

GRACIE MANSION

Kids' Guide



**Welcome
to
Gracie**

**Mansion,
Friends!**



Observe.
Think.
Learn.



This guide is designed to introduce you to Gracie Mansion's history, importance, hidden gems and help you make discoveries while on your tour. Our tour guides would love to answer any questions you have or listen to any comments you would like to make.

Enjoy your tour!





Rules

We want you to have fun, but please keep these rules in mind while on your tour:

1. Keep your hands down to protect the gallery and yourself
2. Please do not sit or lean on the furniture, so that you and the gallery remain safe
3. You may only take photos in the Wagner Ballroom
4. Please no food or drinks while inside
5. Stay with the group
6. Speak quietly
7. Listen to your tour guide and feel free to ask questions!

Q & A

Who lives here?

The Mayor and First Lady of New York City live here, along any other family members.

How old is Gracie Mansion?

The oldest parts of the house date back to 1799.

Why was Gracie Mansion built?

The house was originally owned and constructed by Scottish immigrant Archibald Gracie. He wanted a country house along the cool shores of the East River to escape from his downtown town house. At the time, New York City only went from the Battery to what we know today as Canal Street.

Why am I allowed to come to the Mayor of New York City's House?

Gracie Mansion was deemed a New York City Landmark in 1966. It belongs to all New Yorkers to see and experience. After all, this is "The People's House!"

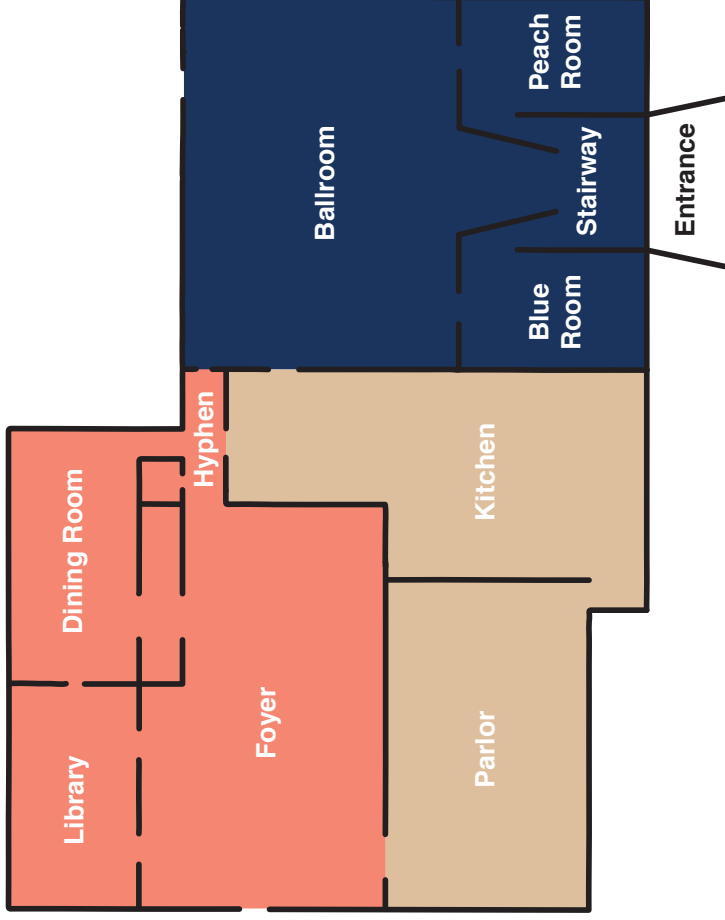
Quick History

In the late 1700's, George Washington walked on the same land you are on today! He took command of the Belview Mansion, a different house on the same site, which he turned into a fort when the Revolutionary War began. This area was valuable for General Washington during the war since it overlooked the East River, a strategic waterway during the battle against the British for independence.

After the Americans won the war, a successful New York merchant named Archibald Gracie bought the ruins of the former house and built Gracie Mansion, a country house five miles north of today's city limits. Gracie Mansion remained a house until 1896 when the City of New York gained control of the estate and created what is now known as Carl Schurz Park. For decades, Gracie Mansion served as the park's concession stand and restroom before it was restored and became the first home of the Museum of the City of New York. Gracie Mansion has gone through many renovations since being built in 1799 but remains one of the oldest surviving wood structures in Manhattan!

In 1942, Gracie Mansion became a home again when Fiorello La Guardia moved in as its first mayoral resident. It has remained New York's "Little White House" ever since!

Map of the House



I Spy...

Being a spy may be fun and exciting, but it's not easy! Pretend to be a secret spy in your tour group and spot the items on your checklist!

Use the colors of the checklist boxes to discover which room each item is in. Good luck, Spy Kid!

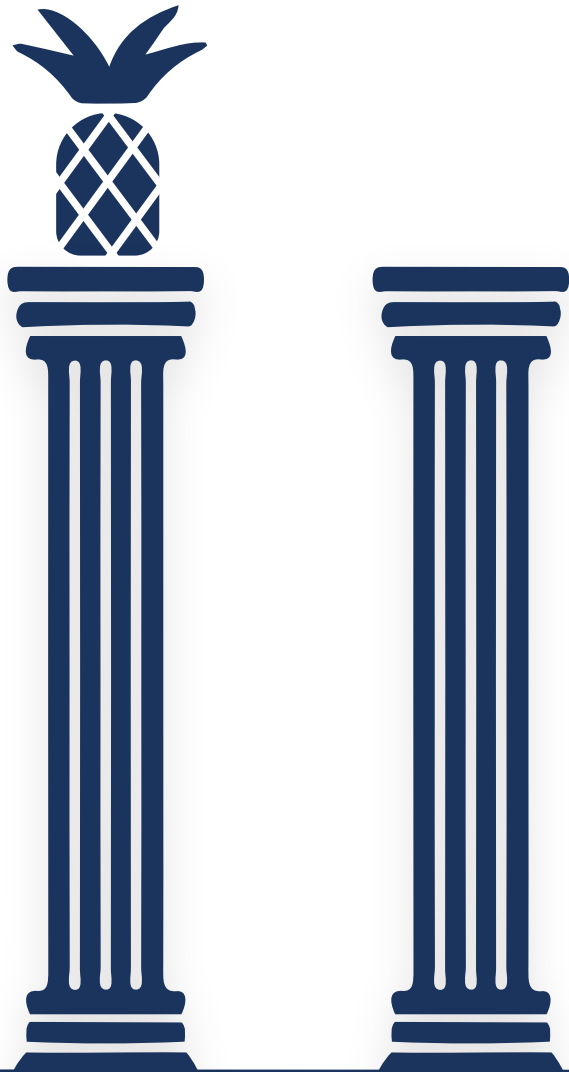
Remember to ask your tour guide any questions you may have!

Checklist

- Pineapple figure
- Bullseye mirror
- New York City seal
- Marble floor
- A cannonball
- Name etched into a window
- A staircase
- Tiny figurines of war heroes
- Portrait of Eliza Walcott Gracie, the "Gracie Ghost"
- Antique television

Activity

The pineapples in the Ballroom represent hospitality! Draw a figure you would have to welcome someone into your home.



Secrets



1. The Gracie Ghost, Eliza W. Gracie, has been heard by people who have lived in Gracie Mansion.
2. The cannonball is from the Revolutionary War.
3. It is said Alexander Hamilton passed away in front of the fireplace now in the ballroom, before it was installed in Gracie Mansion.
4. Gracie Mansion was once a concession stand and restroom for Carl Schurz Park.
5. The small war hero figurines are actually models of real life historical statues!

Notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.



**GRACIE
MANSION**

www.nyc.gov/gracie