

X-3082

C855144

En esta fotografía se aprecia el pequeño jardín que hay a espaldas de la Villa Blair.

Blair House, a historic mansion in Washington, D.C., will be the home of President Harry S. Truman and his family for the next year, while the White House, official residence of Presidents of the United States, is undergoing structural and other repairs. Blair-Lee House, which adjoins Blair House on Pennsylvania Avenue, across the street from the White House, will be used to house some of the White House staff and to accommodate foreign guests of the nation. A doorway has been cut through the wall separating the two buildings to connect the first floor rooms of the two mansions.

Intimately associated with the social and political life of the nation's capital for a century, Blair House, was built in 1824 by Dr. Joseph Lovell, first surgeon general of the United States Army and was purchased in 1836 by Francis Preston Blair, a Washington newspaper publisher. The mansion remained in the hands of his family until the death of Gist Blair in 1940, when it was bought by the United States Government as a guest house for visiting dignitaries. Four United States Presidents -- Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, Abraham Lincoln and William Howard Taft -- United States cabinet members and other persons prominent in public life were frequent guests at the home. In recent years Presidents, Prime Ministers and other representatives of foreign nations have resided in the mansion while visiting Washington. Most of the mansion's furniture, mirrors, chandeliers, four-poster beds, paintings, rugs, silverware and china were possessions of the Blair family.

Blair-Lee House was built about 1880 for Elizabeth Blair Lee, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Preston Blair. She married Samuel Phillips Lee, who later became a rear admiral in the United States Navy. The building was purchased by the United States Government in 1941 for use as an office building and was reconditioned in 1943 as an additional guest house for official guests of the nation.

The photo shows the small garden in the rear of Blair House.

(DD-50484)



CITIES - WASHINGTON, D.C. - Miscell