

The  
*Greenbrier*<sup>®</sup>  
AMERICA'S RESORT



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PROJECT GREEK  
ISLAND

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THE BUNKER



The former U.S. Government Relocation Facility was a top secret of the Cold War designed to accommodate both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in the event of a national emergency.

Planned by the Eisenhower Administration, in cooperation with the leadership of the United States Congress, the facility was built under The Greenbrier between 1958 and 1961. Once completed, it was maintained in a state of constant readiness by a small cadre of government employees working as Forsythe Associates.

During the life of the facility, continual updating of communications and other equipment and recycling of supplies was affected, so that the facility was always in a current full-operation status.

The secrecy of its location, paramount to the facility's effectiveness, was maintained for more than 30 years until May 31, 1992, when *The Washington Post* published a story effectively exposing it.

The day after the story was published, the facility began to be phased out, a procedure that was finalized in July 1995 with the termination of the lease between the U.S. Government and The Greenbrier.

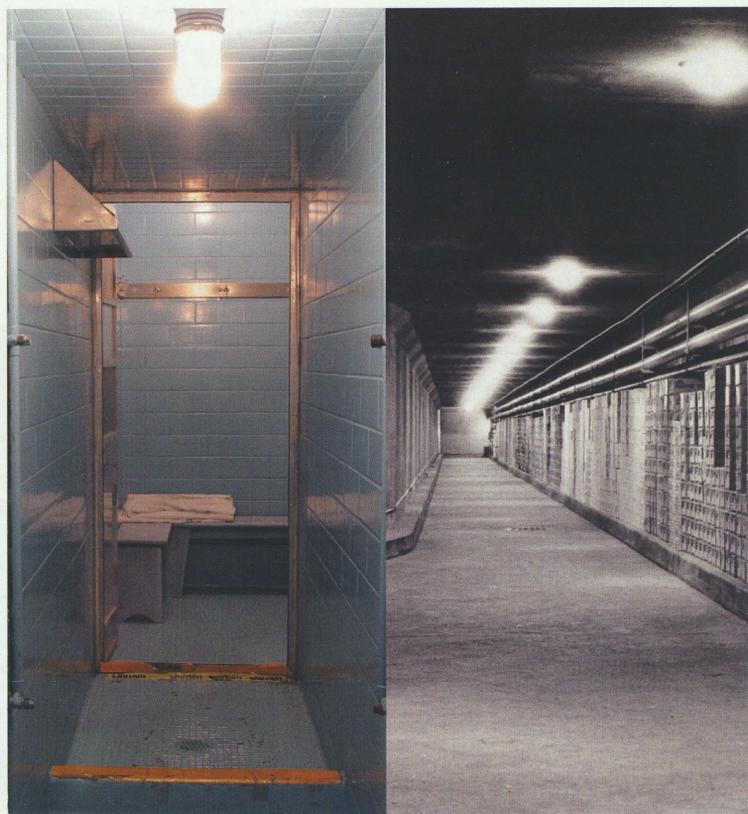
During the phase-out period, almost all of the equipment and furnishings were removed from the shelter and reassigned to government facilities around the country.

The former U.S. Government Relocation Facility is a protected substructure (bunker) buried 720 feet into the hillside under the West Virginia Wing of the hotel. It is surrounded by ceiling and walls that are three- to five-feet thick reinforced concrete. In addition, there is 20 to 60 feet of dirt cover between the substructure and the West Virginia Wing.

The facility has three entrances, each protected by a large steel and concrete door designed to withstand a modest nuclear blast approximately 15-30 miles away, and to prevent radioactive fallout from entering the facility when it is sealed off.

Both the West and East (Exhibit Hall) Entrances are vehicular tunnels into the facility; a third entrance is through the Exhibit Hall Foyer.

Included in the facility are 44 separate locations with 153 rooms making up a total of 112,544 feet on two levels.





## WEST TUNNEL ENTRANCE

The West Tunnel Entrance blast door weighs approximately 25 tons and is 12 feet wide, 10 feet high and 18 inches thick. The two hinges are four feet long, 14 inches wide and eight inches thick. The six openings above the blast door are apertures cut through five feet of concrete, covered by 16-inch steel plates which could be closed during operating conditions. Passing through the blast door, one travels down the West Tunnel (433 feet long) and enters the facility proper through one of two decontamination areas. In active operation of the facility, persons entering these areas would have disposed of their clothes, showered and been issued new clothing prior to entering the main part of the facility.

In addition to serving as one of the entrances into the facility, the West Tunnel was the principle carrier of supply and return lines to the cooling tower (located on the hillside above the entrance) and served as an exit for air that had been used and needed to be expended. It would have also been utilized as an exit for dumping well water from the diesel generators and chillers if the facility has been fully activated. The West Tunnel provided a service area for rotation of supplies and materials and was used as a storage area.

## POWER PLANT

Within the facility is a self-contained power plant that was capable of providing all necessary power needs for approximately 1,100 people for up to 40 days, while the facility kitchen had a 60-day stockpile of provisions.

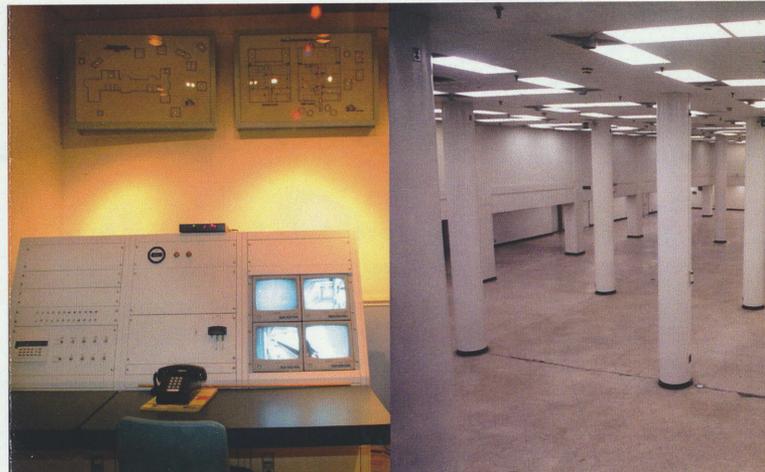
The power plant occupies three levels. The switchgear, emergency generators, chillers, steam generators, pumps, start-up engines and air compressors are located on the main level. The top level houses the air intake ducts and exhaust lines, air filters and low and high pressure housing units. The lower level is occupied by three 25,000 gallon water storage tanks and purification equipment, three 14,000 gallon diesel fuel storage tanks, a machine shop and an incinerator for waste disposal.

## COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING ROOM

The communications area was on two levels. A conference/briefing room, telephone rooms, AT&T equipment room, radio room and administrative control area were on the first level. The second level housed a message processing room, a television production area, an electronic mail area, audio recording booths, a general supply room and a vaulted room for sensitive equipment.

## EXHIBIT GALLERY

As part of the recent renovations to the facility, an exhibition gallery was created to provide information, artifacts and replicas of the dormitories, clinic and security areas.



## SECURITY

The facility's security equipment included anti-intrusion strategies. Cameras were situated in strategic places so that any person entering or exiting the facility was under surveillance at all times. The three electronic maps indicated the locations of the alarms. Extensive security systems overlapped The Greenbrier's facilities and the bunker's secured area. Individual keys, and in later years, encoded pass cards, controlled all access. Computers continually tracked whomever opened which door at which time.

## DORMITORIES

There were 18 dormitories on two levels of the facility containing wall lockers and metal bunk beds. Each dormitory could sleep 60 persons, and there were shower and toilet facilities as well as a small lounge. The only exception to dormitory housing was in the accommodations for the Congressional leadership. These leaders had individual beds and their own conference area.

## DISPENSARY/CLINIC

The original 6,000 square foot clinic contained 12 beds, including an operating room, an intensive care area, a dental unit and a nurse's station. Military physicians and nurses would have been alerted and brought here to staff this operation. The medical clinic got a substantial expansion in the mid-1980s. The medical preparedness program included a fully stocked pharmacy.



## CAFETERIA/KITCHEN

The facility's cafeteria was designed to feed 400 persons in one seating; therefore the occupant would dine in one of three shifts per meal so that all could be accommodated. The kitchen was fully equipped with food storage, preparation and serving areas. The entire cafeteria/kitchen covers more than 7,500 square feet.

## EXHIBIT HALL/MEETING ROOMS

The 16,544 square-foot Exhibit Hall was designated to be the work space for the Congressional support staff members to conduct the business of government. The Exhibit Hall has been used by thousands of guests and Greenbrier employees for numerous and various functions throughout the years, and until 1992, they were unaware that they were actually inside the bunker. An 18-ton blast door is located at the interior entrance to the Exhibit Hall, while a 30-ton blast door is located at the East Tunnel entrance to the Exhibit Hall.

Governor's Hall and the Mountaineer Room, the two meeting rooms off of the Exhibit Hall, were to be the assembly room for the House of Representatives and Senate. Like the Exhibit Hall, these rooms were also used throughout the years by thousands of guests.

A laundry facility was located adjacent to the Exhibit Hall, as was the television repair shop which served as part of the cover for the secret operation.



*“Where experiences  
are timeless and  
memories last forever.”*

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