



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

Forest for the memorial. In 1939, the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, assumed responsibility for the administration of the memorial. The memorial contains an area of about 2 square miles.

#### About Your Visit

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.

Because of the favorable light, morning is the best time to view and photograph the sculptures. They are also very impressive when illuminated by floodlight each night from June 1 to Labor Day. In addition, during the summer, evening programs are held in the amphitheater.

A coffee shop, cafeteria, and souvenir shop are in the concessions building. The concessions are operated by the Mountain Company, Keystone, S. Dak., for the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Society of

Black Hills. Visitor accommodations are available in nearby towns.

For your safety and the protection of the memorial, do not climb Mount Rushmore; disturb rocks, plants, or wildlife; or picnic in the memorial. (Picnic facilities are available in nearby Black Hills National Forest.) Ask park rangers for information or assistance.

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#### Mission 66

MISSION 66 is a dynamic development, conservation, and improvement program designed to be completed by 1966, the golden anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service.

This program is intended to assure the maximum preservation and wisest use of the scenic, scientific, wilderness, and historical resources of the National Park System in ways that will make them available for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

At Mount Rushmore, Mission 66 will provide increased interpretive facilities and new physical facilities for memorial visitors.

#### Administration

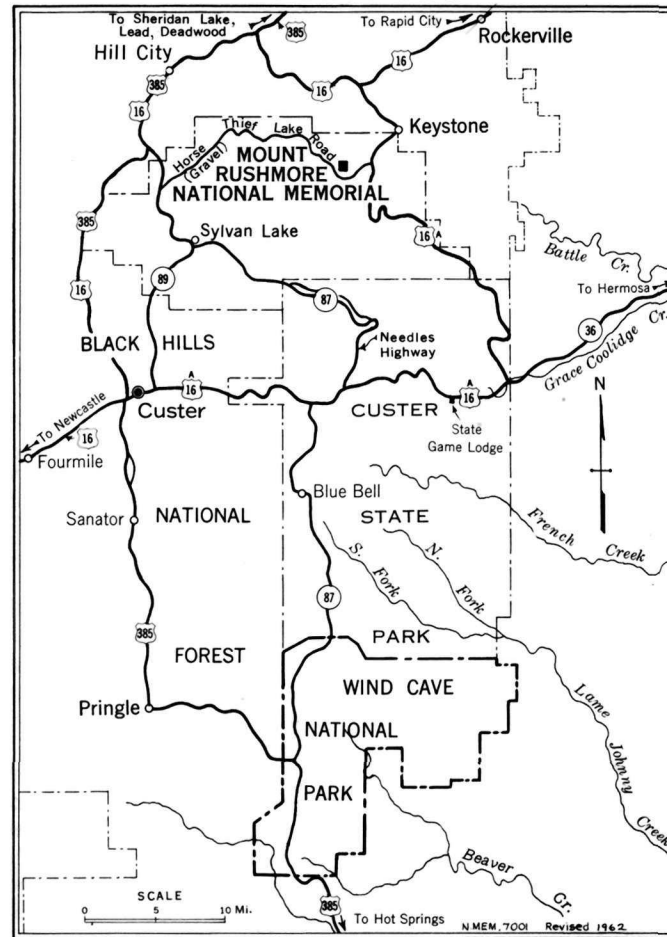
Mount Rushmore National Memorial is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Keystone, S. Dak., is in immediate charge.

Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior—America's Department of Natural Resources—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the

Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and Territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.

#### VICINITY MAP



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

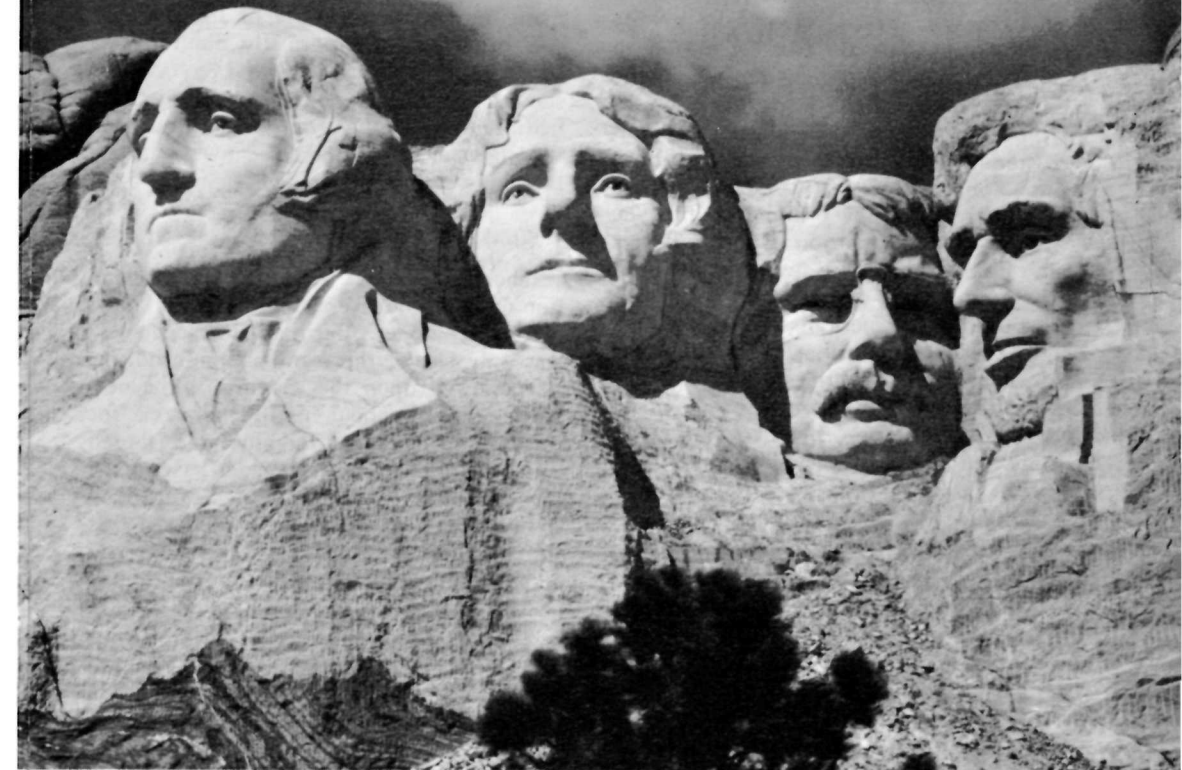


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Cover: Courtesy Black Hills Studio, Inc.

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# MOUNT RUSHMORE



*National Memorial*

SOUTH DAKOTA

# MOUNT RUSHMORE

## NATIONAL MEMORIAL

*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 measures about 60 feet 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. The heads are in the proportion of men 465 feet high. Each head is twice as high as the head of the great Sphinx of Egypt.

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 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

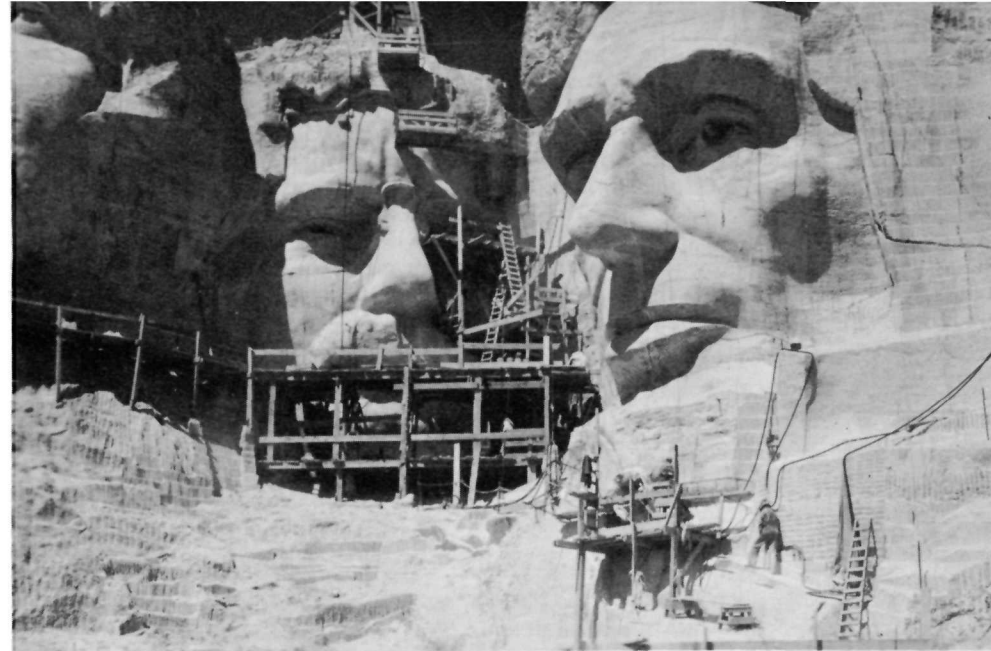
and he presided over the Constitutional Convention that drew up the Constitution of the United States in 1787.

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 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 believed that through the combination of education and reason the common man could rise to the challenge of republican government.

He was an American pioneer in many branches of science. His habits and temperament were those of a scholar. He was a philosopher-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



The Roosevelt and Lincoln sculptures as they appeared in 1940.

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 influences 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 as one of the foremost 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 by merit

and industry 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 Elizabethan English of Shakespeare and the King 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 that of Gilbert C. Fite:

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. (*Mount Rushmore*, University of Oklahoma Press, 1952.)

After about 6½ 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 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.

### *The Memorial Area*

Carving of the sculptures was authorized by act of Congress in 1925. By another act in 1929, the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Commission was created. In 1938, Congress designated not more than 1,500 acres of Federal lands in Harney National

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 inspiration of its people.