

Page: Chelsea Clock Presidential Clocks in the White House Feature

HTML TITLE

Chelsea Clock Featured in White House History Quarterly

META DESCRIPTION

Read about Chelsea Clock in White House History Quarterly and some of the U.S. Presidents who have relied upon our handcrafted timepieces over the years.

BODY TEXT



Ship's Bell Clock, circa 1893, by the Boston Clock Company

Chelsea Clock's Proud American History and Tradition of Fine Craftsmanship

In 1884, Chelsea Clock began life as "The Boston Clock Company." During those early days, we went through a few name changes (like "Harvard"), but we eventually landed on the name "Chelsea."

Three years after Charles Pearson bought the company in 1897 and assigned us our current name, our accomplished craftsmen and staff designed and patented the first precision [Ship's Bell](#) mechanism — which our company would soon become renowned for.

Fast forward a few years and our refined handcrafted timepieces started to become a staple — especially our meticulously designed [marine clocks](#) — in American governmental agencies. During the first decade of the 20th century, Chelsea Clock established distribution centers in every major American city and also began manufacturing chronometers for the esteemed automobile brand Rolls Royce.



A young man during his shift at the US Naval Observatory, circa 1910.

Chelsea Clock Before and After WWII

As the [reputation of Chelsea Clock grew](#), our precision automobile chronometers were soon customized for use in airplanes (this was, after all, the Golden Age of Aviation). By the time the 1930s rolled around, Chelsea Clock began fashioning electric clocks as the modern world became more electrified.

As WWII loomed on the horizon, we continued to receive plenty of U.S. government orders for our durable, precision timepieces. [Rear Admiral Richard Evelyn Byrd Jr.](#) even relied upon our elegant yet hard-wearing clocks during his South Pole expedition. During the Second World War, dependable Chelsea Clocks were mainstays on American naval aircraft carriers, battleships, submarines and more. This history is reflected in our collection of [U.S. Navy](#) and [military clocks](#).

After the war, our timepieces garnered a reputation as sophisticated handcrafted gifts to mark momentous occasions. General MacArthur was presented with a Chelsea clock during his campaign tour and the entertainer Bob Hope received one of our timepieces in recognition of his humanitarian work.

Because of his outstanding oratorical ability, Sen. Quigley was chosen to present the gift of the Commonwealth, a famous Chelsea Clock to Gen. Douglas MacArthur.



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Elegant Hand-Finished Clocks Keeping Presidential Time for Two Centuries

The prestige associated with our long tradition of superior horological workmanship meant Chelsea Clock soon become associated with American presidents, as well as with prominent world figures. Exquisite clocks made by a company headquartered in Chelsea, Massachusetts, were in the background during the Kennedy years at the White House, when President Johnson witnessed an iconic NASA rocket launch in the 1960s and also given as a gift to Pope John Paul II when he visited Boston in 1979.



1969: President Lyndon Johnson watches a NASA liftoff, along with a Chelsea.

Chelsea Clock's Reputation Continues to Grow

Chelsea Clock has a long and storied history. Hollywood has even picked up on our quintessential American designs. A Ship's Bell Clock appeared in the Harrison Ford action film [Clear and Present Danger](#).

Yet throughout it all, presidents and the American military have relied upon our clocks, renowned for their precision movements and remarkable accuracy. President Obama chose the brass [Dartmouth](#) as his gift of choice to bestow upon dignitaries when he was overseas. And President Bush, already out of office, gave a Chelsea timepiece to Ahmet Necdet Sezer, who had served as the tenth president of Turkey.



2009: Governor Patrick of Massachusetts and former Governor Mitt Romney shown at the State House with two Chelsea clocks on the mantel.

American History and Chelsea Clock Featured in *White House History Quarterly*

In keeping with Chelsea Clock's long presidential history, the prestigious journal [White House History Quarterly](#) recently featured Chelsea Clock. The theme of the issue is "As Time Goes By: Historic Moments in The Life of The White House." One of our instantly recognizable clocks is prominently displayed on the cover.

Inside the journal, you can also find a photo of one of our mantel ship's clocks keeping time as it sits on top of a large television. In the image, [President Lyndon B. Johnson](#) is perched in front of the tube, watching the successful launch (live) of the two-stage Saturn-Apollo 5 (SA-5) rocket, which blasted into orbit on January 29, 1964 from NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

Chelsea Clock is proud of our long-standing history with presidential clocks and the White House. We look forward to many more years of national horological service as we continue to produce the finest luxury timepieces in the United States and around the world.