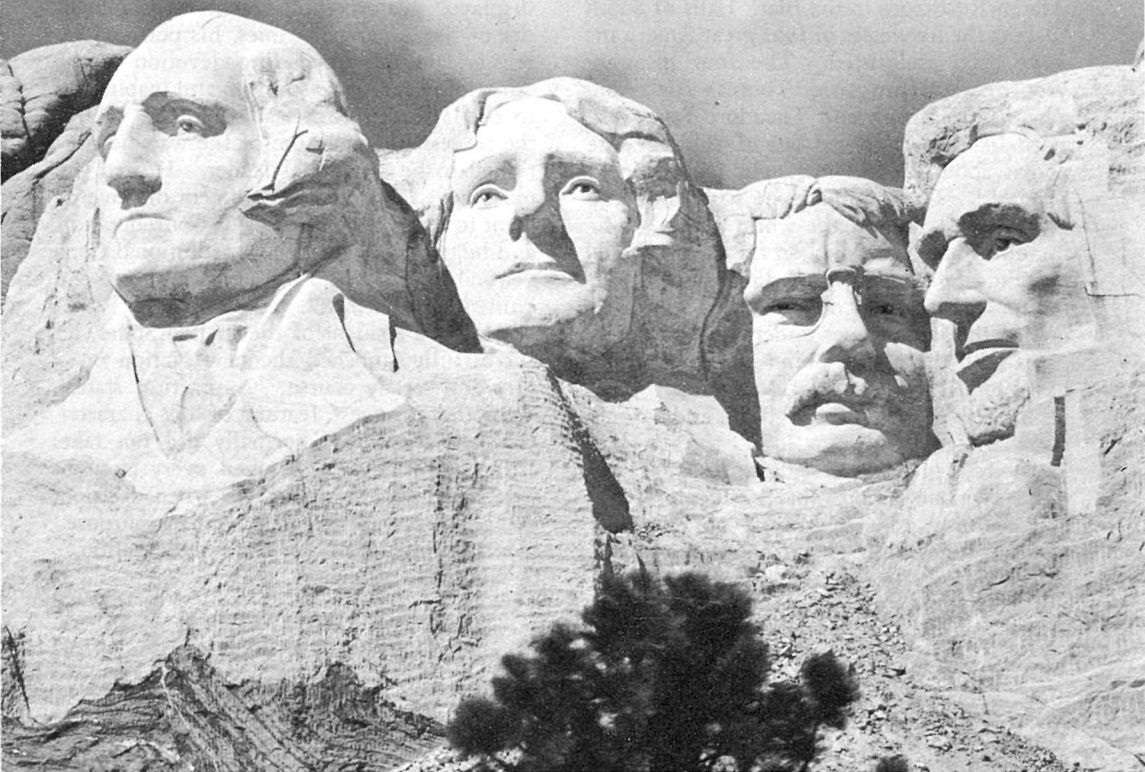


MOUNT RUSHMORE



National Memorial

SOUTH DAKOTA

MOUNT RUSHMORE

NATIONAL MEMORIAL



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Douglas McKay, *Secretary*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • Conrad L. Wirth, *Director*

Four giants of American history are memorialized here in lasting granite, their likenesses carved in proportions symbolical of greatness.

On the granite face of 6,000-foot high Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills of South Dakota the likenesses of four great Americans have been sculptured. The four men are George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt. Each likeness is carved out of solid granite and is about 60 feet in height from chin to forehead. Gutzon Borglum sculptured the models and directed the work. The Washington figure is finished as far as the shoulders, adding to the overall dimensions of the group. This group of sculptured figures is one of the largest ever undertaken. It compares with the great Sphinx of Egypt which has a total height of 70 feet, a human head of 30 feet from chin to forehead, and a lion's body 189 feet long.

The four great Americans represented here stand as giants among the Presidents of the first century and a quarter of our Nation's history. They built well in the development of our democratic processes of government, and are honored here because of it.

George Washington

Just as George Washington was the first American President, so was his likeness the first of the four to be sculptured on Mount Rushmore. The movement for liberty centered in him during the American Revolution.

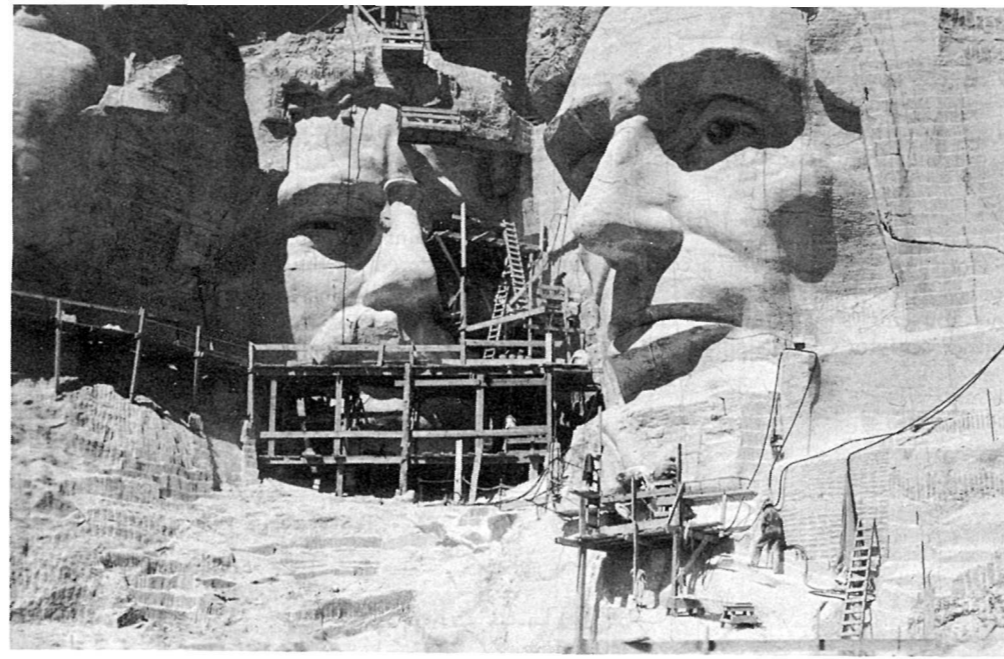
The National Park System, of which this area is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.

The great qualities of personal leadership he displayed, his accomplishments as Commander of the American armies, his personal integrity, and his unyielding devotion to the American cause gave strength and inspiration to the Thirteen American Colonies. After the successful conclusion of the war, he continued to be a national leader. He led the movement for a better instrument of government to replace the Articles of Confederation and he presided over the Constitutional Convention that drew up the Constitution of the United States in 1787.

As first President of the United States, he successfully launched the new Nation on a sure and steady course. A practical statesman, the strongest feature of his character was prudence. He normally did not take action until he had weighed every circumstance and consideration; but when decision had been reached he carried out his purpose. "Upright intentions and close investigation," he said, were his guides.

Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, would have been great by that act alone. But that noble document was only one of the many accomplishments he bestowed upon the shaping of the new Nation. Throughout his life he was a foe



The Roosevelt and Lincoln sculptures as they appeared in 1940.

to all kinds of human tyranny. He labored for a democracy with a broader base in the interests of the common man. More than most of his contemporaries he trusted the common man.

He was an American pioneer in many branches of science. His habits and temperament were those of a scholar. He was a philosophical statesman, and at the same time the most versatile of Americans. He was a patron of the arts and the leading figure in the classical revival of architecture in the United States. He was a builder whose creative genius comprehended both physical structures and the shaping of the political forms of the Republic. Jefferson himself counted the penning of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom and the founding of the University of Virginia among his greatest accomplishments.

The most notable achievement of his two terms as President was the purchase of the vast Louisiana territory. The Louisiana Purchase more than doubled the land area of the young Republic. It opened new fields of economic opportunity for men of all classes and degrees of wealth, perpetuated for three-quarters of a century the constructive influ-

ences of the democratic frontier, and guaranteed the physical greatness and strength of the United States.

Abraham Lincoln

The man who more than any other preserved the Union and freed the slaves will rank forever among the foremost of Americans. He gave to his country a new birth of freedom and a "Government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

The sixteenth President of the United States was a 6-foot 4-inch giant of uncommon strength with a face of deep hollows and heavy shadows. He typifies better perhaps than any other man the precious birthright of every United States citizen to rise from humble circumstances to public eminence and national honor. This frontier lawyer was a true liberal. He knew and loved the common man. Liberalism to him was not a garment that he wore on occasion; it was, as one of his biographers has said, "the fiber of his mind."

His use of the English tongue is unmatched among the American great. It resembles in its simplicity and power the Anglo-Saxon of Shakespeare and the St. James version of the

Bible. If "the final cause of speech is to get an idea as exactly as possible out of one mind into another," he succeeded supremely well in doing it.

His thought processes were characterized by tenacity of logic and conclusions slowly reached, but then firmly held. He was a statesman overflowing with those rare human qualities of humility and mercy. His own words might well be used to describe the man himself, "With malice toward none; with charity for all."

Theodore Roosevelt

The likeness of Theodore Roosevelt was the last of the four to be carved on the side of Mount Rushmore. This robust man with his great variety of interests and talents left his mark on his country. His career encompassed roles of political reformer, trust buster, rancher, soldier, writer, historian, explorer, hunter, conservationist, and vigorous executive of his country. He was equally at home on the western range, in an eastern drawing room, or at the Court of St. James. He typified the virile American of the last quarter of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries. More than most Presidents, he knew the West. He was perhaps the greatest conservationist among our Presidents, and he took action to arrest what he felt was a squandering of our national resources.

His administration witnessed the building of the Panama Canal, new and greater responsibility in the Caribbean, and the extension of United States naval power. One of his best known admonitions is, "Speak softly and carry a big stick, you will go far."

The Sculpturing

Gutzon Borglum, the noted sculptor selected to execute the carvings, began work on the granite face of Mount Rushmore, August 10, 1927, the same day that President Calvin Coolidge dedicated the memorial. The real, organized work of drilling and blasting stone, however, began on October 4 and continued, with many lapses caused by lack of funds and unfavorable weather, for nearly 14 years until death stayed Borglum's hand in March 1941.

Borglum used at Mount Rushmore, the engineering methods he had evolved at Stone

Mountain in Georgia. The first step was to blast away the surface rock until a point was reached where a solid granite face, unbroken by the deep fissures lining and crosschecking the face of the mountain, was exposed. The work was done by drills, jackhammers, and dynamite. Borglum trained a group of examiners to do the work. All the drilling and blasting was done on the basis of measurements obtained from a model.

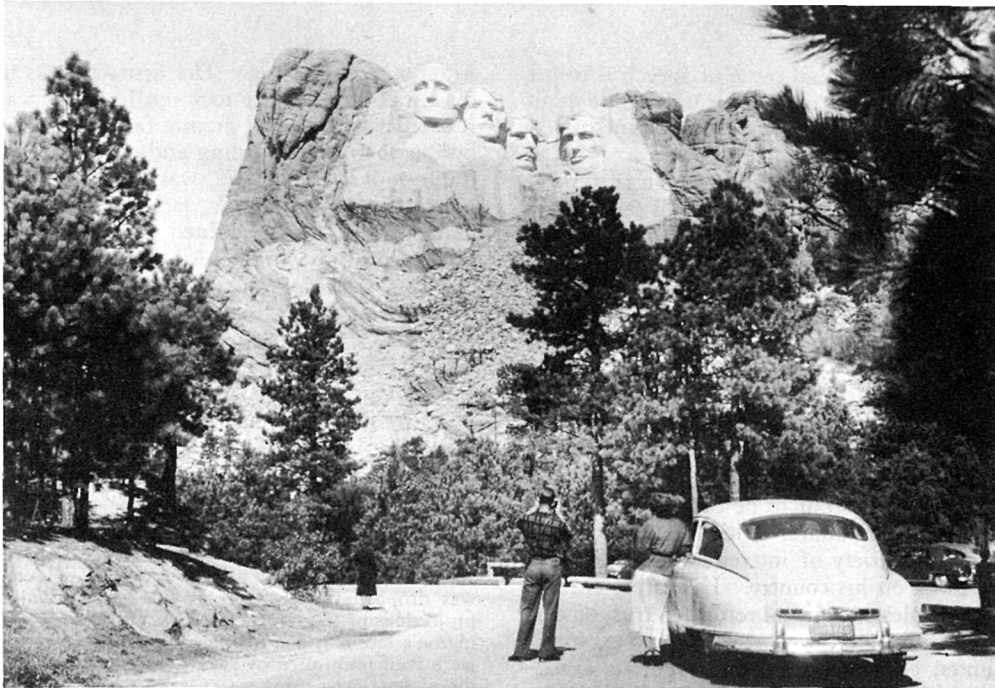
The most vivid description of the work is given by Gilbert C. Fite in his book, *Mount Rushmore*, published and copyrighted in 1952 by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. This description, quoted below, has been taken with permission of the author and the publishers.

The model was first measured by fastening a horizontal bar on the top and center of the head. As this extended out over the face a plumb bob was dropped to the point of the nose, or other projections of the face. Since the model of Washington's face was five feet tall, these measurements were then multiplied by twelve and transferred to the mountain by using a similar but larger device. Instead of a small beam, a thirty-foot swinging boom was used, connected to the stone which would ultimately be the top of Washington's head and extending over the granite cliff. A plumb bob was lowered from the boom. The problem was to adjust the measurements from the scale of the model to the mountain. The first step was to locate the point of the nose since that was the extreme projection of the face. If it were found that several feet of rock had to be removed to reach the nose point, this was indicated by paint marks. Then other projected points of the face, such as the frontal bones, were located and measured.

After the rough points were established, men suspended in swing seats began the drilling and blasting. . . . The blasting was done in such a way as to leave a great rough, egg-shaped mass. . . .

It was possible to dynamite within an inch or two of the intended surface, and occasionally this was done at Rushmore. But generally, blasting was not carried on closer than six inches to the surface. It was not practicable to dynamite too near, because the charges had to be so small and the holes so near together that little, if any labor was saved. Measuring, drilling, blasting, drilling, wedging, and bumping was the ordinary work cycle. The term "carving" was only a figure of speech in this gigantic project.

After about six and a half years of actual work extending over a period of more than 14 years, the work on the sculptures came to an end in October 1941. Borglum himself had died 7 months earlier at the age of 74, leaving the final work to his son, Lincoln Borglum. The latter spent the remaining available money on Roosevelt's face which



The memorial sculptures from a little distance showing the granite formation of Mount Rushmore.

was never completed, finishing the lapels and collar of Washington's coat, blocking out Jefferson's collar, and putting some last touches on Lincoln's head.

The memorial cost \$989,992.32, Federal Government appropriations amounting to \$836,000 of the total.

Selected Chronology

DECEMBER 28, 1923:
Colossal sculpture in Black Hills suggested by Doane Robinson

MARCH 3 and 5, 1925:
Federal Government and South Dakota authorize sculpture in Black Hills

OCTOBER 1, 1925:
Dedication of Mount Rushmore as a national memorial

OCTOBER 4, 1927:
First drilling for sculptures

JULY 4, 1930:
Dedication of Washington figure

AUGUST 30, 1936:
Dedication of Jefferson figure

SEPTEMBER 17, 1937:
Dedication of Lincoln figure

JULY 2, 1939:
Dedication of Roosevelt figure

OCTOBER 31, 1941:
Final drilling at Mount Rushmore

The Memorial Area

An act of Congress, approved March 3, 1925, authorized the carving of the sculptures within Harney National Forest in South Dakota. Another act of Congress, approved February 25, 1929, created the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Commission to replace the State Association. On June 15, 1938, Congress authorized the designation of not more than 1,500 acres of Federal lands in the national forest for the purpose of establishing the memorial. Under the provisions of the President's second plan of Government reorganization sent to Congress on May 9, 1939, the administration of the memorial was placed in the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. The memorial area contains 1,220 acres of Federal land.

Travel Routes to the Memorial

Mount Rushmore National Memorial is 25 miles southwest of Rapid City and 3 miles

from Keystone, S. Dak. The memorial is 2 miles west of U. S. 16A on a paved road. Sightseeing tours by bus are available from Rapid City from June 1 to September 30.

About Your Visit

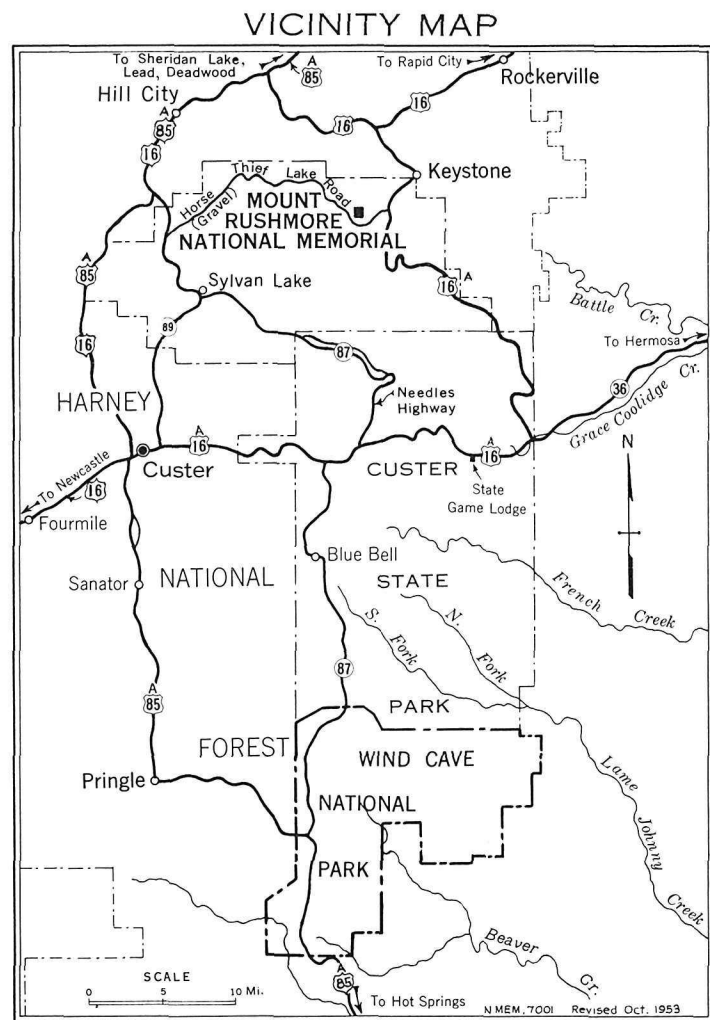
Hotel and other tourist accommodations are available in nearby towns. A cafeteria and souvenir shop are in "The Studio," former sculptor's workshop. The studio is

normally open from April 15 to November 1.

Park rangers are here to protect the memorial and to assist you in every way possible.

Administration

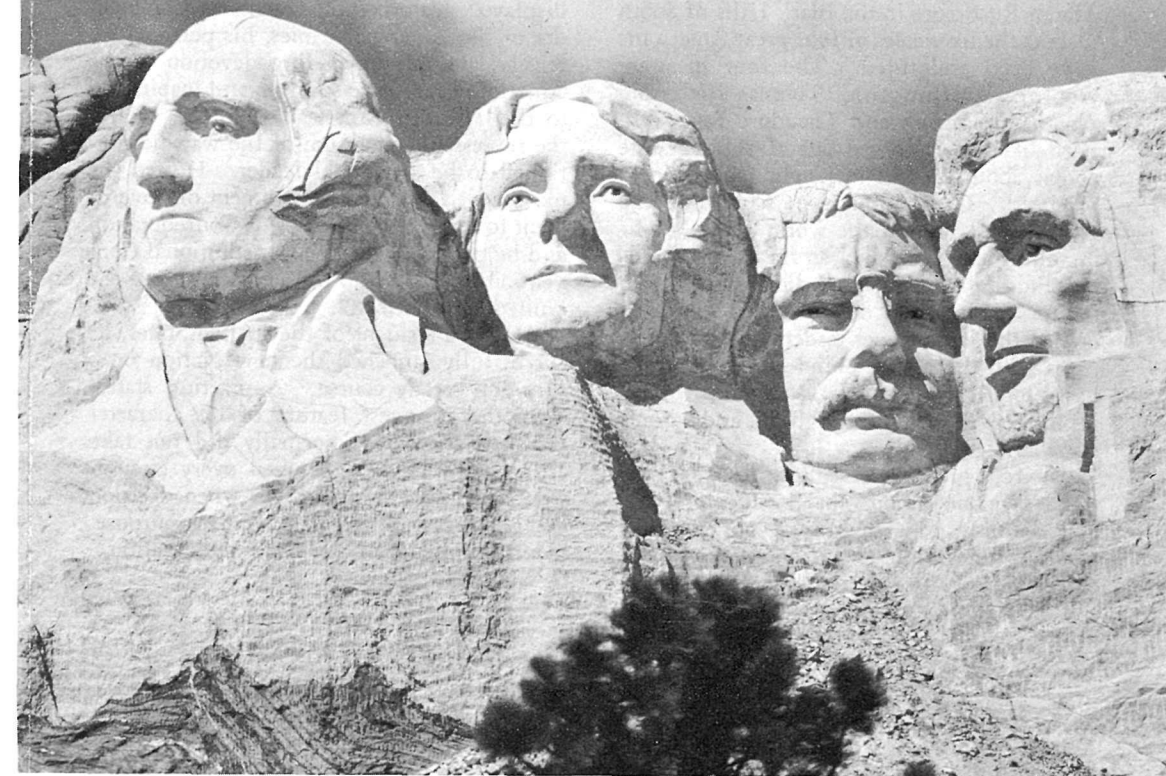
Mount Rushmore National Memorial is administered by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. A superintendent is in charge. His address is Keystone, S. Dak.



U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1956-O-366358

Reprint 1956

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