

- The dining room furniture
- The wool carpet
- The twins portrait above fireplace

Of special interest: The stained glass windows on the north wall which were installed when the house was constructed.

The Kitchen: The museum kitchen was originally a bedroom where Mr. & Mrs. White slept in the winter months.

Of Special Interest:

- The stove which was powered with either wood or gas, patent 1922
- Ice box, tongs and ice card, about 1900
- Stocked pantry and pie safe
- Early toaster, waffle iron, and others
- Ornate water heater

The Library/Study: was comparable to the family room today. It was the room where the family spent their evenings together.

The White's furnishings include:

- Green velvet drapes
- The wood carvings which originally came from the J.J. Hagerman estate.
- The wall safe above the fireplace

COMING SOON!

History Timeline Room: This room will be devoted to telling the history of Roswell and the Pecos Valley from Paleo Indian times to the present. The main focus will be a Timeline that stretches across the entire wall. There will be other artifact displays and more information can be seen on the interactive board.

Fancy Fashions: Mannequins of men, women and children and display cases will show the styles of dress from the late 1800s to the 1940s. Because of the vast number of clothing artifacts in our collection, the exhibits can change frequently to demonstrate how history influenced clothing styles.

Lifestyles and Legacies Room: Through ever-changing exhibits this room will show various lifestyles of past eras and by-gone activities: military and war memorabilia, Lions Hondo Little League World Champions, important people of historical influence, church histories, etc.

The Children's Room: This room will be designed with children's interests in mind. All exhibits will be geared towards children learning about past eras in relation to present day toys, games, dolls, etc. Exhibit cases will be filled with the Society's artifacts.

Back Hall: The Back hall will introduce the "Explore Roswell Area History" Gallery which will explain the importance of the history of Roswell and the Pecos Valley. One will tell the history of the J.P White family, and describe the architecture of their home which is now the Historical Museum. Other walls will display photos of past eras- street scenes, buildings, etc.

Media Room: This room will be used for showing various historical videos. The first one will be a 12-15 minute film about the past and present history of Roswell and the Pecos Valley- its beginnings and present day developments; pioneers, the J. P. White family, the Historical Society and Foundation, and the addition of the Archive Building.

Historical Museum 4th Grade Tours

Museum Guide



Historical Society for
Southeast New Mexico

200 N. Lea

Roswell, New Mexico

575-622-8333

www.roswellnmhistory.org
historydirector@outlook.com

The Family

James Phelps White was born in Gonzalez, TX. In 1856, at age 21, he began cattle ranching in the Texas panhandle with his uncle, Major George Washington Littlefield. Together with his brother Tom and Uncle George, the trio moved their ranching operations to this area in 1881. He became active in Chaves County's agricultural, industrial and civic life. He died of cancer in San Antonio, TX, in 1934 at the age of 76.

Lou Tomlinson White Lou Lee Tomlinson was born in Taylor, TX, in 1879 to Mr. & Mrs. David Young Tomlinson. Her family moved to Roswell in 1898 where her father worked as a contract builder. Lou married J.P. White in 1903. Mrs. White lived in this house until her death in 1972 at the age of 92.

Their Children Mr. & Mrs. White had four children. J.P. Jr. was born in 1904 and died in 1987. Zoa Elizabeth was born in 1906 and died in 1998. Tom & George, twins, were born in 1908. Tom died in 1976, George in 1978. All of the boys stayed in the ranching business and all but George raised their families in Roswell. 1 of the granddaughters still lives in Roswell.

The House & Grounds Construction of the home began in 1910 and was completed in 1912. David Young Tomlinson, Mrs. White's father, was the contractor and did much of the work himself. The architecture is called the "Prairie Style" or "Schooner Style" and was used on the "heel" of the Victorian Era. The design was developed by Frank Lloyd Wright in the early 1900's, prior to World War I. The house exemplifies the characteristics of the Prairie Style with gentle sloping and overhanging roof levels, and large porches. It was copied from a home in Fort Worth, TX. The roof was originally pressed tin but in the early 20's was changed to red hollow tiles. The exterior walls are

of yellow brick from Fort Worth. The house contains 14 rooms, three baths, an attic & basement, and was heated by 5 fireplaces (one gas) and steam heated radiators. Today the Museum is heated & cooled by forced air units. North of the main house is the carriage house. On the second floor there is an apartment which used to be a hay loft and living quarters for the servant couple. The White's automobile was stored in the east side of the first floor and there were three stalls for the horses and milk cow on the west side. The large tank on the east side of the carriage house is called a cistern. Rain water ran off the roof of the carriage house and was collected and stored in the tank. There was a faucet on the south side of the tank where soft water could be drawn for household use if the city water supply failed.

Additions In 1916 a screened-in porch (now the office) was used as an informal dining room; a back porch was built to the north of the kitchen where a cool box window with meat hooks was installed to keep stored foods cool; a small sitting room was added on the south corner of the first floor (now the back office.) On the second floor: The Fashion Exhibit room (soon to be the Timeline Room) was used as a sleeping porch; the SPS Exhibit room was used as a sewing room, and the porte-cochere and driveway on the north side of the house was added. In 1920 the third floor, which houses some of the archive collection, was added. The basement was also built that year.

The Front Entry Hall The children spent a lot of their time in this room as they were not allowed in the parlor or the dining room except on special occasions. **Of special interest:**

- The casket entry door is 4 feet wide to allow a coffin to be carried through. Funeral services were held in the homes.

- The beautiful Circassian walnut piano by the Decker Brothers of New York in 1889.
- The lighted bronze statue at the bottom of the banister is called a "Libule" and is by French sculptor par A. DeRanieri.
- The stained glass window at the top of the stairs is a European made scene bordered by American made glass. It was once lighted naturally until the back of the house was added in 1916.
- The main light fixture is designed to use either electricity or gas. Many of the fixtures in the house are similar.

The Parlor The parlor was used for receiving and entertaining visitors. The oak sliding doors separating the parlor from the entry hall and dining room assured privacy.

The White's furnishings which are in the parlor:

- The oil painting over the fireplace
- Portraits of Mr. & Mrs. White
- 3 piece Victorian parlor set circa 1890's
- Bronze statue "The Fisher Boy" which was created by Carpeaux in France.
- Decorative Japanese screen of Walrus tusk ivory

Of Special Interest: The large box grand piano was donated to the museum, and came to Roswell by covered wagon.

The Dining Room was used for Sunday dinners and special occasions. **The White's furnishings in the room:**

- Marble statuary "Tennyson's Princess" by William Couper ari Am, sculptor