

The noted photographer, Philippe Halsman, took this portrait of Mr. Hoover on his 88th birthday.



Mr. Hoover with homeless Polish children in Warsaw April 1946 during a survey to seek ways to avert a post-World War II famine.



THE BIRTHPLACE COTTAGE.—Originally built by Herbert Hoover's father, Jesse Clark Hoover, about 1870, the Birthplace Cottage, now completely restored and refurnished, stands on its original site not far from the west branch of the Wapsinonoc Creek from which the town drew its name.



HERBERT HOOVER PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY.—Facing Downey Street stands the Herbert Hoover Library. This structure houses the large collection of papers accumulated by Mr. Hoover during his many years of public service, his collection of books, and a wide variety of objects associated with his long, distinguished career. Many items are on display in exhibit areas. A 180-seat auditorium occupies one wing of the building. The library was built by the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Foundation. The buildings and grounds were offered to the Federal Government as a gift by the Foundation, and were accepted on August 10, 1964.



THE BLACKSMITH SHOP.—Near the Birthplace Cottage is a well-executed replica of Jesse Hoover's blacksmith shop. It houses an extensive collection of contemporary tools and other objects.



THE GRAVES OF PRESIDENT AND MRS. HOOVER.—About one-quarter mile to the southwest on a hillside are the graves of President and Mrs. Hoover. Landscaping completes a circular setting for the flat, white marble gravestones, with a view down the valley to the birthplace.



QUAKER MEETING HOUSE.—Herbert Hoover's mother often spoke before the congregation that worshipped in this building. Hoover, as a child, attended meetings here with his parents. It was purchased by the people of West Branch in 1964, and given to the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Foundation. In 1964-65, after being moved to its present site on the east side of Downey Street opposite the Presidential Library, it was restored to its near original appearance.

Sketches by William J. Wagner

BURT GLINN FOR LIFE, TIME, INC.

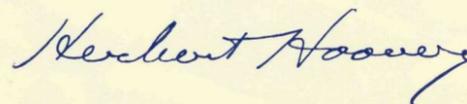


Mr. Hoover was an ardent fisherman. This photograph shows him fishing on the Mackenzie River in Canada in 1953. He pursued this hobby all his life, and wrote several books on the subject.



HERBERT HOOVER
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE • IOWA

"... The great advances have not been brought about by mediocre men and women. They were brought about by distinctly uncommon people with vital sparks of leadership. Many of the great leaders were, it is true, of humble origin, but that alone was not their greatness."



Early days at West Branch

In a simple, two-room cottage in the village of West Branch, Iowa, Herbert Hoover, world-renowned engineer, humanitarian, and 31st President of the United States, was born on August 10, 1874.

Here he spent the first 10 years of his life. But these early years on the banks of the Wap-sinonoc (an Indian term meaning "sweet water") left an indelible impression upon a man whose later life of public service was to carry him to all parts of the world and win him distinction everywhere.

"Bert," as he was then affectionately known, was the second of three children of Jesse and Hulda Hoover. The family were Quakers, and it is this background to which Hoover later attributed the spiritual motivation and the guiding

principles of his life—absolute honesty, loyalty, hard work, cooperation, and generosity.

In 1879, Jesse Hoover died from typhoid fever at the age of 34. Four years later Hulda Hoover died of the same disease. The orphaned Hoover children went to live with relatives, Herbert going with an uncle, Allan Hoover, on his farm just northeast of West Branch.

Later life in Oregon and California

At the age of 11, Herbert journeyed to Oregon to live with another uncle, Dr. H. John Minthorn, at Newburg. At 17, he was able to pass the entrance examination for enrollment at the engineering school when Stanford University opened its doors on October 1, 1891. He showed a marked aptitude for mathematics and geology. He graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in engineering in May 1895.

After graduation, Hoover spent several months working in the gold mines in California, as a mining engineer in Colorado, and then became a member of a leading mining engineer's staff in San Francisco.

A mining career in Australia and China

In 1897, he went to work as chief of gold-mining operations in western Australia for the British firm of Bewick, Moreing and Company. A year later Hoover accepted a position offered him by the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, but before going to China, he married a girl, Lou Henry, whom he had met at Stanford.

The Boxer Rebellion erupted while the Hoovers were in China, and it was during this conflict that Hoover received his first taste of war, refugees, and humanitarian work. Late in 1901—about a year after the rebellion was over, Hoover returned to California with Bewick, Moreing and Company. Since that company had worldwide interests, he later wrote, "I circled the globe five times."

As World War I food administrator

When World War I broke out, American Ambassador Page, in England, asked Hoover to organize and direct the American Relief Com-

mittee. His successful administration of this work, plus the experience gained during the Boxer Rebellion, caused President Woodrow Wilson to appoint him as head of the Commission for Relief in Belgium.

At one time, Hoover was directing the food supplies for 250 million people in 22 nations. As a part of these operations, he created the American Relief Administration, largely devoted to the rehabilitation of some 10 million undernourished children. In 1922-23, he undertook similar work for the great famine in Russia.

In 1921, President Warren G. Harding appointed Hoover Secretary of Commerce, a post he was to hold for over 7 years under two Presidents. He expanded the activities of the Department of Commerce, particularly in the fields of foreign trade and communications.

As the 31st President

When President Coolidge refused to seek re-nomination in 1927, Hoover became the Republican Party's leading candidate. He was nominated overwhelmingly and won the election by a larger popular and electoral vote than any President had yet received.

Hoover's administration made many notable accomplishments—reforms of the criminal procedure for Federal courts, bankruptcy laws, laying the foundations of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, creation of the Federal Power Commission, new banking laws and regulation of stock speculation and securities promotion, and expansion of the improvement of waterways and the conservation of oil and other natural resources. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation was created as were home loan banks and a new agricultural credit system. Hoover was influential in the convening of a world economic conference to reduce trade barriers and stabilize world currency.

On October 29, 1929, an economic depression was climaxed by the crash of the stock market. Hoover hoped to relieve the distress by a policy of indirect Government assistance to the masses of unemployed. But despite these efforts, his popularity evaporated.

After the Presidency

Though the Republicans renominated Hoover on the first ballot at their 1932 convention, he lost the election to the Democratic nominee, Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York. After the election, Hoover retired to his home in California. He devoted much of his time to the Stanford Union, the School of Business Administration, the Food Institute, and the Hoover Institute and Library on War, Revolution and Peace.

But Hoover's public service was not yet finished. In 1946, President Truman asked him to study food supplies and make recommendations for averting a post-World War II famine.

In 1947, Hoover was asked to head a commission making a searching investigation and recommendations for improvement of the organization of the Executive Branch of the Government. Congress enacted many of the commission's recommendations into law.

President Eisenhower created a second commission in 1953, asking Hoover again to serve as its chairman. So, on June 30, 1955, after eight years as chairman and with the work of the commission which bore his name ended, Hoover finally retired from public life.

He died on October 20, 1964, and, in accordance with his expressed wish, was buried on a hillside overlooking his birthplace and the town of West Branch. A few days after his burial on October 25, 1964, the remains of Mrs. Hoover, who had passed away in 1944, were brought to the site from California.

THE SITE

Herbert Hoover's birthplace was designated a National Historic Site on August 12, 1965. When the lands required for adequate protection, development, and management are acquired, the site will contain approximately 200 acres.

The site is on Downey Street in West Branch, about 1 mile north of Interstate 80.

The site includes the birthplace cabin; blacksmith shop; the graves of President and Mrs. Hoover; the Quaker meeting house; the Presidential Library; and the Statue of Isis, the Egyptian goddess of plenty, which was given to Mr. Hoover in the early 1920's by school

children in appreciation for his relief work during World War I.

Several buildings in West Branch near the site have been restored to their original appearance; plan to visit them.

ADMINISTRATION

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site is administered by the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior.

A superintendent, whose address is P. O. Box B, West Branch, Iowa, 52358, is in immediate charge.

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library is administered by the Archivist of the United States. An admission fee is charged.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—the Nation's principal natural resource agency—has a special obligation to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that our renewable resources are managed to produce optimum benefits, and that all resources contribute to the progress and prosperity of the United States, now and in the future.



The Hoover Cabinet.