exceptional effort, uniting to care for each other, working together to reach common goals, and freedom of choice whether speech or religion, had required the building of a PALACE. This new "ballroom" or new "wing" is simply UNAMERICAN. Thank you for considering my comments. Anne Luse March 4, 2026

Name: Frank Lipo

Date: March 4, 2026 11:31:08 am

Even the title of this project is deceptive and dishonest. The East Wing is not being "modernized." It was demolished before proper permits were applied for and received. That is not best practice across the United States of America, Washington D.C. or for the White House. We are a nation of laws and this project violated proper procedures as required by statute. The White House is the "People's House" and each new president is only a temporary occupant.

As for the proposed 1,000-seat Ballroom, its scale and design details overpower the White House. It is too large, too gaudy and designed to be a statement of raw power instead of a structure that is compatible with the White House. I could continue to add many details, but until the project is reduced in size, the details are lost in the inappropriate scale of the proposed "addition."

Please reject the project as proposed and require a scaled down plan that respects the history and sense of place of our White House.

Name: Steewart Stroup

Date: March 4, 2026 11:31:25 am

The "modernization" project is proceeding far too quickly for such a consequential change. The decisions made during this process must be made with adequate deliberation and the input of diverse voices and not based on the whims of a single individua

Name: Lisa Reilly

Date: March 4, 2026 11:31:32 am

The building should never have been razed. The new one needs to fit in architecturally, and not up to a president. This is the people's house.

Also, this project should be halted as it was initiated without proper channels. This is a public building regardless of who funds it. Private briberies do not make up for lack of public oversight.

Name: Katherine Kingsbury

Date: March 4, 2026 11:32:24 am

Respectfully, the East Wing was fine in its own, didn't need to be modernized and we don't need a ballroom. It is a blight on what I thought was The People's House, destroying history, ripping up landscape for a gilded monstrosity with plush gold curtains. I implore you to stop the construction.

Name: Sherry Morrison

Date: March 4, 2026 11:33:13 am

The East Wing Modernization Project is horrible and the plans look gaudy and tacky. The founders of this country were common people and didn't want to have anything to do with flashy monarchy style. What is planned to be erected flies in the face of our country's history. I beg that you stop this horrible plan and rebuild the East Wing as it was originally. There is no need for this monstrosity.

Sherry Morrison

Name: Kirsten Freeman

Date: March 4, 2026 11:34:06 am

Hello,

My name is Kirsten Freeman. I work as an architectural historian and have roughly ten years of experience related to historic preservation. I am contacting you to express my concern over the proposed design for the new White House ballroom. My main concern is the scale of this project, which overtakes the nearby White House and throws off the balance of the property. The White House was designed in the Classical style and while the new ballroom addition on the surface claims to match this style, it completely disregards much of the principals which define this style and its foundation. Put simply, the design looks silly, unresearched, and designed by someone without knowledge on such aesthetic traditions and principals. Additionally, the building disrupts the planning and design of L'Enfant by changing the federal buildings relation to each other and also changes the landscape designed by Olmsted.

I truly hope that careful consideration will be taken when deciding how this proposed building will affect the design and the careful placement that has gone into this and the surrounding properties of the capitol area. To change something so important should be taken seriously and thoughtfully. I hope that you will reconsider the current design and carefully select something based on what experts can weigh in on and take your time accordingly to listen others. Thank you for your time.

Name: Kevin Grimm

Date: March 4, 2026 11:34:54 am

I strongly oppose the East Wing Modernization project. It is an unnecessary vanity project which does nothing to serve the needs of the country or the Executive Office and calling the creation of Ball Room a "Modernization" simply reveals the callous, self-serving whim behind the project. The NCPC should reject this project and begin to plan the restoration of the East Wing. Any adjustments to the previous layout should be addressed by the NCPC and Congress after reviewing the history and needs of the East Wing.

Name: Margarita Mendoza

Date: March 4, 2026 11:35:14 am

This project is a travesty. It should not be allowed to go forward. Demolition of the East wing was unwarranted and unnecessary. Please stop this project.

Name: Elizabeth Wilson

Date: March 4, 2026 11:35:29 am

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very disturbed and appalled by the proposed ballroom, to be added to the White House. It is massive and completely out of proportion to the beautiful and historic White House. It eliminates the symbolic axis between the White House and the Capitol. This is consistent with Trump's apparent disdain and elimination of communication between the Executive Branch of our government and the Legislative Branch.

If a ballroom must be built, it must be scaled back so that it complements the White House and so that it maintains the axis between our branches of government. It also must be ADA accessible. It is very hard to believe that any plan for the ballroom would be accepted when access to the building for many citizens and visitors to our country would be denied due to their disabilities.

In conclusion, scale back the architectural plans so that the new wing complements the existing White House. Maintain the axis which connects the White House and the Capitol. Design the building so that it is ADA accessible. That is the law.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment on the project.

Name: Carol Schultz

Date: March 4, 2026 11:35:33 am

I am very concerned about the size of the proposed "ballroom". All of Washington D.C. is a national treasure and should maintain the classical design as intended by our earliest leaders. The view up and down Pennsylvania Avenue from the

Capitol to the White House is symbolic of our democratic form of government where the people govern. The checks and balances we built in to assure that no president can out weigh the will of the people is symbolized by this delivery line of sight between the buildings. Please take this into consideration.

Name: Joseph Urso

Date: March 4, 2026 11:36:33 am

Speaking as a professional preservationist, the demolition of the East Wing of the White House is not what concerns me. The East and West Wings are subsequent office wings which were added in 1902 under Teddy Roosevelt and are not original to the complex (though the colonnades connecting the structures are much earlier and the east colonnade should have been retained). The White House proper is the only building on the complex which is of utmost historic significance (more specifically, the exterior walls and porticos of the residence) which, thankfully, are not directly impacted by this project.

During her televised tour of the White House in 1961, First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy commented that the White House "will always grow and should," freeing projects like this from the issue of historical consent. The exception here is that the residence itself, being a protected landmark and symbol of America, cannot and should not be affected by any subsequent "growth". The White House was never meant to be a "palace," but in its more recent life, it has been under strain to host progressively larger events which can only be comfortably accommodated in such a building. For this reason, I believe a ballroom is not a completely absurd idea. I do, however, have one reservation about the current plan.

The classical design of the proposed building is appropriate and cohesive with that of the rest of the buildings, and respects the standard for style set by the residence, albeit on a grander scale. This brings me to my reservation. The size of the proposed building is far too large. The square footage of the room alone surpasses the footprint of the residence and will inappropriately dwarf and upstage the White House. Much like the style of the building, the standard for size should be determined by the residence. If the ballroom building was the size of, or smaller than the residence, I would find this proposal to be much more appropriate.

Thank you for your time.

Name: Karen Walter

Date: March 4, 2026 11:36:41 am

Hopefully, COMMON SENSE will prevail. The proposed alternative for the project, thoughtfully presented in a recent National Trust Webinar, highlights the historical significance and intentions of our Founding Father, George Washington.

The National Trust proposed design is sensitive to these historic circumstances and offers a balance of stately symmetry, so critical to this project. Yet, does not minimize the importance of this ballroom addition, which is appropriate, relevant and necessary to the diplomatic presence of our elected President now and for centuries to come.

Thank you for all of the efforts put forth by the National Trust to mitigate a potential disaster addition that would include a portico which is essentially useless. That in itself IS NOT common sense and a poorly conceptualized design.

Best of luck and may your efforts be fruitful.

Name: David Sours

Date: March 4, 2026 11:36:48 am

March 4, 2026

Hello NCPC:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

I object to calling this the "East Wing Modernization Project." Since the President unilaterally ordered bulldozers to demolish and disfigure a major part of the White House, Americans have seen this project for what it really is: An attempt at self-glorification for Donald J. Trump. Public input should have been sought BEFORE any such action.

I object to this project because to implement changes without substantial prior communication, due process, and opportunity for public input PRIOR to any irrevocable action such as demolition is about as un-American an act as I can imagine.

I also object because the President brags that the project is funded by private contributions, not taxes. First of all, I do not trust this President with any claim, and I have seen no accounting for the project reported in the media. I'd be very surprised if there were not substantial ancillary taxpayer costs associated with the project -- especially staff time and the President's time. His social media accounts suggest that he may be spending more time selecting marble fixtures and gold plating for the bathrooms than he is fulfilling his Constitutional duties.

Finally, I object to the project because this new "White House" will forever remind Americans of the man who bulldozed it while ordering the murders of Venezuelans, Iranian school children, and now Ecuadorian citizens without any justification to Congress or the American people. It will remind us of the man who ordered the military to take over our nation's capital and who tried to take over several U.S. cities, all the while attacking and deporting not only law-abiding immigrants, but also some American citizens, and whose actions are steadily adding to the number of deaths and casualties from the "collateral damage" of his policies.

If this project goes forward and the White House is altered as proposed, I will never take my grandchildren to visit it. It will be yet another Trump monstrosity. And when Donald Trump and the politicians who enable him are removed from power -- as they will be one day -- I will petition the Congress to begin a new planning process -- with the involvement of the American people -- to develop a new vision for 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue that future generations can once again be proud of.

From a patriotic American who will fight like hell to save our Democracy and our cherished institutions.

Sincerely,
David Sours
Jacksonville, Oregon

Name: Emma Lineberger
Date: March 4, 2026 11:37:11 am

I feel this project still is lacking respect and care for the historically, significant White House. While I can respect the need for a large meeting space such as a ballroom, the continued overindulgent space still looms over what should be the focus, The White House. The floor plans read to me as a lot of wasted space, haphazard design and user experience. I feel there should be continued conversations not only about the height, but the size of the ballroom itself. Currently it is almost double the size of industry standards and certainly looks to be double the size of the White House. There is no reason that this space should be this large and should massively affect the balance, landscape, and sightlines of The White House. It will spend the majority of its time empty and vacant as there is little need for massive balls to require this large of space. I am also deeply concerned that approving of this without continued conversation or adjustment to respect the public's interest in this project will all the same disrespect in future projects. The descriptions of balance and Classical influence indicate future changes to the West Wing to visually match the exaggerated grandeur of the ballroom.

Name: Christa Olenczak
Date: March 4, 2026 11:38:05 am

I vehemently oppose this project. A historic wing of the White House that belongs to THE PEOPLE was demolished without approval to build an atrocious golden ballroom. I oppose allowing this president to over \$300M on this project for his own personal use to wine and dine his billionaire friends. He has already destroyed the Rose Garden, please do not let him keep destroying the people's property. He has no right (and no taste).

Name: William Ritzler
Date: March 4, 2026 11:38:29 am

I write today as a former member of 12 years, including 3 years as chairman, of the Historic Preservation Commission in the local municipality where I reside. In this role, I was responsible for evaluating submissions and contributing to the formation of consensus-based decisions regarding exterior changes to building structures located within the local historic district in the town. I have concerns regarding the proposed ballroom facility for the east wing of the White House.

I support the many issues articulated by preservation experts associated with the National Trust of Historic Preservation, including (but not limited to):

- 1) Outsized massing and scale relative to the existing buildings in the Federal Executive Branch Complex, including the White House,
- 2) The strictly ornamental nature of the ballroom south portico that (as designed) will provide no access to the interior of the building, and
- 3) The obstruction of the iconic sightlines along Pennsylvania Avenue NW between the White House and the Capitol Building.

The National Capital Planning Commission should reject the planned ballroom in favor of alternatives that address the myriad number of concerns created by the submitted proposal.

Name: Donald Dietrich

Date: March 4, 2026 11:40:43 am

I am absolutely in favor of this modernization project to include the new "Ballroom". The time has come where the most prosperous nation in the world can entertain world leaders in a covered, secure White House facility and out from underneath tents on the lawn. It has been an embarrassment for years and well past due that this improvement be made. The fact that our current President can accomplish this at no cost to the taxpayers is a huge plus. The Commission should have taken this action years ago and the time to act is unquestionably now.

Name: Elaine Simmerman

Date: March 4, 2026 11:42:20 am

The huge size of the ballroom, the failure to follow existing historic preservation rules, the gaudy gold décor, the surprise destruction of the East Wing without public notice. It's all appalling. It no longer represents our common history, our democracy, or our taste.

Name: Cynthia Burkert

Date: March 4, 2026 11:43:10 am

As a former employee of the U. S. Department of the Interior, during which time I provided administrative support to the Commission on Fine Arts and became very familiar with their mission and projects, I am appalled that the East Wing project passed their review. The standards of review for past projects during my lifetime (the Vietnam Memorial Wall, the MLKJr Memorial, Holocaust Museum and World War II memorial, to name a few) have been conducted with a view toward the scale and proportions of each project, so that no new monument dominates the visual landscape of the Mall and adjacent properties, and maintains a harmonious coordination of materials, scale, and visual esthetic. The proposed East Wing Project violates all those principles and would create a monument only to hubris. Anything constructed to replace the sadly destroyed East Wing that sufficed for over 100 years must be constructed with a view toward the scale of the White House and its West Wing, and in my opinion should not exceed the height of the West Wing by more than 10%, nor the overall footprint by more than 15% in order to maintain the harmony of the whole. If a much larger banqueting space is required, I suggest that it be constructed underground with minimal structures above ground (for reference, the former University of Illinois - UC Main Library and the Louvre Museum), with garden spaces above it, to accommodate both the previous uses of the East Wing and future entertainment needs. The scope of those future needs should be calculated based upon a study of previous Chief Executive entertainment needs and obstacles, and not upon the desires of a single Chief Executive. Above all, the White House belongs to the people of the USA and its continuity of use is dependent upon independent review and approval. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Name: Shoshana Spielman

Date: March 4, 2026 11:44:29 am

There are more design sensitive alternatives for the White House Ballroom. It's really unbelievable what is happening there!

Name: Michael Shakarjian

Date: March 4, 2026 11:44:34 am

Dear Sir or Madam:

Regarding the reconstruction of the East Wing of the White House, America's House. As an important backdrop, this project was started by the President of the United States by tearing down the East Wing without any discussion process with other important groups, such as the National Trust of Historic Preservation, and without actually clearly indicating that he was tearing down the East Wing. That latter part was a surprise.

I have the following comments:

I've listened to a presentation by architects David Parker and William Bates hosted by the National Trust of Historic Preservation. This also allowed me to view some of the architectural plans and renderings. From this presentation I note that:

1. The planned ballroom is grandiose: In terms of square area per person, industry standard is 10 -15 square ft per person. So that would be 10 - 15,000 square feet per 1000 people for the amount of persons we have been told the ballroom is being constructed to accommodate. The design is MUCH larger than that. This would make the ballroom look sparsely filled with guests of 1000 or less. The building is unnecessarily large.
2. Ceilings are overly high - 3 floors, and the third floor has 19 ft ceiling. And it's unclear what the designated use of the third floor is.
3. Size of kitchen - unnecessarily large and ceiling too high. If it was shorter and built more into the ground, it would lower the profile of the addition and give it more proportion.
4. There appears to be no reference to ADA access.
5. Our White House has Ionic columns. The ballroom plans call for Corinthian columns, which are more formal than Ionic - the columns on the wings should defer to the central house design.
6. As you know, the White House grounds were designed by distinguished architects. Olmsted designed the grounds. Before him was L'enfant who set the site lines. There is a clear site line (like Jefferson would do at UVA) between the White House and the Capital building. The ballroom plan obscures this symbolic line of site. It's uninformed and amateurish. I note that the NCPC logo has a rendering of site lines reminiscent of Washington, DC. Thus, it's clear from your logo how important these lines are architecturally, historically, and symbolically. This plan does not reflect that.

In the real, everyday, American world, developers submit applications for buildings that are, in different aspects, inappropriate and uninformed. Every day, Planning boards, carefully review the plans and consider all of the important aspects of a new development that developers have not, or prefer not to consider. This is an example of that. The missions of the developers and the boards are different. Like these municipal planning boards, the NCPC must recognize the imperfections of these ballroom plans, both small and large and act to make sure that this plan conforms to the regulations, norms, landscape and art befitting America's House. It's a careful, meticulous task to get right, for a building of such importance to our capital and our country and the plans, as they are, are wrong.

Sincerely,

Michael Shakarjian
Milltown, NJ

Name: Daniel A Decker

Date: March 4, 2026 11:44:56 am

This project must be stopped immediately. It is crystal clear that it is an illegal action by a corrupt criminal masquerading as president.

Once he has gone, there will be consequences for all involved who allowed this blatant act of criminality to occur.

Name: Mary Ellen Lenahan

Date: March 4, 2026 11:45:26 am

[Attachment](#)

Name: Donna Corbett

Date: March 4, 2026 11:45:28 am

I am writing, as a trained historian, to express my dismay at the unnecessary and appallingly overblown proposals for a hotel-style ballroom at the White House. Hotels need ballrooms to generate revenue. They provide rental spaces for weddings and other social and corporate events. The White House – the People’s House – can offer none of these things. It is not available for rental. It is a secure government facility. And yet the proposed design exceeds the size of most hotel ballrooms!

We are told a ballroom is needed for State Dinners – yet State Dinners are increasingly rare (in his first term, the incumbent held only two or three). They are a vestige of the age of steam-powered travel, the culmination of a royal or imperial “grand tour” with a large entourage. In the 21st century, diplomacy is more commonly the province of teleconferences and fly-in/fly-out, face-to face meetings.

In fact, the only large balls regularly held in Washington, D.C., are, and always have been, inaugural balls. They are partisan events and have never been held in the White House, nor can they be held there legally! So why envision a need for an enormous crowd, requiring both pre- and on-site security screening at taxpayers' expense, in an enormous room, larger than the largest commercial ballrooms?

The White House has a ballroom. It is called the East Room. It was good enough for more than 40 presidents of the United States to use, for many purposes, without complaint.

But the most egregious part of this proposal is its disproportionate scale. The White House was designed, planned, and approved by George Washington’s design-selection committee specifically to resemble a gentleman’s house, not a royal palace nor the mansion of a prince.

Architecture has meaning. Classical and neoclassical architecture uses human dimensions for scale. (This was epitomized by Leonardo da Vinci’s “Vitruvius Man,” a human figure inscribing a square and circle.) Our American Founding Fathers chose classical architecture as most evocative for a democratic republic, where the People have a voice. But this proposal flagrantly insults neoclassical design, by adopting an appallingly inappropriate Brutalist scale and such patently silly nonsense as: a portico which goes nowhere, shelters no entrance, has no stairs, and cannot be accessed by human beings; by a double range of columns, for no reason at all; and misleadingly false doors and an abundance of false window openings. This is not the architecture familiar to Washington, Jefferson, or any of our Founders. It also makes us a laughingstock among all nations where educated people still understand the meaning and elegance of true classical and neoclassical architecture.

When the White House was new, temporary occupant President Thomas Jefferson designed a low colonnade to extend from its sides, without detracting from the main structure. Intelligent and thoughtful architects and designers, in the years since, have followed these same principles in enhancing the White House and its grounds. This monstrous proposed structure insults every one of their sincere efforts to honor the White House. Instead, it does great dishonor to the historic building that it insults as inadequate.

Finally, one must be also appalled by the danger to the historic structure by the proposed addition. The East Room has always featured an elegant Palladian window as part of its original design. That window will be obliterated with the addition of the tall, multi-story wing proposed. Any promises that the original White House structure would be left intact and unharmed are belied as untrue with this proposal. (One might also add that the destroyed East Wing had a long history, too -- yet it was destroyed without any provision for the preservation of its artifacts.)

Unlike every other change to the White House, which has been funded by Congress, the people’s representatives, this unprecedented proposal dangerously relies on a devil’s compact with wealthy corporate and personal donors, who each have an agenda of their own and an obvious desire to purchase admission. If this proposal is approved, it will not just be the East Room’s Palladian window that will be lost. We will lose our historic White House – the People’s House – to the highest bidders.

Name: Richard Miller

Date: March 4, 2026 11:45:43 am

To Whom It May Concern:

I cannot recall a District construction project that fails to uphold the standards of function and design as completely as the misguided "Ballroom" addition proposed for the White House.

1. Is a ballroom really in keeping with the modern taste of the United States and White House needs? I would offer that it is being proposed by a President who sees himself as the inheritor of a European aristocratic ruling tradition and, therefore, it has no place in modern democracy. S Allen Poe wrote that America, not having an aristocracy of blood, replaced it with an aristocracy of money. The construction of the ballroom, funded by the deep-pocketed, only reinforces Poe's observation.

2 The design of the ballroom, dwarfing the White House, would not be allowed at an other time in the Nation's history. By overwhelming the White House, IT becomes the primary focus on the property, not the President's house, as the Founders intended.

3. The design of the ballroom, like the redesign of the Oval Office, showcases the embarrassingly poor taste of the President, despite his and his staff's protestations to the contrary. His taste cannot be described as anything other than Euro-Trash, more suitable to the tin-horn culture which the United States is not . . . yet.

I implore you to reject this ignominious and appalling project.

Sincerely,

Richard Miller
Spartanburg SC

Name: Sarah Edelman

Date: March 4, 2026 11:45:56 am

I am a red-blooded American who is so white that I'm pale blue, and I am old enough to remember when the most famous Yo Mama joke had its heyday: Yo Mama's so fat that when she sits around the house, she sits AROUND the house. This new East Wing design is so morbidly obese that in history books it will be known as The Pavilion of Pork at The Cankle Cathedral.

As a lifelong lover of grand architecture, I am genuinely saddened to recommend that The White House ballroom plans be scrapped. If at all possible, its planner(s) and architect(s) should be professionally sanctioned or at least publicly chastised for doing a number on our country's hard-won heritage. This isn't an East Wing so much as a bad joke played on the dignity of the United States of America.

When he took office in 2025, President Trump boldly set the standard that proud Americans' most urgent duty is to look for Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in order to eliminate it from our government. This obstructive, ungainly East Wing design looks to me like a flashing neon billboard blotting out our White House.

In terms of Waste, the planned enormous, useless portico is wasted money, and the cavernous ballrooms inexplicably bulbous ratio of square footage per guest is a shameful waste of not just space, but of national reputation for sleek innovation, practicality, and friendliness.

In terms of Fraud, the design features a series of fake doors across one facade and fake windows across another. It is not dignified for The People's House to remind every passerby of Disneyland castle's hollow facade dotted with faux fiberglass ornaments.

In terms of Abuse, the building utterly ignores and therefore nastily violates its setting. What patriot in their right mind would lay such a divisively hulking turd of a building at the center of the city laid out by and for our national hero, George Washington?

I can only assume that President Trump is being misled and taken advantage of by advisors who want to make him a laughingstock by erecting this monument to his aged deterioration of discernment and good decision-making skills.

I say this because I know in the 1980s he was an important real estate developer at the same time American architect

Robert A.M. Stern was promoting "Pride of Place" in American architecture. Stern wrote a best-selling book about it and hosted a PBS television series by the same name explaining his premise that works of architecture tell a story about our country, especially our largest-scale buildings.

This East Wing plan isn't a story about American, it's a parody about Trump. The jokes write themselves. "Fake News" becomes fake doors. "The Most Transparent Presidency" becomes window frames with solid walls in them instead of glass panes. State dinners become a Poconos dinner theatre in a lightless cavern that's lavishly draped in swags of gold curtains, just like a burlesque hall or a teenage beauty pageant. But there's going to be a giant rotating disco ball and laser light show to light up the cavern, right? And a holographic Princess Diana dancing with young John Travolta as Ronald and Nancy Reagan stand by them in the lobby beside the vast display of Trump march for sale, right?

Ballroom dancing hasn't been relevant or glamorous or made any type of National Pride moment in our history since then, and the impact of that moment wasn't because of a ballroom, it was because of Travolta's "Saturday Night Fever" discotheque prowess.

Are we really going to build a disco to blot out the White House and ruin the symmetry of the city plan? REALLY? That's the epitome of 2026 patriotism? Is our lasting glory going to echo through history as the enduring appeal of Indyangina Thrones and the Temple of Din?

Please do not let this morbidly obese East Wing sit around the White House.

Thank you for all the work you've done keeping the beautifully built aspects of our history documented and valued in our country, and most of all thank you for your attention to this matter!

Name: Rebecca Johnson Melvin

Date: March 4, 2026 11:45:59 am

Having grown up in Virginia, I was attuned to the beauty of historic architecture dating from the founding of our country. Only later in life did I learn the periods -- Georgian, Palladian, Federal, etc. -- and how these classic styles worked on principles of symmetry and proportion. Please reconsider the balance of the proposed East Wing Modernization Project in proportion to the primary essence of the White House -- the House itself. Please consider the importance of this central building and the secondary roles of the West and East Wings which should not outflank the center. Please remember the historical context for the design of our nation's capital city -- the connection of the Executive Branch home with the Legislative Branch Capitol building. Do not underestimate the impact this historical vision continues to have AND please do not ignore all the pride and American identity that has gone into OUR great democratic capital city with its centuries-old careful planning. The proposed design is truly out of proportion and offensive to great architectural aesthetics and our national identity. Respectfully I beg you to consider revisions to the proposed project. Do not forget the PEOPLE of our great country, especially in this year 2026 as we celebrate our sesquicentennial. Thank you.

Name: Phoebe Tudor

Date: March 4, 2026 11:46:14 am

Hello,

I'm submitting the attached comments on the East Wing Modernization Project ahead of my scheduled speaking slot tomorrow.

Respectfully, Phoebe Tudor

[Attachment](#)

Name: Lisa Touzeau

Date: March 4, 2026 11:46:22 am

I am appalled that the historic East Wing was torn down and a new one proposed without the oversight of Congress or the National Capital Planning Commission. The history that was lost is beyond measure. Now a gaudy overpriced

replacement which was not well thought out and is a vanity project will will replace a much loved and historic part of our history.

Name: Samantha Bosshart

Date: March 4, 2026 11:46:47 am

The proposed East Wing is inappropriate in mass and scale compared to the existing historic White House. The proposed plan dwarfs the White House and is not in keeping with the Secretary of Interior Guidelines for Rehabilitation.

I do not object to a ballroom addition being constructed, but the White House needs to remain most prominent.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Samantha Bosshart

Executive Director

Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation

Name: Jasper Willson

Date: March 4, 2026 11:47:09 am

I was and continue to be horrified by pictures of the East Wing in wreckage. Trump broke every promise he'd made and razed American history for a vanity project that didn't stand up to even cursory architectural or historic review. Trump should not be involved in the effort to repair his damage. A team of historians and architects specializing in historic preservation and monuments should decide what the East Wing space will become. This team should be composed with at least 20% Black members, with at least one member with expertise in the history of skilled slave labor in this nation, and White House construction in particular. Whatever they build should stand as a monument to the true history of our nation, and the diversity of excellence under imperfect but aspirational democracy.

Name: Joseph Schuchman

Date: March 4, 2026 11:47:11 am

[Attachment](#)

Name: John Stifler

Date: March 4, 2026 11:47:20 am

As a citizen who believes in this country's traditions and its laws -- including those pertaining to its buildings -- I oppose the East Wing Modernization Project. Besides the fact that there was no proper authorization, permit, or design review. no warning that the East Wing would be demolished, no Architectural & Engineering Request for Proposals, no bids from contractors, and no abatement of hazardous materials; all as required by federal law, the project is a wasteful show rather than a constructive improvement to the building whose picture we see on the back of every dollar bill in U.S. currency. I would like to see the East Wing rebuilt to its former design (that was scaled and in proportion to the rest of the building) and the administration's project canceled.

Sincerely,

John Stifler

Name: James Workman

Date: March 4, 2026 11:47:57 am

There is nothing more disgusting than the irrevocable damage to a historic rental property!

J Workman

Name: Janice Coons

Date: March 4, 2026 11:48:51 am

I believe the proposed ballroom is monstrous....much larger than required, and should be downsized. As proposed, it dwarfs the White House and blocks historically significant views between White House and the Capitol. It also does not support proper symmetry and architectural design. The design scale is not proportional with the proposed need for 1100 people. Also it lacks function and access with the proposed facade.

I do not understand how the original east wing could have been demolished so quickly without approval of destruction and proposed ballroom plans being accepted first. I felt a pit in my stomach with extreme sadness and a symbolic disrespect for our country's history when the east wing was being demolished.

Name: Maarianna Lea

Date: March 4, 2026 11:48:52 am

For all the reasons others have objected to the construction of this addition to the People's House, I also object. I believe it is a tasteless three dimensional ode to an individual's ego, to the degree that it is a cartoon and will become a source for laughter and derision worldwide. As proposed, it is a flagrant disregard for the ideals of the democracy for which many fought and died. It should not be a monument to one man's irrational desire to be king.

Name: maureen Kane

Date: March 4, 2026 11:49:03 am

The history and architecture of the of the White House and surrounding areas should be preserved especially in this 250 year. Restore east wing and maintain historical views along roads/pathways and any new structure be built within historical preservation guidelines. No ballroom is necessary

Name: Devin Kuhn

Date: March 4, 2026 11:49:36 am

This building should not be permitted. The historic East Wing was torn down after Trump promised not to tear it down, and now, without following the proper process, he has embarked on an expensive, unnecessary and hideous project that will not only cost taxpayers significant money, but functionally serves as a money-laundering front for bribes from "donors" who want Trump and/or this Administration to do special favors for them.

Permitting this project to continue supports the US's slide from democracy to full-fledged oligarchy, and the National Capital Planning Commission should do everything in its power to prevent this.

Also, in future, presidents should be given a strict and modest budget for what kinds of non-structurally-necessary improvements they can make to the White House, and those should be limited to the living quarters.

Any other changes should require a committee comprised in a fair and representative manner (i.e. not just cronies, donors, and sycophants, but experts in the relevant fields and regular citizens from diverse demographic groups, including socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, etc.)

This is the People's House, and the People should have a greater say, not just presidents passing through for 4-8 year tenures.

Name: Elinor Schwartz

Date: March 4, 2026 11:49:49 am

I am a city planning professional with an M.S. in Urban Planning from Columbia University, a former member of the Arlington County Planning Commission, which I chaired for a year, and the former organizer of a dozen national conferences, along with having other urban planning and development work experience.

I consider the destruction of the structurally sound, tasteful White House East Wing an outrage, given that it occurred without first engaging the National Capital Planning Commission, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Commission of Fine Arts, and Congress, among other stakeholders. The White House is not the property of the current resident, but an iconic national, historical asset and an essential symbol of our democracy. It is also highly inappropriate to accept contributions from entities that expect to do business with the federal government to cover the now anticipated \$400 million, no longer \$250 million project cost.

Aside from the above, and based on limited public information, I submit the following building and urban design comments about the currently proposed White House Ballroom. This building must respect the context, style, grounds and proportional size of major adjacent federal historical structures, including the Treasury and the remaining part of the White House. Out of all these elements, proportion is key.

1. This project blocks the visible connection along the axis between the White House and Capitol incorporated in the original L'Enfant Plan.
2. It lacks balance and symmetry. It disregards the neoclassical architecture elements influenced by Andrea Palladio and Vitruvius. The adjacent Treasury and James Hoban's White House both incorporate ionic columns. Instead, the proposal adds the discordant element of corinthian columns.
3. The ballroom does not connect with the portico.
4. It disregards the design of the driveway and grounds in Frederick Law Olmstead's landscape plan.
5. According to current architectural standards it is actually scaled for 1,500 guests, 1.5 times the highest proposed level, which helps drive its supersized structure. This is exacerbated by ceiling heights that are exceedingly generous, especially with the 40-foot height of the ballroom. Together, these elements may cause the embarrassing appearance of under participation in scheduled events and make the experiences there less special. At 90,000 square feet the proposal would dwarf the existing 55,000 square foot White House, but the contrast is far greater from a cubic foot perspective.
6. It should retain the tastefulness of the former structure rather than the overly ornate gold encrusted features of the current White House.
7. As a practical matter, it must include enough women's bathroom stalls to accommodate anticipated guests.
8. It needs to be fully accessible to disabled guests, which may not be the case with the ballroom floor over 25 feet above the street level.
9. It needs to express best practices for energy conservation as well as applicable solar and geothermal renewable energy options.
10. Though the details are classified, it needs to provide sufficient security and functionality for the underground bunker/Presidential Emergency Operations Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Elinor Schwartz

Name: Kathleen Smith

Date: March 4, 2026 11:49:56 am

Dear NCPC,

I am completely opposed to the construction of the grotesque ballroom in place of the East Wing of the White House. This is the people's house and should not be built as a branding opportunity for Donald Trump. Rebuild the East Wing!

Sincerely,

Kathleen Smith

Natchitoches, Louisiana

Name: Ellyn Korzun

Date: March 4, 2026 11:49:56 am

From demolition to current construction progress, this project has been executed with haste and without giving full importance to preserving architectural details and keeping the proposed addition in scale and character with the existing White House campus. As a citizen and representative owner of one of America's most significant national treasures, I am dismayed and angered by how this initiative has taken shape and begun its implementation, without the full oversight and jurisdiction of the organizations tasked with providing this expertise. I hope these organizations will step up and provide leadership going forward, even if it means navigating legal issues to do so.

Some of the alternatives suggested by highly regarded architects seem to allow for a preferred path forward to better outcomes. I acknowledge the desire to modernize, and it appears that this goal can be accomplished with alternative proposed plans, instead of the current reckless approach.

Thank you to those who serve on the organizations attempting to provide guidance and expertise in proposing alternative pathways to modernization.

Name: Michael Montgomery

Date: March 4, 2026 11:50:21 am

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed construction of a new ballroom on the grounds of the White House. While I appreciate the desire to enhance the functionality of the Executive Residence, this project raises serious concerns regarding historic preservation, fiscal responsibility, and the stewardship of one of the nation's most symbolically important sites.

First and foremost, the White House is not merely a functional event venue; it is a living historic landmark that carries immense cultural and civic meaning. Alterations of this scale risk compromising the architectural integrity and historic landscape that have been carefully protected for generations. Even well-intentioned additions can set precedents that gradually erode the character of this irreplaceable national treasure.

Second, the timing and optics of such a project are deeply problematic. At a moment when many Americans face economic uncertainty and when there are pressing national priorities competing for attention and resources, investing in an expanded ceremonial space sends the wrong message about federal priorities and public stewardship.

Third, there are viable alternatives that would meet event needs without permanent structural expansion. The White House and its supporting facilities have long relied on temporary structures and off-site venues to accommodate large gatherings. Continuing to use flexible, reversible solutions would preserve the historic campus while still supporting official functions.

I respectfully urge the Commission to reject or substantially reconsider this proposal. Any changes to the White House complex should meet the highest possible bar for necessity, restraint, and preservation of historic character. Future generations deserve to inherit this site with its integrity intact.

Thank you for your careful consideration and for your ongoing commitment to protecting our nation's historic resources.

Sincerely,
Michael Montgomery

Name: Russell Aminzade

Date: March 4, 2026 11:50:41 am

This is not a modernization. The razing of the East Wing without approval from congress or any review from the federal commissions empowered to make these kinds of changes was illegal. Its replacement by this meretricious gaudy ego project is an insult to the American people and a crime against our history.

This project should be halted immediately and the appropriate permits should be obtained before it can move forward. Absent proper approval, the East wing should be rebuilt and restored to its former design.

Name: Abigail Raynock Richard
Date: March 4, 2026 11:50:41 am

Please do everthing to preserve the architectural and cultural history of the East Wing of the White House. Additionally, please preserve the historic landscapes on the White House campus, including gardens.

Name: Elle Wright
Date: March 4, 2026 11:50:44 am

I do not believe we should build a ballroom, it is not in the best interest of the American people

Name: Dr. Stella Reinhard, Ph.D., MATX, VCU
Date: March 4, 2026 11:51:46 am

I am against building the ballroom in its present location at all.

The reasons the current plan is inappropriate are listed in the attached document.

The reasons the current location is inappropriate are listed in the attached.

Improvements are mentioned in the attached.

Also comments requesting the return of First Lady Jackie Onassis' Rose Garden are added because they are all wrapped up together in the same area of the "White House" and its Grounds.

Please give us OUR HISTORY BACK.

Please rethink this project--and if it happens at all--it NEEDS TO GO SOMEWHERE MORE APPROPRIATE AND THE DESIGN IS LOUSY FOR REASONS LISTED IN THE ATTACHED.

Respectfully,

Stella

Dr. Stella Reinhard, Ph.D., MATX, VCU



[Attachment](#)

Name: Melinda McGregor
Date: March 4, 2026 11:51:48 am

Stop all work immediately until the US

- 1) is no longer at war;
- 2) is past the mid-term elections;
- 3) has selected a committee of 50 non-governmental employees representing each state. This committee should include historians, architects with a background in historic restoration, space designers, artists, antique experts who have the authority to approve or reject all plans interior and exterior by a 2/3's vote.

The East Wing must again mirror and balance the West Wing. The White House is the People's House and does not belong to any one person. Know that anything this president does without the consent of the above committee will just be torn down and re-built once the fully sane people are back in charge of this country.

Name: Karen Doty

Date: March 4, 2026 11:51:53 am

Dear National Capital Planning Commission.

All communities in the U.S.A. that value historic preservation have looked to the National Park Service's Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties as a guide to preserving, restoring, and altering our historic architecture. The White House, as the "People's House" is one of the most important pieces of American architecture to be valued, and therefore any alterations affecting it should be in alignment with the Secretary of the Interior's standards.

These are my primary concerns:

- The scale of the proposed ballroom is grossly oversized in relation to the size of the White House, and the balance required of classical architecture is thereby lost.
- The size of the proposed ballroom will only be appropriate for events attended by more than 1,000 guests.
- The use of elaborate Corinthian columns on the proposed ballroom will overshadow the more restrained use of Ionic columns in the White House, thereby minimizing the status of the White House's function in relation to that of the Ballroom's function.
- The visual connection between the White House and Congress will be permanently blocked, giving one an impression of an evolving divide in the power and structure of our government.
- The history and purpose of plans commissioned by George Washington regarding the city of Washington D.C., and the design of the White House and its grounds will be irrevocably altered.

Sincerely,

Karen Doty

Former member of the Historic Preservation Commission of the Village of Oak Park, Illinois

Name: Sharon Amann

Date: March 4, 2026 11:52:04 am

I've seen the projected plan for the ballroom. Why would anyone want to build a ballroom that dwarfs the White House and blocks the view to the Capitol. It would be so much smarter to move the first floor services and kitchens level underground to make the building less tall. It would also make it easier for guests to access the ballroom itself. So many less steps! I'm not sure why we need 19 ft ceilings in a third floor or why the square foot per person ration is way beyond industry standards. Why have one side with pillars and stairs that lead nowhere and with fake windows. Just doesn't make sense and will destroy the aesthetic of the entire area of the city.

Name: Peter Journeay-Kaler

Date: March 4, 2026 11:52:12 am

Public Comment on the East Wing Modernization Project

The White House complex is one of the most important civic and historic landscapes in the United States. As a National Historic Landmark and a site stewarded for the American people, any major alteration to the complex deserves the highest level of transparency, deliberation, and adherence to established review processes.

The planning and design review framework governing major federal construction in Washington exists to ensure that nationally significant places are altered only after careful evaluation of impacts on historic character, site planning, and the broader civic landscape. Maintaining public confidence in these processes is especially important when proposals would permanently reshape one of the country's most recognizable public landmarks.

The proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom raises serious concerns regarding scale, architectural compatibility, and the long-term stewardship of the White House grounds. The White House is distinguished by its restrained classical composition, balanced massing, and incremental evolution over more than two centuries. Introducing a structure of this magnitude risks overwhelming that composition and fundamentally altering the spatial relationships that define the character of the complex.

Projects of this scale also carry substantial public cost and long-term consequences. Alterations to historic landmarks that disregard context often require costly correction or removal in later decades in order to restore the integrity of the site. The Commission's review therefore plays an essential role in ensuring that short-term decisions do not create long-term burdens for both the historic landscape and the public resources entrusted to it.

The White House is not only a residence or an event venue; it is one of the most recognizable symbols of American democracy. Its architecture has long reflected a deliberate sense of civic restraint and republican dignity rather than grandeur or spectacle. An addition that overwhelms the historic composition of the complex risks eroding that symbolism and transforming the character of a place meant to represent democratic government rather than concentrated power.

For these reasons, the Commission should exercise its full review authority and encourage alternatives that meet functional needs while preserving the scale, character, and civic meaning of the White House.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Peter Journeay-Kaler

Name: Marianne Hurley

Date: March 4, 2026 11:52:29 am

The destruction of the East Wing was in blatant disregard of rules and regulations already in place, and as such any discussion of the replacement "ballroom" should not be entertained. Approval of new construction, or comments on the designs ignores the travesty of the demolition of 1/3 of the White House without required review. What kind of precedent or model does this represent?

Do Not approve any construction or design. Leave the area open and cleared as a testament to the destruction of historic properties bypassing any regulations.

Name: John Weiss

Date: March 4, 2026 11:52:32 am

As an attorney who has worked in historic preservation for 30 years I find the proposed East Wing Ballroom completely out of scale and overwhelming the White House. Beyond the initial question of whether a facility of that size is even needed, it needs to be significantly lower in height than the White House and have a smaller footprint. The design and review process is being rushed for one of the most historic and architecturally significant sites in the United States.

Name: Cynthia Skrukrud

Date: March 4, 2026 11:52:42 am

To the members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am dismayed that my opportunity for public comment is happening now, after the East Wing has already been destroyed. The White House is a National Historic Landmark and National Park, owned by the American people. A legally required federal review process, including public participation exists. Major construction projects in Washington, D.C. must be reviewed by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and receive congressional approval. At your March 5, 2026 meeting I urge you to collectively voice your dismay at how these key safeguards have been ignored.

That said, I offer these thoughts on the proposal to replace the East Wing with a 90,000 square foot ballroom. I recommend that the replacement structure be designed in line with historic plans that designed D.C. (L'Efant's 1791 plan, James Hoban's 1792 plan for the White House including Frederick Law Olmsted's 1935 design for the grounds). The structure should not destroy the balance and symmetry that was part of that design. The structure must be downscaled to fit the site, including the height of the proposed ballroom, so that the ballroom does not overwhelm the 55,000 square foot White House itself. The proposed size is too large by industry standards for the size of most events that could be held here. So these recommendations could be easily implemented without diminishing the function of the ballroom. I urge you to take my comments with the input of DC historians and our nation's community of gifted architects to send the current plan back to the drawing board. You should request the ballroom's architects develop a new plan for the ballroom that will preserve the classical feel, symmetry and scale of the White House site and complement the landscape plan for the site.

Name: James De Pietro

Date: March 4, 2026 11:53:11 am

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I write to you as a concerned citizen and a custodian — as we all are — of one of the most sacred civic spaces in the United States: the White House and its surrounding grounds on the National Mall. I urge this Commission to deny approval of the proposed East Wing Ballroom expansion and to do so without hesitation. This project is unnecessary, architecturally incompatible with its surroundings, and — most fundamentally — a misappropriation of a public institution that belongs not to any sitting president, but to the American people.

The White House Is Not a Private Estate — It Is a Public Trust

The White House is not the property of whichever individual happens to occupy it at any given moment. It is a national monument, held in trust for the American people across all generations. Since John Adams first moved within its walls in 1800, it has served as both the executive residence and a powerful symbol of a republic built on the principle that power is borrowed, not owned. No president has ever had license to reshape it for personal aggrandizement, and this Commission has both the authority and the obligation to uphold that tradition.

A grand ballroom addition is not a public amenity — it is a monument to the occupant. It speaks not of service, but of self. Approving this project would set a dangerous precedent: that the White House grounds can be reshaped to reflect the tastes and vanities of a temporary resident rather than the enduring values of the republic it represents. Future generations of Americans deserve to inherit this ground intact — not personalized by any individual administration.

The Project Is Simply Not Necessary

No credible operational need has been demonstrated for this expansion. The White House complex already encompasses the East Wing, the West Wing, the Executive Office Building, Blair House, and extensive support facilities that have proven sufficient for every diplomatic, ceremonial, and administrative function of the presidency for well over a century. The East Room, the State Dining Room, and the surrounding grounds have hosted heads of state, state dinners, and major ceremonial occasions for generations — without a ballroom.

When no functional necessity drives a construction project of this scale and consequence, the Commission must ask: whose desire does it serve? The answer, in this case, is not the American public. The resources of the federal government — and the irreplaceable footprint of its most iconic residence — must not be deployed in service of personal ambition or aesthetic preference.

The Design Is Architecturally Incompatible and Aesthetically Inappropriate

The design of the proposed East Wing addition is, by any reasonable architectural standard, at odds with the neoclassical restraint that defines not only the White House itself but the entire composition of the National Mall. James Hoban's original design — refined over two centuries — reflects a considered vocabulary of proportion, symmetry, and civic modesty. The additions proposed here abandon that vocabulary in favor of something more suited to a luxury hotel or a private resort than to the people's house.

Good architecture, particularly in this context, demands humility. The Lincoln Memorial does not shout. The Washington Monument does not sprawl. The Capitol's dome rises with gravity, not excess. These are not accidents of taste — they are the result of deliberate choices by architects, planners, and commissioners who understood that civic monuments must subordinate individual expression to collective meaning. The proposed ballroom fails that test entirely. Its scale is gratuitous, its ambition self-referential, and its relationship to the surrounding landscape one of imposition rather than integration.

The National Mall Demands Architectural Equality and Civic Humility

The National Mall is one of the great works of civic planning in world history. Its open, democratic character — the long, unbroken sightlines, the proportional relationship between monuments, the sense that the land itself belongs to the people gathered upon it — did not happen by accident. It emerged from the L'Enfant Plan and generations of stewardship that prioritized shared experience over individual statement. Every addition to the Mall or its surroundings must be weighed against that legacy.

The proposed ballroom expansion disrupts this carefully maintained equilibrium. It introduces a note of imperial excess into a landscape designed to express republican virtue. It signals, however unintentionally, that the occupant of the White House is not a servant of the people but its sovereign. That signal — embedded in stone and glass and steel, potentially for centuries — is one the Commission must not permit.

Conclusion: History Is Watching

The National Capital Planning Commission exists precisely for moments like this one — to ensure that the short-term desires of those temporarily in power do not override the long-term interests of the nation. You are the guardians of a legacy that does not belong to any president, any party, or any era. It belongs to all of us, and to those who will come after us.

I urge you to deny this proposal firmly and on the record. Reject it not only on the grounds of design incompatibility, though those grounds are more than sufficient. Reject it because the White House must remain what it has always been: a home not for greatness, but for duty — a house built not for kings, but for citizens.

This Commission has the power, the mandate, and the moral authority to say no. I respectfully ask that you use it.

Name: Helen Butt

Date: March 4, 2026 11:53:28 am

I vehemently oppose this monstrosity that is being added to the White House. This is a structure that will benefit no one but the very rich and powerful. It is a statement that the American people do not matter. The best thing that could happen is either tear it down and restore the East Wing, or turn it into affordable housing for the homeless--make it a real People's House.

Name: Erin Marceno

Date: March 4, 2026 11:53:41 am

I am an Architect licensed in North Carolina and completed my undergraduate studies at the University of Maryland, just outside of D.C. Our architectural coursework brought us to D.C. many times to study government buildings and monuments in the classical style. Through these exercises, we learned about the founding principles of design including balance, proportion, scale, rhythm, symmetry, and hierarchy.

While the East Wing facade appears to have some features of classical design (colonnades, pediment, monumental stair), upon deeper review of the plans it appears as though the exterior is a classical skin applied to a structure that does not adhere to the design standards and principals expected of a building that bears such importance on the American architectural landscape.

I urge the commission to reject the East Wing Modernization project in its current form.

Thank you,
Erin E. Marceno

Name: Katherine Kiraly

Date: March 4, 2026 11:53:52 am

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed plans for a new White House “ballroom”. Putting aside the unprecedented destruction of our property, the People’s House, with the demolition of the previous east wing, I have grave concerns about the structure that is being proposed to take its place. The building, at 90,000 ft.², will dwarf the White House the most important building in this complex. The scale simply does not suit the location. I am also concerned about the way in which the size of the structure will negatively impact the grounds of the White House designed by Frederick Law Olmstead. The sheer size of the building causes it to project into the oval, disfiguring it. Frankly, it looks ridiculous. Any reputable architect or designer would never propose such a structure. If you proceed down this path, this building will become a laughing stock and will mar the beauty of our nation’s capital.

Name: Patricia Haley

Date: March 4, 2026 11:54:15 am

The demolition of the East wing of the White House is disgraceful. The White House has been desecrated. Please restore the building to its former design. Besides being an enormous waste of money, no president should have unilateral power to destroy the historic integrity of government buildings. Trump is a resident of the White House, not the owner. We the American people own that building. Please restore the White House.

Sincerely,

Patricia Haley

Nantucket, MA 02554

████████████████████

Name: Sarah Lawrence

Date: March 4, 2026 11:55:02 am

Dear Members of NCPC,

It was with dismay that I watched the destruction of the East Wing of the White House. In consideration of replacing it I sincerely hope that a thoughtful design will ensue. That would include planning for an addition that is classically proportionate to the existing building that would be no larger than the White House itself.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Sarah Lawrence

Name: Carrie Benoit Salemi

Date: March 4, 2026 11:55:10 am

The actions of the administration in this regard are wrong for so many reasons. There is a basic dishonesty about it all. How could have work on the foundations of the building begun before the building was even designed? Someone (several someone's!) already knew. The hype about who the architect will be etc. Just hype. A scam on all of us.

To go on: Commission members hand picked by Trump. Historical disregard, out of scale with our wonderful White House (they could have/should have put it elsewhere). However many 'donors' are paying for it, we the taxpayers will have maintenance costs for all of the decades to come. And if there are even MORE cost overruns (likely in all such projects) we taxpayers will be dunned for that too. It is ostentatious, grotesque even. The proposed decor is garish, unbecoming to represent the swath of citizens in our country. There is no dignity at all about the whole thing. I am appalled that this project has been allowed to go forward with no checks, no environmental studies.

I am so sorry about all of it.

Name: Dale Froeschner

Date: March 4, 2026 11:55:25 am

I am writing in opposition to the Ballroom addition to the White House, for two reasons:

One, I oppose the process. Buildings such as the White House, as well as the overall landscape of our nation's capitol and all of its historic landmarks, should be treated with care and respect. I don't believe the rationale offered -- that administrations for 150 years have been wanting a ballroom, but even if that was the case, this project should have been commenced carefully. Plans should have been submitted, public comment heard, and input accepted before any construction activity. Instead, with no warning or announcement, demolition began and a giant whole appeared.

Were this a serious effort and not simply a vanity project by a person who seems to believe he owns the White House, the public would have been informed. This isn't a new bowling alley in the basement. It's destruction of a large portion of the building, and it just happened, and clearly for one reason -- to prevent that serious process. Once the East Wing was gone, there would be no avenue to prevent construction of something new.

Two, I oppose the structure. The size will dwarf the White House -- its scale placing the grandiosity of the gilded, influential class supreme over the important work done there. The architecture of the White House is just that -- a house. A home for the citizen president occupying the office for a short time -- another example of the exception of America's

system of government to the world's more common palatial accommodations for leaders. This monstrosity being welded to its side diminishes that endearing, important quality, making the entire structure more a monument to wealth and power than citizen-led governance.

Obviously, the White House has changed over the years and grown in size to accommodate the workforce necessary to govern an expanding country. This addition has nothing to do with work or capabilities. It is play toy for a president who feels a need -- and who professes a right -- to alter everything according to his personal preferences. He has already blemished the interior and outer facade of the building in unsightly ways. Now he is adding the gaudy palace he wants and has deemed necessary.

I vehemently oppose that and urge any action possible to prevent it.

Name: Jared Knowles

Date: March 4, 2026 11:55:42 am

There is so much to comment on but I have very little time left to compose appropriate testimony, so I will comment on 3 points. L'enfant's plan for the city of Washington is based on axial relationships between important governmental buildings. The scale of the new ballroom will eliminate that important symbolic visual relationship between the Capitol and the White House. The symmetrical pathways laid out by Frederick Law Olmstead will also be diminished due to the scale of the new ballroom. My final point should be of great concern to the current administration. The scale of the building is so massive that it won't often feel like events are being fully attended. I'm out of time. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Joseph Giovannini

Date: March 4, 2026 11:55:49 am

The Trump administration is the most corrupt in American history. If this egocentric, dubiously funded, architecturally inappropriate, functionally unnecessary, out-of-scale and inflated project is approved and built, then the committee that approves this— already stacked with Trump rubber-stamping cronies— will go down in history as co-conspirators in a cancerous corruption that will be built into America's most sacred ground. This proposal is a stain on the virtue and moral integrity of our nation, and once Trump and his ilk are brought to justice in courts or history, the building will be a well-deserved candidate for demolition. Why not build housing instead, starting in D.C., with the same money, as an example of curing a curable problem plaguing our country, most of all the homeless? This is a let them eat cake project out of touch with America's needs.

Name: Karen Patterson

Date: March 4, 2026 11:55:51 am

I'm against the new Ballroom project. The scale is too big compared to the existing White House building. And the plans for the interior decorations are not up to standard. Also don't like what trump has done to the oval office and other parts of the white house property.

Name: Douglas Wasama

Date: March 4, 2026 11:56:20 am

The proposed design for the East Wing is a travesty! The mass and location will overshadow the White House instead of allowing it to be the prominent structure on this historic site. The new building must not be higher nor extend further south than the facade of the White House.

The proposed addition is 25-30% larger than required for its intended purpose -why??

Name: Wendy Rea

Date: March 4, 2026 11:56:35 am

I am not a democrat. I am horrified at the destruction, and the audacity to push a project at this scale through without

adequate environmental and historical review.

There is no developer in the world who could do what this project has done, for the single most critical building in our nation. This is horrific.

It makes a mockery of our system, our review process, and our nation. There is no “urgency” here. Stop. Slow down. Reevaluate. The design is atrocious and gargantuan.

I WANT a venue. I do NOT want any individual to have this much power in our country to bend rules and subjugate systems.

Name: Mary Griffin

Date: March 4, 2026 11:56:42 am

The destruction of the East Wing was emblematic of this administration’s disregard for the American people, the protocols in place for National monuments, and the LAW. It is done however, and now our only recourse is to control the rebuild. The administration’s proposed ballroom size is unacceptable as it will dwarf the White House itself. I ask that the planning commission work diligently to insure that the new construction complement the White House in terms of size and architecture. I ask that the hired construction companies be required to adhere to limits set in advance and not allow for bribes or waffling to the side of the original designs. Thank you.

Name: Barbara Loewen

Date: March 4, 2026 11:56:44 am

11:50 am, 4 March 2026

Re. Proposed White House McMansion, Persian palace, Garage Mahal, starter castle, Hummer house, tract mansion

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,

As a fellow patriot, may I ask you to step up _to energetically devote your considerable resources_ to rescuing our stunningly beautiful classical treasure, the White House? To quote one fellow American, "Classical architecture is fundamentally rooted in proportion—relationships derived from nature and often expressed through mathematical ratios such as the golden mean (1.618). When these principles are ignored, the result inevitably feels discordant with the historic structure it is meant to complement. By contrast, a thoughtful design developed by a classically trained architectural firm—one that respects proportion, scale, and historical context—could produce an addition worthy of the White House and capable of enduring for centuries." *

Needless to say, we Americans stand to lose tourism dollars if the White House looks like the current McMansion architectural proposal.

Sincerely yours,

B. Loewen

* Laurel Bern quote. Please note that Ms. Bern sent viable architecture alternatives to the NCPC!

Name: Edythe Artman

Date: March 4, 2026 11:57:03 am

I object to the proposed east wing modernization project. I fully support preservation of the current White House, including its lawns and views. I support construction of a new East Wing to complement the West wing and which is substantially smaller than the White House structure.

Name: Roger Brown

Date: March 4, 2026 11:57:03 am

This massive ballroom project is completely inappropriate as part of the White House project. The huge scale of the project would overwhelm the White House itself. The process of creating this ballroom is defective in and of itself. The

White House belongs to the people of the United States, not to an individual president. It should follow normal processes of getting approved through boards of experts, not boards stacked with loyal friends with no design or architectural expertise.

This enormous building would block the view from the Capitol to the White House down Pennsylvania Avenue, which has been there since the time of Washington. This building has a false portico on the front that is very large and nonfunctional. There are false doors on the front that don't open and lead to nothing. The height of the rooms is far greater than needed. This huge building would overwhelm and dwarf the White House.

Please do not approve this project as it is presented.

thank you,
Roger Brown

Name: RC McBeth

Date: March 4, 2026 11:57:30 am

I am writing to express my opposition to the construction of the ballroom addition to the White House, as currently designed.

- 1) The size is much too large. It dwarfs the White House, which is highly inappropriate.
- 2) It blocks the view from the Capitol building to the White House, which was expressly designed as such by the founding fathers.
- 3) It distorts the beautiful symmetry of the White House grounds, designed by the preeminent park designers of the United States.
- 4) The colonnade façade of the ballroom is a false entrance and is grossly hulking in scale.
- 5) The columns themselves should not be Corinthian in style as this building is not of a higher function than the White House, which has Ionic columns. The columns themselves block the view from inside the ballroom, detracting from the point of an elaborate wall of windows.
- 6) The ceiling on the first & third floors are too tall & serve no purpose other than to make the ballroom look like a growing tumor on the White House.

Please redesign so the ballroom is appropriate in scale, preserves the preeminence of the White House and honors the vision of the founding fathers.

Drop the colonnaded portico entirely. It's a fake façade, which projects inauthenticity.

Thank you for your wise stewardship of our national interests.

Name: Rosemarie Driver

Date: March 4, 2026 11:57:55 am

I respectfully object to plans for the East wing. The White House is not the personal owned home of the president and all plans should go through the lawful process and be in keeping with the original footprint of the building.

Name: Kathleen Kean

Date: March 4, 2026 11:58:00 am

Dear Commission,

It is with great concern that I write to urge all to halt further plans to enlarge the proposed ballroom way beyond earlier proposals. The present huge addition needs to be reevaluated for many reasons. 1) The original reasons stated for the need for a larger space to accommodate more guests for state dinners etc does not warrant thousands more feet of space as now planned. In fact, the huge space now included will make attendance at many events way out of proportion. 2) The balance between the original parts of the historic White House and the new wing needs to be respected. Just because it is possible to build a huge out-of-proportion addition to the historic people's house, in which so much history has taken place, does not mean that it should be built. 3) It is also really important that the site lines of the historic placement of the executive residence and the legislative branch at the other end of Pennsylvania Ave. be understood and respected. The present enlarged plan will totally destroy the historic site lines from the original early 1800s plan for the new United States

capital city and one which has added elegance to our capital since its founding.

In the year when we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the country, the commission should exercise its wisdom and lawful responsibilities and save the Trump Administration planners from a horrible mistake. We the people and the great city of Washington deserve much better revised plan!!!

Name: Erin Palmer

Date: March 4, 2026 11:58:16 am

The proposed “East Wing Modification” proposal is a horrendous destruction of the aesthetic, functional, and metaphoric design of the White House and of the carefully considered symbolic relationship of the White House and Congress. As an architect, I strongly discourage the advancing of the design.

Directly in violation of Secretary of the Interior’s standards for the treatment of historic properties, specifically that new additions will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property, and should be in proportion to the existing building, the proposed unnecessarily oversized behemoth

- Destroys the balance of proportion of the White House
- Is a hodgepodge of fake aesthetic treatments of non-functional windows, inaccessible porches, ridiculously over-sized programmatic spaces.
- Disrupts the carefully considered symbolic view corridors of L’Enfant’s plan for the Capital

The proposed design overwhelms the White House at nearly three times the volume of the White House.

Consider that a permanent ballroom of this volume and square footage is entirely unnecessary. The proposed ballroom would, by industry standard, seat 1500, way more than the ever-creeping capacity proposed. Smaller gathers would be overwhelmed in this space, diminishing their ceremonial presence. A space of this size would rarely be used.

Massive spaces in the building are exaggeratedly large without function: the kitchen is over 2.5 times the industry standard needed to serve the ballroom. The large portico is disconnected from the level of the ballroom and unusable with its isolated placement and ridiculous number of over-sized columns.

Ill-considered design is unnecessarily and excessively tall due to poor placement of floor levels relative to grade and excessively high ceilings in multiple areas.

The excessive volume and poorly considered placement of the building

- Destroys the historic visual and symbolic connection between White House and Congress requested by George Washington in L’Enfant’s design for the Capital.
- Destroys the symmetry of the White House complex
- Destroys of the symmetry of the landscape to accommodate the unusable portico volume and square footage.
- Diminishes the elegance and seriousness of the building with the use of frivolous fake treatment of decorative elements of the building, including the use of fake windows.

While this is beyond the scope of historic review, the addition of this massive, poorly functioning would vastly increase operating costs, placing greater burden on taxpayers for the maintenance of “the People’s House”.

I highly discourage and disapprove of construction of this unnecessary and oversized frivolity at taxpayers continued expense.

Name: Harold Hunter

Date: March 4, 2026 11:58:21 am

National Capital Planning Commission.

Re: Proposed ballroom for the White House.

I greatly appreciated the webinar presented by the National Trust regarding this subject. The information was extremely helpful to understand the issues surrounding the proposed addition to the historic home of the president.

In general, I find the proposed design inappropriate. It is too big, gaudy, and greatly impacts the symmetry of the classic design of the White House. The fact that our first President selected the architect and design of the building; our second President was the first to occupy the residence and the third President added the balanced wings so that the building

presented a more classic view That view should be preserved.

As a past chair of our local Historic Zoning Commission, I am very familiar with the SOI standards. The proposal does not comply with those standards. If any building or structure in this country should follow those standards closely, it should be one of the first buildings of our country's founding.

The Issue of not adhering to current industry standards for the functions stated should negate the approval of the construction. The building will also destroy the view planned by L'Enfant between the presidential residence and the capitol building. Thus, he visually connected two of the three main units of the government.

The false portico on the south front should be gone. It serves no useful purpose and is inaccessible from the building. I also object to the overall height. The lower level should be below ground level which will lower the building and make it less imposing.

Overall, this current purposed design is an insult to the history and philosophical base of the United States. I should be discarded or greatly revised.

Sincerely,

Harold J. Hunter, PhD

Johnson City, Tennessee

Name: Dealey Herndon

Date: March 4, 2026 11:58:29 am

I oppose this project as proposed based upon its size and scale and other issues I will present

I am a trustee emiritas of the National Trust. My background includes managing the Texas State Capital and Expansion Project completed in 1856 and the Renovation and Restoration of the Texas historic Governor's Mansion 1856 after the catastrophic arson fire om 2008. I managed all aspects of the projects for the State of Texas under three Governors. Both projects were successful and finished on time. I say this to give you background on my preservation and construction experience, including financial management and reportting to the top state officials and the legislature.

I appreciate that the President has the authority to ask for changes to the White House. And I also feel from what little I have seen that the latest design is compatible and attractive. I have been in the East Wing amd know it was not functionally ideal so the reasons for the addition are reasonable. HOWEVER: 1) The square footage is at least twice to great, 2) The design dwarfs our Historic White House and impacts view corridors on the site and does not even address parking or security. I must end, but there is much else say. Best wishes.

Name: Kristi Edens

Date: March 4, 2026 11:58:35 am

First the the overall mass of the building is just too big. Although this administration may care more about throwing lavish parties than actual governing, building a ballroom that is taller than the treasury building and dwarfs the White House is disrespectful to both the historic character of those buildings and the power of our government that the buildings represent. After watching the COMMITTEE meeting where S.A. Barnes presented the current proposed layout of the ballroom, it was obvious to me that the President wants to, as much as possible, create a room in size, scale, and extravagance equal to the "Hall of Mirrors" at Versailles. In my opinion, this kind of grand opulence does not reflect the spirit of the American people.

The President has indicated that the ballroom should hold at least 1000 people for a sit down dinner. Is this really necessary? The largest event with a sit down dinner using various parts of the current White House seated 400 guests. While, obviously, having a space that would mean using fewer tents on the lawn is a good thing, I think some studies are needed to decide how many seats are really required. Also, I noticed that within the enormous main room, there are no provisions in the plan that would allow the space to be used tastefully for smaller occasions. Curtains on poles are not an option. Perhaps something could be done with changes in ceiling height, lighting, and floor patterns to create spaces for smaller gatherings. I also did not see any planning for spaces for bands or entertainment.

On the lower level, I would like to see much more planning going into the office spaces for the First Lady/Gentleman. In a normal administration, the first spouse can play an important role in the Presidency and their offices should reflect respect for that position. Mr. Barnes stated that the size of the kitchen is about 7,000 sq.ft. That seems excessive. I don't believe that the plan would be to staff that kitchen full time, so it seems that if the kitchen was used more as a catering kitchen where at least some of the food was brought in already prepared would save a lot of square footage.

For the exterior, many historic preservationists will say that additions to historic properties should compliment the scale of the existing building but not try to match the style in a way that the addition looks original to the building. I agree with

the scale, but in this case, I believe that matching the style of the previous East Wing would be more appropriate. Hopefully, a redesign of the whole building will remove the ridiculous exterior staircases that look like they were pulled off a Barbie house and will not allow for appropriate egress requirements.

When asked questions about some questionable elements of the proposed plans, Mr. Barnes often stated "The President expressed his wish..." and everyone else just shook their heads. This is NOT this president's ballroom. It is a space for the American people to receive guests from all over the world and it will need to function for the American people for many years after this president is gone. This building needs to reflect America.

Everybody working on this project needs to learn this phrase: "It would be so much more elegant if we... (insert rational idea here)".

Name: Dianne Johnson

Date: March 4, 2026 11:59:30 am

To Whom It Should Concern:

This ballroom project is nothing more than a vanity project of Donald Trump. It is oversized for its stated purpose and impractical on so many levels. The size would accommodate far more than the seating of 1000 for a dinner. The kitchen and staff areas, that have no windows, is built above grade for literally no reason. The gigantic portico is fake with no entrance directly into the ballroom or lower level. To sum up, this proposed structure dwarfs the White House, the People's House - not Donald Trump's house. Finally, this structure destroys the historic original plan and purpose of Pennsylvania Avenue to connect visually the White House and the Capitol. Also the Olmstead-designed White House drive will be forever modified. Thank you for reading my comments.

Name: Catherine Carlson

Date: March 4, 2026 11:59:33 am

This is an absolute travesty. It has been done without the appropriate measures and is destroying history. The White House belongs to the people of the United States, not a single individual, regardless of their role. This does lasting damage not only to the legacy of the United States but the government itself and the trust people have in their governing representatives. American citizens want to see regulations and safety and be part of the discussion about their own history and future. I vote in every election down to the smallest local prelim rounds. I drag family and friends with me. I am an activist for voting visibility and voting access/rights. Please be sure that there are many of us aware that this process is being taken out of our hands and we deeply oppose it, and we are voting against giving power to individuals who continue to defy the requirements and spirit of their offices and positions.

This is unacceptable.

Signed,

Catherine Carlson

Name: Joe Zumwald

Date: March 4, 2026 11:59:34 am

To the Honorable National Capital Planning Commissioners:

Beginning in the 1990s, I became familiar with the guidelines and considerations that the NCPC applies when deciding to deny, request alteration or approve development proposals. As the NCPC considers the renovation, modernization and addition to the East Wing of the White House, please continue to place utmost emphasis on maintaining the timeless and historical Pierre L'Enfant plan for Washington, DC in all decisions. For more than a century, the NCPC's consistent emphasis on appropriate height, form, massing, style and construction design criteria has led to development across the district that is well-planned, cohesive, and elegant without being ostentatious. Please continue to apply these design criteria to this current project, an ambitious modification to the White House and its surrounding grounds. Thank you.

Name: Julia Marks

Date: March 4, 2026 11:59:35 am

The White House is a piece of United States history and to have one man demolish and propose a gilded monstrosity of a ballroom build to feed his ego is abhorrent. Taxpayers have spent enough on his reckless decisions, our tax dollars should be spent on services to benefit society, not vanity projects.

Name: Laura VoisinGeorge

Date: March 4, 2026 11:59:35 am

Thank you for your oversight in matters related to the Nation's Capitol.

My comment is related to the proposed ballroom addition to the White House. Although exempt from Section 106 review, the White House is rightly recognized as a National Historic Landmark and represents the entire country. The demolition of the East Wing without oversight and engagement was reprehensible, and the proposed ballroom should be opposed.

Name: Jennifer Parkhurst

Date: March 4, 2026 11:59:44 am

Please maintain the historical integrity of the White House and adhere to the tenets of classical architecture. The White House is a beautiful testament to classical architecture, and a point of pride and patriotism for the American people. Though modernization is important to maintain usability as time goes on, I firmly believe this can be done in such a way that the historic integrity of a building can be respected. I ask the committee to ensure that the White House through its renovations may continue to be a monument for our nation, especially one as stability, strength, and a search for the higher good, all of which is evident in the architecture of the structure itself.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Most sincerely,
Jennifer Parkhurst

Name: Donna Schoonover

Date: March 4, 2026 11:59:45 am

The White House is a structure with historic and symbolic implications. It should reflect our democratic principles rather than those of royalty. Its history is embedded with the founding fathers and their vision for our country. This giant ballroom is an affront to these ideas.

Name: Natasha Arnold

Date: March 4, 2026 11:59:50 am

Hello,

I do not have comments on whether or not the president United States is allowed to alter the White House. I believe people duly the elected should be able to go through the process set aside by our four fathers and four bears and make alterations that are approved properly and legally.

My biggest concern is the fact that I am a board certified safety professional who maintains the BCSP - CSP/ASP/CHST, as well as all of the certifications available from the EPA for lead and asbestos. You poisoned people and harmed people, and it can be proven.

From video and photographic evidence alone, I can prove gross negligence under the law for the illicit construction processes.

Even more troubling, they are dumping (have dumped) them on national land out on an old golf course in Washington DC.

The national Park service, lacks properly trained expertise in safety health and wellness at almost all levels. I guarantee you if you investigate into this even slightly, they did not test the soil, they did not follow any of the regulations designed

to protect our citizens from being poisoned by past legacy hazards.

The workers and anyone who breathes in the area were were not protected properly and most likely poisoned and harmed to some degree. No proper containment, proper protection, and associated laws were not followed in almost every single way shape and form.

If you allow someone to unlawfully poison and harm areas all around the capital while breaking all of the rules on how we're supposed to follow this process. How can you expect anyone to follow these rules?

No one will protect their employees or follow OSHA/EPA/HUD or anything designed to protect our citizens And most importantly our workforce who will follow what we ask them to follow - whether it's law or or not, and whether it harms them or not. Most of the time the workers lack legally required training for the task at hand, and simply follow their employer to their own harm without knowing it. Many of these hazards do not affect you right away. Asbestos is a non-dose specific ha

This is not a political thing. This is a humanitarian thing. If you swear to uphold our constitution, our laws you should be required to uphold our constitution and our laws. Follow the process and if it do not like the process, change it the way you're legally allowed to.

Ann Trowbridge
West Cornwall, CT

March 1, 2026

RE: East Wing Modernization Project

TO: Chairman Scharf and members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

Please accept these comments which I offer as an architect and planner who participated in the planning and design of buildings and landscapes in federal Washington from the early 1990s until my retirement in 2024, and whose most recent role required an understanding of NCPC's guidelines and expectations for project designs, submissions and the conduct of NEPA processes.

- **The absence of meaningful opportunities for public input is appalling and contrary to NCPC's NEPA and submission guidance which requires the posting of the Draft NEPA document with the Preliminary Design followed by public and commission review prior to a Final Design approval.** While the rules governing an Environmental Assessment do not *require* a public meeting, these have usually been conducted for major projects in and around the National Mall and are required for any project with significant impacts. **I urge the Commission to reject the submitted FONSI and require preparation of an EIS with its required public meeting and public comment period, and a design that takes into account that input.**
- **The submission materials provided fall way short of what is required by NCPC guidelines for Preliminary and Final approvals. In fact, it is more comparable to what might typically be provided by a federal entity for comments on a Concept Design.** Just how low a bar has been set for this project and the extent that usual requirements and expectations are being waived is readily apparent in a quick scroll of NCPC's online archived approvals for other major projects in and around the National Mall including those for the Kennedy Center's Reach project, the Federal Reserve Eccles Building, the Smithsonian's new and renovated museums, and the NPS's submissions for various memorials, horse stables, National Mall Plan and turf replacement, Tidal Basin seawalls etc.
- **The submission is so insufficient that it is impossible to evaluate at NCPC's Preliminary and Final Design submission levels.** For example, there is no building section and no detailed and labeled building and site plans that would allow for a more informed understanding of the building's massing, expected site circulation and the materials and articulation of its facades. For other projects on the National Mall, onsite mockups of massing and materials have often been required by the CFA and NCPC. Among the many NCPC submission requirements not addressed is the required documentation of trees to be removed (or already removed) and their replacement in conformance with NCPC's Comprehensive Plan Environment Element and provisions for storm water management which is important given the low elevation of the White House grounds in relationship to the rest of the District and the insufficiency of existing underground systems.
- **No alternative designs are presented in either the submission package or in the Environmental Assessment.** This is a project whose significance begs for these to be undertaken with seriousness.
- **The design, the submission package and the process all fall short and the undertaking should not be approved without further study and consideration of alternatives** for its massing, landscape, and the articulation of its facades. This design fails miserably to capitalize on the opportunities a classical vocabulary and generous construction budget provide for a building to be owned and operated for the American people.



Greetings to the National Capital Planning Commission,

Reduce the size of the East Wing Modernization Project!

At this important meeting, please preserve and protect our nation's architectural history, which is owned by the citizens of our country, not by the Administration.

I urge the Commission to consider the current design of the East Wing in relation to buildings which date from the founding of our country. President George Washington commissioned Pierre L'Enfant to design the growing city and tapped James Hoban for the design of the White House. Their results have withstood the test of time, and, 250 years later, are instantly recognized around the world. The White House should be respected, not ruined by a bombastic appendage.

Three major historical design elements will be forever lost if plans for the East Wing are built as currently designed. These elements are: the viewshed established by L'Enfant's axial urban design; the classically ordered beauty of the White House; and the symmetry of the White House landscape design by Frederick Law Olmstead. These losses can be avoided by simply reducing the size of the addition.

The proposed ballroom, catering kitchen and updated office space is poorly designed, gargantuan, and conspicuously out of scale with the White House and adjacent buildings.

Please reduce the size of the proposed East Wing design. The White House should not be forever disrespected and diminished by its pompous, oversize presence.

Thank you for your consideration.

Andy Rollman, Registered Architect
Ithaca, NY

March 2, 2026

William Scharf, Chairman
The National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW, North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

Re: The White House Complex, East Wing Modernization Project # 8733

Dear Chairman Scharf,

I am writing in response to the March 2026 submission of the White House Complex “East Wing Modernization” Concept as submitted by Shalom Baranes Associates. As an architect who worked in DC for thirty years on large scale projects that often-included historic preservation, I am familiar with the importance of understanding and respecting an historical context in any renovation, rehabilitation or restoration.

In matters of preservation such as this project, the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation are concise in the directive that new work should be “compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing” of the existing structure. The proposed addition does not adhere to these standards. The addition overwhelms the existing structure in scale, proportion and massing.

It is clear that the proposed new building dwarfs the scale of the existing Executive Residence. Its massing is nearly double that of the existing residence, and it extends so far south that it cuts off views of the South Lawn from the Treasury Building and vice versa

The imbalance of the new addition is seen in relation to the appropriately submissive West Wing and connector flanking the Executive Residence. What was once a symmetrical north façade composition is now being proposed with a large east block addition that ignores the entire façade’s overall symmetry and diminishes the stature of the historic Executive Residence.

In addition, the literal copying of the Executive Residence’s architectural language and detailing in this much larger proposed addition trivializes the original building, making The Executive Residence read as secondary to the new proposed building and connector. The new addition, with its grand arched windows and large porticos are not

consistent with the original intent of the Executive Residence, to reflect a respectful nation, not to represent opulence.

The imposition of the seven-bay portico on the east façade of the addition is aggressive in scale, seems arbitrarily placed on the long east façade, and again, overwhelms the Executive Residence in scale as seen together.

The addition's proposed south portico is monumental in scale and form. The nine bay, full height element blocks the view from the east to the curved portico of the Executive Residence and symbolizes an importance on the exterior that the function inside negates. The ballroom behind the portico is a support space, not a primary entrance to the White House complex. This portico serves as a break-out space for a function on just one floor of this multi-story addition. This south portico of the new addition is four times deeper than the existing curved Executive Residence south portico and deeper than the porticos of the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials. This grandiose character and scale diminishes the hierarchy and history of the Executive Residence.

I respectfully ask that you consider the addition in relation to the historic Executive Residence per the Secretary of Interior Standards, and ask Shalom Baranes to reduce the scale, proportion and massing of the East Wing Modernization project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Rollman". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "Andy" and "Rollman" being capitalized and prominent.

Andy Rollman, Registered Architect

March 2, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

The federal laws of the United States are based on national values as determined by Congress, not the Executive Branch. Values in our national buildings are civic as well, not determined by the Executive Branch, nor in the Constitution nor in any law. The law as defined by Congress has created the Capitol Architect, the Federal Fine Arts Commission and those appointed positions have no aesthetic criteria for selection. Extralegal firing of these positions to impose Executive authority over both aesthetics and practical realities of construction is not based on the law, but on power as determined by the Executive Branch. The result at the White House is a hideous disregard for our civic value of history, and the pluralism of our civic architecture. Power is not a value, it either facilitates power, or power overrules values: Power in the White Renovation violates the basis of the Constitutional authority of the Executive: America is damaged when our values are ignored by Executive power.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Duo Dickinson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Duo Dickinson, FAIA
Duo Dickinson architect
Madison, CT

Thomas McClellan Haskell, AIA

2 March 2026

Re: New White House Ballroom
The White House

To The National Capital Planning Commission:

I am writing to express my concern for the current configuration of the new ballroom addition to the White House.

After reviewing the current plans being considered by the Commission, my concerns are these:

The size and scale of the ballroom addition dwarfs the existing historic structure. It is inappropriate.

The placement of the ballroom addition violates the L'Enfant planning grid on which the District of Columbia is developed. It interrupts (even more than the Treasury Building) the primary visual connection between the Capital and the White House.

The planning of the addition is not functional. Spaces are oversized, the connections between exterior and interior spaces are minimal or nonexistent. Grand porticos and monumental stairs serve no useful purpose. They appear to be tacked onto the structure for decoration.

The current plan depends on numerous artificial conceits – forced symmetry, blind windows, false entrances, etc. These elements conflict with a well-defined and thoughtful approach to the development of this historic property.

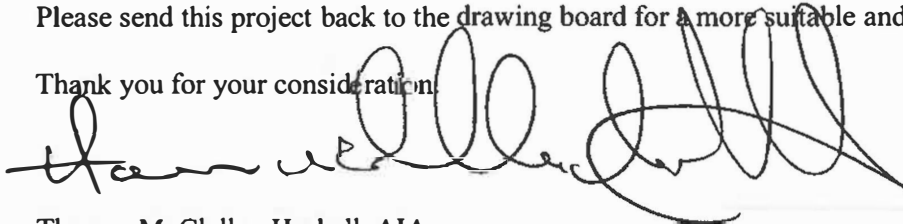
Classical architecture is based on symmetry and balance scaled to the proportions of the human body – in each individual component as well as overall context. Inserting a bloated and graceless element into the White House environment introduces discord.

I notice that the mission of The National Capital Planning Commission is to preserve and enhance the District of Columbia's historic and cultural resources. This project as proposed does neither. It would be a monument to excess.

Finally, I note that the White House is the Peoples' House. The President just happens to live there. Grandiose plans, such as this one, do not represent the people of the United States.

Please send this project back to the drawing board for a more suitable and useful design.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Haskell', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas McClellan Haskell, AIA

Hamden, CT



March 2, 2026

Mr. William Scharf, Chairman
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW
Suite 500N
Washington DC 20004

Dear Commission Chairman Scharf and Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed White House East Wing modernization and ballroom addition. These comments are to provide context for the White House Grounds, a site that ranks among the nation's most historically significant designed landscapes and a centerpiece of Pierre L'Enfant's President's Park. It is also both listed in the National Register of Historic Places and a National Historic Landmark. Consequently, the landscape architecture of the White House Grounds, which includes work by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and Olmsted Brothers, should be afforded the same level of respect as the site's primary work of building architecture, the White House by James Hoban.

The White House Grounds are not "available land"; rather, they are part of the nation's most treasured and respected patrimony and any substantive alterations, such as the current proposal, would best be subject to rigorous analysis and scrutiny, informed by the management plan and guidelines mentioned below, and certainly with the assistance of a qualified landscape architecture historian.

For more than a century, one of the greatest influences on the White House Grounds has been the landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. He was the key contributing author to the 1916 Organic Act, which created the National Park Service (NPS), the federal agency that oversees the grounds. In the act, Olmsted wrote the so-called "non-impairment" standard—NPS must "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein, and ... leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." The Organic Act, and some subsequent environmental laws, is the foundation upon which nearly all NPS management decisions are based.

For more than 90 years the stewardship and preservation of this icon has been guided by the ["Report to the President of the United States on the Improvements and Policy of Maintenance for the Executive Mansion Grounds,"](#) prepared in 1935 by Olmsted, Jr., of Olmsted Brothers. The report's opening paragraph is both contextualizing and cautionary: "The White House Grounds ... are characterized by many long-established landscape qualities of great dignity and appropriateness. It is of the utmost importance to perpetuate these qualities; and, in so far as they are affected by changes which are necessary or desirable for other reasons, to strengthen and perfect them instead of obscuring or weakening them."

Olmsted continues: "Some of these admirable qualities inherited from the past are very obvious; some have already been obscured by past deliberate or accidental alterations. In order to

understand them clearly and provide a sound basis for continuity of purpose in management a thorough study of the landscape history of the grounds is necessary.”

Since NPS, which is part of the Department of the Interior, manages the grounds the Secretary of the Interior is responsible for establishing professional standards and providing advice on the preservation of cultural resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; that includes the White House Grounds. Those standards can be found in the Secretary of the Interior’s [“Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes,”](#) which “provide guidance to cultural landscape owners, stewards and managers, landscape architects, preservation planners, architects, contractors, and project reviewers prior to and during the planning and implementation of project work.”

Importantly, the primary concern in addressing a cultural landscape is not materiality, which is the focus when dealing with historic building architecture, it is the site’s visual and spatial organization. The NPS [FONSI](#) (Finding of No Significant Impact) and National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) [Draft FONSI](#) both contain the perplexing and contradictory conclusion that the proposed changes “will result in long-term adverse effects on the cultural landscape” and that “[d]espite the adverse impacts identified ... the selected action will not result in significant adverse impacts to the park’s cultural landscapes.” While both documents note “views of the White House from Lafayette Park and the Ellipse will be permanently altered due to the modifications to the East Wing,” neither mentions numerous other views, including from the Treasury Department, nor the axial view to and from the White House and the U.S. Capitol that is an integral part of the L’Enfant Plan.

As the author of the “Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes,” during my fifteen-year tenure as Coordinator of the Historic Landscape Initiative at the NPS, it is my observation that the proposed East Wing modernization and ballroom addition, in its current iteration, is wholly incompatible with the site, and fundamentally violative of the Organic Act of 1916 and the Olmsted Plan of 1935, which have been a cornerstone to informing successive NPS General Management Plans and guided project work for many decades.

The landscape architecture of the White House Grounds, a National Historic Landmark, and the nation’s capital are a unique embodiment of the nation’s democratic principles. The present plans would have a substantial and deleterious impact on the site’s character-defining visual and spatial relationships and on what Olmsted, Jr. called the “long-established landscape qualities of great dignity and appropriateness.”

Thank you for this opportunity and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a smaller 'B' and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR
Founding President & CEO

GEORGE J. MASUMIAN ARCHITECTS, A.I.A.

4 March 2026

National Capital Planning Commission
Washington, D.C.

Re: Proposed White House Ballroom Addition

Dear, Commissioners,

I have seen the proposed design for the White House Ballroom addition and would like to comment on this design. As an architect, I feel that this proposed addition was completely unnecessary and the proposed design is ill conceived.

The proposed design for the White House Ballroom is out of scale and proportion with the rest of the White House and creates a glaring imbalance. There is no need for this structure to be so massive and invasive on the White House campus.

I trust that you will take my comments into consideration when you vote on the proposed White House Ballroom addition on March 5, 2026.

Sincerely,
George Masumian, AIA Emeritus

March 2, 2026

To: National Capital Planning Commission

Re: Opposition to the East Wing Modernization Project (White House Ballroom Addition)

I am an Architect who has recently retired after 35 years as an in-house Corporate Architect, primarily for 2 major corporations - IBM and Genentech. I care about how buildings function in support of the goals at hand - always considering scale, appropriateness, and patterns of use.

From that perspective, I am vehemently opposed to the White House Ballroom project for the following reasons:

- Size - The project is well in excess of the SF needed for the purpose of hosting 1000 guests, per industry standard
- Purpose - I seriously question the number of times a venue for 1000 guests at a seated dinner is required, and options for handling smaller gatherings have not been outlined
- Scale - Porticos are out of scale with the White House and the Treasury building, with no functional purpose. Entrance staircases do not lead to functioning doors, and accessibility concerns were ignored. Ceiling heights are not justified and will cause ongoing energy costs, as events of the proposed size are not logistically a daily occurrence.
- History - Project ignores the sight-lines and approaches from original Pierre L'Enfant plan, without justification to alter the attributes that define this historical sense of place.

IF the NCPC cannot stop this project, then I will support the "ask" with my colleagues in Architecture to do the following:

- Move the non-public spaces and service spaces to the lower level
- Size the Ballroom and related facilities to industry standards
- Reduce the overall volume of the addition
- Respect history and preserve the axial relationship between the White House and the Capitol

I hope the National Capital Planning Commission will stop this project before it takes away 250 years of history and a proud sense of place that is this area of Washington, DC. While damage has already been done with the removal of the East Wing, a handful of large gatherings during the year does not justify the further damage this building will incur if it is allowed to be constructed in its current design. I implore you to reduce the size and scale of this project to minimize the negative impact on the project and its historical area.

Thank you for considering my comments, and those of my architecture colleagues, as you deliberate on March 5, 2026.

Sincerely,



Tina Facos-Casolo, AIA

Darien, CT

Cc: Congressman Jim Himes; Senator Richard Blumenthal; Senator Chris Murphy

Comments regarding the East Wing Modernization Project:

I will be brief. First, assuming that having a permanent meeting space adjacent to The White House is a good idea, what is the reason for having a ballroom so massive? According to public reports, the current plan calls for the ballroom addition to be larger than the entire Executive Mansion (and of course out-of-scale with the West Wing). The administration also asserts that the ballroom will be large enough to accommodate 1,000 guests at a formal dinner. Practically, how many events per year would require an event space so immense?

Second, no current occupant of the White House should be able to radically change the White House, the People's House, without congressional approval. The demolition of the entire East Wing without any external approvals is reason enough to delay the project to allow appropriate public comment and congressional approval.

Laura Kaehler, AIA (Licensed in NY, CT, & FL)
Kaehler Architects, LLC
Riverside, CT

4 March 2026

National Capitol Planning Commission
401 9th St. NW #500N
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: East Wing Modernization Project

Dear Chairman Scharf and Commissioners:

I am writing as a licensed architect of more than 40 years and as a concerned citizen who is extremely distressed with the design of the proposed Ballroom addition to our Nation's beautiful White House, otherwise known as the *People's House*.

My many concerns related to this design cannot be expressed in this letter; therefore, I will name only a few:

Background and Context: Washington, DC was designed as a Classical City laid out with wide boulevards and stately, classically designed civic buildings. The White House itself is the central component of this urban design and should be the most dominant structure. The overall design of the new ballroom conflicts with the symbolic relationships between the branches of government as envisioned by Pierre Charles L'Enfant's axial design of Washington DC.

L'Enfant was a French-born American Architect, Engineer and Urban Planner who laid out Washington, D.C. based on egalitarian principles. His design emphasized the equal and separate nature of the three branches of government. For example, the White House and Capitol were situated to be "line in sight", symbolically, providing a "check" on each another. L'Enfant's design maintains the balance of power between the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches of our government which is how our democracy works.

What is wrong with the design of the new Ballroom?

Scale and Volume: The scale of the Ballroom addition dwarfs the existing White House, (its East Wing having been illegally demolished without any Municipal approval). The proposed addition is nearly 3 times the size of the White House's volume. Some of this added bulk is from the larger than necessary Ballroom itself. It is being sold as a space to hold sit-down dinners for 1,000 people whereas the room can actually sit more than 1,500 people. This can and should be reduced significantly.

Additionally, much of this added bulk is from the South Portico that is part of the new Ballroom's design. The South Portico is 166% larger than the White House's South Portico. This sends the wrong message which leads to confusion as to which is the more important part of the entire complex, the White House or the Ballroom.

This Portico serves no purpose whatsoever. Generally, a portico provides entry into a building, however, this portico does not provide any entrance into the building. Access to the portico is gained from the lawn by approximately 22 risers. When someone has arrived at the top of the staircase, there is no door into the building. It is also important to note that there is no ADA accessibility to this portico.

This portico is little more than a "fake entry" that adds nothing to the overall esthetic of the design and is a total waste of money and resources.

In classical design, the wings of a building and their connectors should be subordinate to the central structure, which in this case, is the White House. The current Ballroom design includes a connector from the White House (the east connector), and the Ballroom. However, the size and volume of this connecting structure dwarf the White House and bears no relationship to the West Wing of the White House in scale, volume or length.

The proposed addition is out of balance. It is oversized and should be significantly smaller and more aligned with the West Wing and its connector.

Location and Siting: The design of the Ballroom blocks the view from the Capitol to the White House.

The proposed design of the Ballroom extends far into the front yard of the White House lawn. As a result, the design of the Ballroom blocks the view from the

Capitol to the White House, (as envisioned by L'Enfant's axial design of Washington DC).

Specifically, 1/3rd of the bulk of the Ballroom inhibits this important view. If this Ballroom is approved and built, views between the White House and the Capitol will be forever blocked. Symbolically, it will negate our 250-year history of government based on checks and balances of power.

Driveway Approach:

The Ballroom Design violates Olmstead's landscape layout of the White House. Frederick Law Olmstead, one of the most renown landscape architects of this country, designed the White House driveways and walkways providing an elegant and symmetrical flow to the property. The Ballroom design intrudes into the existing curved driveway leading to the White House Portico, which will require altering the driveway. This relocation will make for a clumsy formal motorcade entry to the White House not befitting of such a significant and symbolic structure.

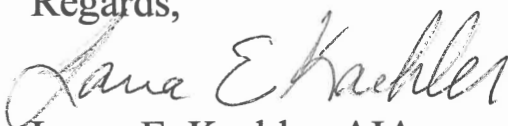
Architectural Firm Selection:

Whenever any architectural work is to be considered for any civic and publicly funded building, a Request for Proposals is legally required for qualified Architects to submit their credentials and be chosen by a committee to do the design work. This was never done. The present occupier of the White House determined that it was his right to choose whomever he wanted to design the Ballroom for the "People's House".

I frankly do not think that the architect who was chosen was at all qualified to design such a sensitive project knowing all the afore mentioned items that I only skimmed above. I urge the NCPC to use legal action against the process the present administration used to move this project forward. Additionally, I request that your committee 1) reject this Ballroom design, and 2) insist that the work be done legally and according to the typical channels of Architect selection for a public building.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,


Laura E. Kaehler, AIA

From: Nancy Kallenberger
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2026 11:51 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] White House Ballroom

Please continue to appeal to STOP THE WHITE HOUSE BALLROOM PROJECT! The whole process has been done without proper permits, plan reviews and public input. The White House belongs to all of us not a would be monarch. And like so many current programs is being rammed through before our representatives have time to react. The project plan should include non politically appointed experts and professionals.

Thank You,
Nancy Kallenberger
Yakima, Washington

-----Original Message-----

From: JEREMY FROST

Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2026 4:43 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Proposed East Wing Ballroom

To whom it may concern,

I am horrified by the plans proposed for the Ballroom.

I have been Chair of the Southport Conservancy (Southport CT) and have served on the Board of Preservation CT.

Being aware of standards dictated by the Secretary of the Interior, I am dumbfounded by the the numerous violations that this proposal contains.

It is not that I am against a ballroom that would hold 1,000 people comfortably but this goal can be achieved without destruction of existing (historical) viewscapes, altering Olmstead's fabulous entry design and also be sensitive to scale and proportion (totally lacking in the proposed design).

Keeping to industry standards for such a structure and the numbers envisioned, its mass could be significantly reduced.

Its height would be brought more to scale by lowering the structure so that the kitchen would be entirely underground. It doesn't have windows so no loss there - but that would help immensely.

Reducing the square footage to what is really required would mean there would be no more intrusion on Olstead's design and the axis of view from the Capital steps would not be eliminated as it is proposed to be. There would be better harmony between the three structures.

For more details on how this could be achieved and for the statistics that back up how the structure's sizing can certainly be reduced, go to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's website and view the discussion given by Parker and Bates - the foremost architects in this field.

Please preserve the integrity of our Capital for we, the people. It is an historic and beautiful design. It is timeless and should not be denigrated.

Many thanks for all you do,

Jeremy Frost

Southport CT

Sent from my iPad

Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 2:20 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: Website comment from Suzanne Leitner

I want to make known that the Trump ballroom plan is a regrettable mistake. I hope you guys have the political muscle to stop the permits from going through. I hope this serves as written feedback on this issue.

Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 2:47 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from ELIZABETH SLOAN

I STRONGLY OPPOSE REDEVELOPMENT OF ANY PROPERTY LINING EITHER SIDE OF THE NATIONAL MALL. The buildings along the National Mall are part of the cultural, historical, and architectural heritage of United States citizens. Specifically, I OPPOSE THE SALE OF THE AG-SOUTH BUILDING ON INDEPENDENCE AVENUE. DO NOT SELL Ag South. Sincerely, Elizabeth Sloan, Washington, DC

Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 5:31 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Tyler Smith

I support any and all efforts to stop this Trump driven architectural atrocity!
Tyler Smit, FAIA

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 9:50 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: greg hohman

Hello, I am writing to register opposition to the proposed ballroom. DC has enough venues already for the display of wealth and power. Indeed, too many. Use the space for a garden or return it to its natural state.

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Crego

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 12:21 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] East Wing Modernization Project

Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I have studied your proposed plan for the new ballroom. Right off the bat it is clear that it does not mesh with the White House. The new building is three times the size of the White House. It is gigantic!!! It is not inviting! It does not welcome guests! It does not fit in the lovely Olmsted-designed landscape. Why do we need a 2.36 million cubic foot building??? How many times a year will the President hold a 1500 person party? Who is going to pay for maintenance? (The U.S. taxpayer of course!) The building is an atrocity in all ways. Please reconsider the design, make it smaller, with windows, lower ceilings, and a welcoming entrance. Please make it a building we can all be proud of for 100 years or more instead of the currently planned monstrosity. Thank you!

Susan Crego

Rochester, NY

From: Ann Shelley Foster
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 3:56 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] White House East room objection

Hasn't this decision been made by a Republican placed judge already last Thursday?

From: Gay Parker

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 7:41 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] The Project Trump wants

Please be sure the right thing is done. Pres Trump seems to want to destroy our USA History of buildings with various names and put his name on so many and remove history. This is deplorable and a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Gay Parker

California

From: Sandra Vanta
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 8:37 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] East Wing Modernization Project

The White House is a part of a well thought out plan for not only a beautiful, but also a functional and symbolic city for our Nation's capital. L'Enfant, Hoban and Olmsted used classical design elements symbolize American ideals, especially emphasizing by the Capitol's size that ours is a government of the people, for the people and by the people. The plans for the new ballroom next to the White House would seriously disrupt the beauty and symbolism of that plan. The sight line from the Capitol building to the White House symbolizes the separation of powers and relationship between the Legislative and Executive Branches. Olmsted's landscape elements, especially the symmetrical drive in front of the White House provides a beautiful welcome to all who enter, be they heads of state or school children learning about their American heritage.

The proposed ballroom does not honor the classical design heritage and removes the many symbolic reminders of our American democracy. It's size is a concern -- it is larger than the White House. Its portico is significantly larger than those of the White House and Treasury Building. It's size is significantly larger than industry standards. It can accommodate 1,000 people, but it's size may not be appropriate for smaller gatherings of 250 to 500 guests, who may be intimidated by large area. It is also taller than the White House.

Classical design combined form and function. The ballroom design features a non-functional portico with fake windows and doors.

The sight line from the Capitol Building to the White House would be permanently destroyed, blocked by the ballroom. The drive way in front of the White House would no longer be symmetrical.

The design of the ballroom does not respect the classical traditions of our nation's majestic capital. A ballroom is not a bad idea, but it should be a building that enhances our capital, not one that disrupts 200 years of careful design and planning. I urge you to not approve the plans for that building and request plans that respect the design.

Sincerely,
K. Sandra Vanta
Rocky River, OH

From: Rick Lawrence
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 8:43 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed White House Ballroom

Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I am a retired architect who desires to express his complete opposition to the proposed new White House Ballroom, for the following reasons:

- 1) This gaudy monstrosity will overpower the White House and attached structures. Its mass and scale will dwarf the historic Executive Residence. The proposed interiors with lavish gold chandeliers and tacky décor is more fitting for a medieval European king.
- 2) Approvals have been achieved from commissions fully staffed by Trump supporters who he appointed, many without any experience in architecture, historic preservation or interior design.
- 3) The illegal demolition of the historic East Wing was done without any approval from commissions that are required to pass judgement on this historic National Landmark.
- 4) Trumps taste for architecture is no better than that of a septic system cleaner. His buildings are “desecrated” by gaudy, glitzy, faux-gold decorations that provide no value to the spaces or overall aesthetic quality.

Please DO NOT approve this monstrosity!!

Richard S. Lawrence, AIA Emeritus

October - May
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

June-October
Charlestown, RI

From: Keith Fine
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 10:03 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] East Wing Modernization Project / Proposed State Ballroom at the White House

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to formally express my concern regarding the proposed East Wing Modernization Project and the construction of a new State Ballroom at the White House, currently under review by the National Capital Planning Commission.

As a citizen who values the architectural, cultural, and civic legacy of the White House as a National Historic Landmark, I respectfully urge the Commission to more critically examine the proposal's scale, massing, architectural compatibility, and long-term impact on the integrity of the White House complex and its surrounding landscape.

Publicly released materials indicate that the proposed ballroom would be an addition of approximately 90,000 square feet, rising to the full height of the Executive Residence and replacing the demolished East Wing with a substantially larger structure. Multiple independent observers and preservation organizations have noted that this represents a dramatic departure from the historic scale and subordinate role traditionally maintained by auxiliary wings of the White House.

A central concern raised in recent architectural analyses—including the widely circulated critique referenced here—is that the project prioritizes monumentality and interior capacity over contextual restraint, resulting in a building whose bulk and visual dominance risks competing with, rather than supporting, the symbolic primacy of the Executive Residence itself. While the exterior adopts neoclassical language, the overall massing and footprint appear inconsistent with the delicate balance that has historically governed additions to the White House campus.

The White House complex has evolved over time, but that evolution has typically been guided by a principle of deference—where new construction remains visually secondary, carefully calibrated in proportion, and respectful of long-established sightlines. By contrast, renderings submitted to the Commission show a structure that spans a substantial portion of the site and presents as a near-coequal architectural presence.

Equally troubling is the process by which this project has advanced. The demolition of the existing East Wing prior to full public review has understandably undermined public confidence in the deliberative safeguards that bodies such as the NCPC are intended to provide. While officials have stated that demolition was justified on structural and cost grounds, the speed of the project and the sequencing of approvals have been widely criticized by preservation experts and members of the public.

I recognize the stated functional goals of the project—namely, the desire for a permanent, secure space for large official events and the elimination of temporary structures. However, the existence of a programmatic need does not, in itself, justify a solution that may cause irreversible harm to

one of the nation's most symbolically important civic landscapes. Numerous architects and preservationists have suggested that less intrusive alternatives or materially smaller interventions could meet these needs while preserving the historic hierarchy and character of the site.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the National Capital Planning Commission to:

- Reassess whether the scale and massing of the proposed ballroom are compatible with the historic White House ensemble.
- Consider whether the project truly meets the Commission's mandate to protect the federal interest in the nation's capital, particularly with respect to nationally significant landmarks.
- Encourage meaningful exploration of reduced or alternative design approaches that better align with long-standing preservation principles.

The White House belongs not to any single administration, but to the American people—past, present, and future. Decisions made now will shape its legacy for generations. I urge the Commission to exercise its full authority and independence in ensuring that this legacy is protected with the care, restraint, and thoughtfulness it deserves.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Keith Fine

From: Katma Tally
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 3:13 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] White House East Wing Ballroom project

To the Commission:

As a U.S. citizen, I object to this plan for a gargantuan “ballroom” to replace the East Wing so cavalierly destroyed by President Trump.

As I understand it, there was a much more modest plan, in keeping with the proportions of the remaining White House, that would be much preferable. The present design proposes a building so large it would overshadow the remaining White House, and it should not.

Please act to support and implement the more modest, original plan, regardless of Trump’s wishes. He should not have made changes to the People’s House without permission. The NCPC needs to order that the architects improve the plan, and only *then* approve.

Yours sincerely,

M. J. Millard
Tallahassee, FL

From: denise JAY

Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 6:59 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] BALLROOM MONSTROSITY

If, as the President claims, this is being paid for by donations.... why didn't he buy a parcel of ground to construct this ridiculous monstrosity? The White House is the "people's" property, not his. Why not have the citizens of the United States vote on the project? I have NOT heard one person voice their support for this project. If his "buddies" have that much money, maybe they should be helping pay down the national debt, or being made to pay their fair share of taxes!! Or, better yet, donate to a fund to assist the poor find housing and health care. No, it is ALL about him. You've already seen what havoc he has wreaked at the Kennedy Center, the wedge he has driven between our allies and the United States. We are no longer the shining example of democracy, the current leadership in Washington has made sure of that.

Return the White House grounds to us, we the people. Donald Trump DOES NOT OWN THIS PROPERTY!! Respectfully, Denise A. Jay

-----Original Message-----

From: k@comcast

Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 8:01 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] What a debacle

The destruction of the east wing of the White House was a travesty This is the people's house, not Donald Trump's.

And the 'plans' for the new build are a travesty on many levels - scale, cost, esthetics and a overall decor.

Please stop this administration. Now.

From: anne.hartzell@verizon.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 9:04 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] White House Ballroom

As Director of Corporate Affairs for the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation (PADC) from 1985 to 1996, I am extremely aware of the extended efforts in place to preserve the monuments, buildings, and sites that collectively represent the historic fabric of Washington DC and our country's history. Through PADC, I know the careful and lengthy review procedures in place to protect that history. I am utterly APPALLED at the mindless destruction of the East Wing and the thoughtless, rushed, ego-driven plan to build a glorious ballroom by a deranged and lawless president, whose only desire is to leave his biggest imprint on the people's sacrosanct White House and the city of Washington. I couldn't allow this to happen without registering my COMPLETE AND TOTAL OPPOSITION TO HIS PLANS AND HIS TOTAL DISREGARD FOR ALL LAWFUL REQUIREMENTS that have served over decades/centuries to preserve our historic structures and beautiful city. — Anne Hartzell

From: Vivian-Lee Nyitray
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 9:13 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Please reject WH ballroom plans

No matter who's paying for changes to our national heritage, there's a process to be followed. President Trump has ridden roughshod over that process and ignored protocols designed to keep individual desires and whims in check. President Trump's decision to raze the East Wing and build a mega-ballroom that threatens to dwarf the rest of the White House is disgraceful, disrespectful, and indicative of the shallow man the president has shown himself to be.

The White House, he should be reminded, is not in any sense "his." It's the People's House, and the American public should've been alerted and had the chance to weigh in before the demolition of the East Wing.

Shame on him. And shame on all the sycophants he's surrounded himself with.

My comment: it's too late to go back, but please rein in the plans for an ersatz Versailles.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Vivian-Lee Nyitray
Santa Barbara, CA

-----Original Message-----

From: jane tucker

Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 10:10 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] East Wing Modernization

To Committee Of NCPC:

I appreciate that you are giving a space for Americans to express their concerns and feelings about President Trump's unauthorized and illegal destruction of our White House...the people's house.

He should have had the same respect that you have for our opinions.

Not only has he destroyed the most iconic historically significant building but in doing so he shattered future generations to see what millions of Americans have treasured for generations.

After 9/11 I had the privilege of a private tour and it was so magical and moving. I am so sorry that my grandchildren will not have that same opportunity. I wish it could be undone for all to see in its original form. On that visit I didn't meet President Bush but I met a wonderful custodian. When I told him my dream was to see the White House kitchen he took me there and I met the chef who tragically died a few years later. I will never forget that day for all the obvious reasons but those two men that I met had such pride in that building because it was their home just as much as it was President's Bush's home.

Unfortunately many things change and it's beyond our control. Some things however are meant to stay the same and this was one thing that should have been left alone. He cheapened it. He made it in his image....it was suppose to be in our image. I hope you agree and can turn this around.

Respectfully,

Jane Tucker

Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 11:18 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Eliza Shapland

I think that the changes in the original plans suggested for the replacement White House ballroom would preserve the historical connection between the White House and the Capitol and keep the ballroom from overpowering the White House. The President's entertaining of Americans and visitors to America is a part of his or her job, but it is not the most important part of the job and should not dominate the historic building.

From: shahna Baugus

Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 11:43 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] White House Ball Room

I'm SO very much opposed to this.

Isn't the International Ballroom big enough, especially when no tables are available?

I see this as just another thing he wants to put his name on!

Please vote NO!

-----Original Message-----

From: shayne del cohen

Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 11:57 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Capitol Ballroom Project comment

Dear Commissioners,

The picture of a caterpillar claw striking the East Wing is as devastating as a bomb hitting Teheran.

Both done illegally.

Both painting a picture of US disdain for women, law and heritage.

With a vote to uphold all this mayhem, your legacy will be one of dishonor. Your oath of office will be stained. You will become those little vignettes so popular in historical trivia, those that betrayed the their country....who will forever live in infamy.

As a member of Congress once said, "Have you no shame?"

Hoping you will reverse this abomination and restore some respect to your charge.

Shayne Del Cohen

From: Papi Tee
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 2:27 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The East Wing Modernization Project

Dear Sirs,

I wish to add my thoughts / comments to the public record in regards to the East Wing Modernization Project (aka The Ballroom).

I am deeply disturbed and disappointed by the wanton destruction of the East Wing of the White House, just to satisfy one man's ego. The destruction of the East Wing was extremely personal to me, as I am related to both Presidents Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt thru my VerPlanck and Vanderpool lineage of the old Dutch colony of New Amsterdam (in fact FDR and I share the same grandmother from the Dutch colony). The East Wing, as you know, was built in 1902 when Teddy was President, and expanded in 1942 under FDR's tenure. Thus, as "family", I like most Americans, hold a special place in my heart for the White House, and for me, the East Wing in particular.

I would ask the ladies and gentlemen of this commission to reconsider the plans for the proposed ballroom, a monstrosity in design, and reject it outright due to the illegal destruction of a part of the Peoples House, a destruction committed with no oversight, no proper permits, no citizen impute, and no care for the history of the building itself.

I ask this commission to not only reject this ballroom proposal, but to also require that the East Wing be rebuilt (at the personal expense of President Trump), and thus restore balance to the design of the White House, pre-destruction.

I look forward to this commission voting for the Peoples wishes and desires, rather than the vanity of one man, and to the commission being on the right side of this country's history.

Please restore the beautiful balance that was once the design of the White House.

I thank the ladies & gentlemen of the commission for their time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Mr. Terrell E. Holmes
Bellingham, Washington

From: charles powers

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 5:33 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Ballroom at East wing

I fully support the President's plan to build the ballroom for hosting state dinners. It's important for presenting our country in a more dignified manner.

From: laura matis

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 5:48 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] East Wing

Please do not allow the current East Wing project to proceed. It's horrendous and purchased by billionaires looking for favor. It's disgusting.

Thank you

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 6:02 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Deborah Moore

Feedback re WH Ballroom Plan:

This structure is overall way too large in scale to be built so close to the WH. Too much too tall and also has too big a footprint. The scale is just off in relation to the remaining sections of the WH. The plan is also unappealing visually in its current form. This isn't a big hotel or NYC office building, it's a structure being built next to the residence and modest workspace of an ongoing list of presidents, their families & their closest staff. Please make some serious cutbacks in this design.

FYI, I hold a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and a Master of Arts degree.

Thanks for taking public input into this design issue. We will most likely have to live with this structure a long time into the future, so let's do it right in our 250th year!

Deborah Moore
NYC

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 6:44 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: Website comment from Louise Cohen, MD, MPH

I write to object to the ballroom that President Trump has started at the White House.

It is not needed, and shows contempt for history and the opinions of anyone but himself. The White House does not belong to him.

He continues to trash it up, witness the gaudy oval office. This enormous new building is not in keeping with the White House. It is a bloated edifice, in keeping with his bloated ego. Do not let one man, no matter his position, escape the usual purview of your commission. Do the right thing. Oppose this structure.

Respectfully,

Louise Cohen, MD, MPH

(About NCPC page)

-----Original Message-----

From: gene Okeefe

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 8:03 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Ballroom

You must not forsake your primary mission of maintaining the beauty and dignity of our DC landscape. The work on the Ballroom is illegal and you must ensure it follows the historic and legal roadmap that has been established.

Do not be steamrolled by Trump's vanity. Please!

Sent from my iPad,

Gene

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 8:06 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: Website comment from Gene O'Keefe

PLEASE do not forsake your mission on keeping DC beautiful.

PLEASE do not vote to approve this monstrosity called a ballroom for our DC landscape.

Gene Okeefe

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 8:27 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: Website comment from Tonya Powell

The new "ballroom" for a cheap pedophile looks as tacky and disgusting as Trump's Epstein list. Disgusting fascist regime. This entire debacle is gross, Anti-American, and indicative of the gaudy and slimy nature of the Pedophile-in-Chief.

From: mary skinner

Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 10:47 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] White House addition

Hello,

I am an architect in Denver, Colorado. I am opposed to the demolition of the East Wing of the White House. I am also opposed to the proposed ballroom addition. It is completely out of scale with the White House, and its design and detailing do not represent our values.

Sincerely,

Mary Louise Skinner

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 10:18:20 AM

To: Acosta, Marcel

Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: John F Cooke

Email:

Mr.. Acosta,

You have allowed The President to destroy the architectural beauty of not his house, but the People's House. Shame on you for allowing this to happen on your watch. Why are so many gov't officials so afraid of just saying no to a project/ idea that is totally wrong? The President wants to put his stamp on every government building he can and what is frustrating is the commission doesn't have the backbone to tell the president NO.

Best wishes,

Mr. John Cooke

From: Cynthia Mitchell

Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 11:10 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] White House Ballroom Project

I strongly disapprove of President Trump's gigantic White House Ballroom Project. The size is huge and out of proportion to the remainder of the building. It is ugly and gaudy like everything he touches. President Trump should never have been allowed to destroy the East Wing of the White House. He DOES NOT OWN THE WHITE HOUSE! It is "the people's house" and he is only a temporary occupant like all Presidents that have come before him. The commission should never have allowed this destruction to happen. Please do not make this horrible situation worse by allowing the construction of this ugly oversized ballroom.

Cynthia R. Mitchell

Dallas, TX

-----Original Message-----

From: EarthLink

Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 11:17 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Trump's so-called ballroom

Dear Commission, when Trump is "old news" the USA will be stuck with a building that rightly should be the people's - not a reflection of the gaudy golden tastes of one self indulgent politician. I was aghast when by fiat the east wing was demolished - on a whim - and ashamed of what is in the works for a "Trump ballroom" in DC.

Sincerely, Rhonda Cooper
Abingdon, Virginia

Sent from my iPad

From: dmstipe
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 9:50 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] White house ballroom

ABSOLUTELY NOT!!!!

Sent from [Proton Mail](#) for iOS.

From: Meg McNees
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 10:24 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Ballroom construction: NO!

Dear NCPC,

I strongly object to the president's plans to build an oversized, crudely designed ballroom on the White House grounds. Trump believes he is above the law and can do anything his ego wants to do. He has no regard for the people of the United States. The White House is the people's house and needs to be historically respected and cared for.

I object that he is using private funds and that those donors will expect favors in exchange from the president. Any structural changes to the White House needs to be paid for by the government and approved by you and other historical oversight organizations. It is a crime that the East Wing was destroyed. Now do the right thing and stop this ballroom from being built.

In conclusion, this insane proposed design actually blocks the Axis sight line forever between the White House and our beloved Capitol on the Hill. No more will we experience the wisdom of our D.C. city planners in 1792 to symbolically place the center of our democracy within view of each other, reminding us we are a nation of elected officials **by the people, for the people. We do not have a king dictate his whims for our White House.**

I plead with you to stop this plan for the president's enormous, ill conceived ballroom from moving forward. Be Brave!

Sincerely, Margaret McNees
Santa Rosa, Ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Donald Wailonis

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 10:40 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] White House ballroom

Dear commission Members, if there is any way, you can stop that gaudy ballroom from being built, please do so. The White House looks like the Kremlin inside now. We don't need any more of that. The best thing would be to stop the project completely, and rebuild the east wing thank you for listening and your concern.

Donald Wailonis

Wallingford, CT

Sent from my iPhone

From: Mary Coffman

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 10:40 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Comment for March 5th Meeting

Do the right thing and **stop Trump's Ballroom Project now**. He should never have been able to tear down the East Wing and he should not be able to build a hideous temple to glorify himself. His tastes most certainly do not reflect American cultural ideals. Although there may be a need for some type of event space at the White House a great deal more input from Congress, the National Capitol Planning Commission and the National Trust for Historic Preservation must be a part of the process. Please make sure this happens.

Mary Coffman

St Paul, MN

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 11:25 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Debra Barringer

I am hoping you will investigate the planned ballroom for our White house. This is not what USA citizens need or want at this time in history. Thank you

(About NCPC page)

-----Original Message-----

From: Jen H

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 11:52 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Cc: JH [REDACTED]

Subject: [External] Why

Why are you allowing a despot to destroy our heritage to build a BALLROOM of most ugly proportions???

You, under his control, should be gone and make room for honest leaders with the quality to preserve history and reality.

What is a citizen to do?

From: Jill Carpenter
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 7:59 PM
To: East Wing Mod <eastwingmod@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Stop the Ballroom - Replace the East Wing

Dear Preservation and Planning Committee:

Stop the Golden Ballroom - Replace the East Wing.

Of all the outrageous acts of President Donald J. Trump, his overreach and rapid destruction of the East Wing made me the most physically sick.

Why is it an emotional issue? It is symbolic of Trump's megalomania, his disregard for American citizens and disrespect for American institutions.

Trump does not own the White House, just like he does not own the Grand Canyon, or any other national park.

He is a temporary tenant, with a staff provided by us, the American citizens, who are graciously letting him live temporarily in a house that belongs to us.

He likes to stick gold around, but that can be changed by a new tenant

If changes are to be made that are not reversible, Congress must be approached, approval sought, and careful planning must take place.

He did none of this.

Such a change must not be funded by private donations. That makes it a "pay to play" game, and the proposed ballroom becomes only for Trump's monied friends.

Needless to say, he can entertain his billionaire friends at Mar-a-Lago, and put their names on the walls there.

Trump destroyed the East Wing as part of his vengeance presidency, and we must say "no more!" Somebody must draw a line in the sand for him because he has no self-control.

And require him to pay for the reconstruction of the East Wing from his own funds. Preferably funds he has not stolen from us.

It will make him angry, but we must stop him from destroying something else in his anger.

If necessary, tie this up in a lawsuit until he is gone from the People's House. Do not let another nail be driven.

Jill Carpenter, Salem, VA

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 4:08 AM
To: East Wing Mod <eastwingmod@ncpc.gov>
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Jean Carulli

I am writing as a concerned citizen about the East Wing renovation. This never should have been demolished. And the new plans for a \$400 million ballroom would be a waste of taxpayer money. Several Presidents served two terms and the most State Dinners ever held over their eight years was 29 dinners. What would be the true use of this project? Would it be rented or “loaned” out to some of the donors? The American public needs more info before this very expensive project can be green lit. Thank you.

February 14, 2026

National Capital Planning Commission
401-9th St. NW
Suite 500 N
Washington DC 20004

To Whom it May Concern

When our environment is in such a condition and our President is failing in his promises to end the wars, it seems to me that a ballroom is the least important issue facing our country. We will now ignore the pollution and let Big Oil have it's way destroying our atmosphere while we busy ourselves worrying about Immigrants.

Please see what you can do to stop the Ballroom! We have people in this country going hungry and afraid to go to the doctor, people struggling to pay there heating bills and so much more!

If you want my advice, please do something the people of this country really need. NOT A BALLROOM!!!

Yours respectfully,



Victoria Madsen

Richfield, MN 55423

United States of America
From the Desk Of George Washington

[REDACTED] Perry, Florida, 32348-1072
[REDACTED]

Date: February 19th 2026

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street NW
Suite 500N
Washington, DC 20004
Attention Planning Board

To Whom it May Concern,

Regarding The Planned Arch in Our Federal District of Columbia, Lafayette did not Design the District for a Arch Nor did We Want One in the 1700's, Secondly the Land is Just in Trust for the American People, My Name still sits upon the Land Deeds. So Nix that Plan. Also Nix the Plan for the East Wing Replacement I have Been Planning a White House Overhaul Since 2015. I invoked with Secret Service on June 11th 2020. I have been Working on My Government since then and In the Process of Invoking it. It is a Process to Get this Done as You Can Imagine. I have started to Contract with a Design Firm to Overhaul the Layout of the Grounds of the White House Complex. To Place the White House Under Full Renovation As of July 2027. That Will Give time for Planning and For the Public to See the White House Before It Goes Under a Massive Overhaul to Put The Building into its Final Configuration. Enclosed Our My Federal Documents Showing I control the Asset. Which Our Now My Workspaces. The Administration has shown a Distrust to the American Public, I am in the Process of Revocation. I have Already Instructed the

White House Historical Society to Start Documenting the
White House and Cataloging the Inventory Within the Home.
As you know Mount Vernon is Currently Being Restored So it
Can Become the Temporary Workspace, Once I am Made
Public. If you have any Questions or Concerns Feel Free to
Contact Me.

Thanks

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Washington". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

George Washington

James A. Brannock

[REDACTED] Columbia, SC [REDACTED]

18 February 2026

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW
Suite 500N
Washington, DC 20004

Re: East Wing "Modernization" NCPC File Number 8733

While I decry the unauthorized and irrevocable destruction of the historical East Wing of the White House, I recognize that damage has been done.

I object to the addition of a casino-like ballroom that is out of scale with the White House and ruins the architectural balance. I am so offended by the proposal that I am struggling to avoid snide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "James A. Brannock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Martha Gibson Walker

February 22, 2026

Mr. Marcel Acosta
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street NW, Suite 500N
Washington DC 20004

Dr. Mr. Acosta,
The White House is a National Historic Landmark and National Park, owned by the American people, and home to our presidents since 1800.

The destruction of the East Wing of the White House must be stopped! Donald Trump must be stopped! He should be held financially responsible for the destruction he ordered and has already undertaken. He should also personally be responsible for the cost of restoration of this historic building.

I strongly oppose any government spending on this project, which was started without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. Under the guise of modernization Trump is attempting to change the historic look of our nation's capital into a tacky reflection of his personal style.

While special event space may be needed, constructing a ballroom larger than the White House is ridiculous! The East Wing must be rebuilt and restored to its former design and be in proportion to the existing structure.

This East Wing Modernization project should not be allowed to go forward without following established legal guidelines, reviews and permitting.

Sincerely,



Martha Gibson Walker

Email: [REDACTED]

Cc:

Diane Sullivan, NCPC, Director, Current Planning Division

Tamara Lewis, Director, NCPC, Administration

Meghan Hottel-Cox, NCPC, General Counsel & Secretariat

✓ Lee Webb, NCPC, Historic Preservation Specialist

Thomas Leubke, Commission of Fine Arts, Secretary

401 F Street NW, Suite 312 Washington DC 20001-2728

Sarah Batchelor, Commission of Fine Arts, Assistant Secretary

[REDACTED]
Lewes, DE 19958
February 25, 2026

National Capitol Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Re: White House Ballroom

Commissioners:

I oppose the spending of any money on this project which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project, but rather a complete razing of United States history. I want this project canceled and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design.

No one is above the law.

Respectfully,


C. Jeffrey Watson



February 17, 2026

National Capital Planning Commission
409 9th Street N.W., Suite 500N
Washington, D.C. 20009

RE: Proposed East Wing Modifications Project
Executive Residence at the White House
NCPC File No.8733

Dear Commissioners:

As a retired urban planner with more than forty years of experience in planning and urban design, I am appalled at the brash affront to the nation's capital that Mr. Trump's proposed ballroom would present.

When Pierre L'Enfant laid out his formal city plan for Washington, D.C. in 1791, he was inspired by the wonderful avenues, gardens, and views in several great cities of the world, such as Paris, Rome, and London. He specified the locations of such important buildings as the U.S. Capitol ("Congress House") and the "President's Palace." Of course, his view of the scale (and name) of the latter was of that of the environs and residences of the kings and emperors with which he was familiar as a man of his times. When President Washington changed its name to the "President's House," he clearly indicated that he wanted none of that grandeur.

Perhaps equally important, *we* are not of those times.

James Hoban was the first architect of the White House. An Irish immigrant, Hoban began his design career in the U.S. in Philadelphia in 1785. He designed the Charleston, S.C. courthouse shortly thereafter, and an admiring George Washington invited him to design the President's House in 1792 in a similar neoclassical fashion. Washington himself insisted on a building with a smaller profile than the one Hoban first presented, and John Adams was the first President to reside there. Badly damaged during the War of 1812, it was reconstructed to similar scale, and in the 1820's the South and North Porticos were added. A West Wing was added in 1901 for additional office space, and that was expanded in 1909. An East Wing was added in 1902, and alterations occurred in 1942 and 1946 – until it was summarily torn down by President Trump in 2025.

The point from this brief history is that the building has always been -- and must remain -- a living one, where changes are expected as needs arise. But change should always first respect the quiet dignity of the building, its setting, and its internal spaces, and second, it should respect the careful process that has been established for reviewing and adjusting proposed changes.

~~Design~~ for the proposed \$400M addition that was revealed this past week ~~is a massive new structure~~ that has ballooned in size during its design to almost 90,000 square feet, substantially bigger than the Executive Mansion's own footprint (55,000 square feet) and of the same height, with a flight of 8 columns and two-story windows. As seen on the elevations, it's presence and scale overwhelm the White House site, and unbalance various perspectives. Indeed, from the South Lawn, the White House looks small and unimportant next to an enormous formal ballroom.

Mr. Trump's plans for the inside of the new building are equally out of touch with the purposeful simplicity of the White House, with hefty golden chandeliers, a coffered ceiling, and gold trim everywhere. "Grand?" Yes, but in its overstated dimensions and decoration, grand like the Palace of Versailles, not grand like the stately Charleston Court House that so inspired the first President and for which the Executive Mansion's first architect was responsible.

Finally, this outsized building and its design is being thrust onto the people's house, with an abridged process and an artificially imposed timeline for consideration by both the public and the two government bodies created by Congress to review such proposed changes. For example, at your March 5, 2026 public meeting, *both* preliminary and final plans are to be considered. How is that even possible, when there should be sufficient time provided *in between* consideration of the first and the second set of plans, to allow for adjustments or modifications to be made as judged necessary by the reviewing bodies, or as suggested by the public? It is another example of this President running roughshod over a purposely deliberative process he finds inconvenient, that might interfere with his own personal desire? Is it another example of the President's staff setting up a foregone conclusion?

The NCPA, along with the Commission of Fine Arts, should exercise their expertise, experience and judgment, and should be able to take full account of public commentary, to reduce the immense scale of the proposed addition, so that the President's interest in creating new facilities can be balanced with the vision of simple beauty that our democracy should demonstrate in its built environment -- instead of the grandiosity of a royal court. In this instance, the White House itself is just too important a national symbol to be overshadowed or dwarfed by what should be a building and function of lesser importance.

Yours sincerely,



Lee R. Epstein

Dear Commission SEATTLE WA 980

Please preserve the
dignity and coherence of the
nation's capital. Don't approve
private branding over
public interest. Where is
the careful stewardship of
the capital? Also where
do you place your
values, guidelines and
responsibilities?!? SAY
NO to this structure (Ballroom)
that does NOT preserve
historic preservation. No
tacky gold, ~~please~~ SafeGuard
The Capitol. Sarah Gravale Washington State



TO

National Capital Planning
Commission
401 9th Street NW
Ste 500N
Washington DC 20004

Feb 2026

Chair William S. Schaff. SPRACUSE NY 130

18 90% + 25 FEB 2026 AM 2 L

Comments have been
negative for the
ballroom of the
Peoples' house,
Should there not
be a pause, or
review?

Kay Krantz
Skanectates NY



National Capital
Planning Commission
401 9th St NW
Suite 500N
Washington DC
20004