

Discover!

HIGHLIGHTS of the
National Museum of American History

Short on time? This guide will help you find some of the things you will want to see!

Star-Spangled Banner, 1814 ▶ 2 Center

“I remember seeing my mother down on the floor, placing the stars . . .”

— Caroline Purdy, daughter of Baltimore flag maker Mary Pickersgill



Edison's Light Bulb, 1879

▶ 2 Center, Technology

“Aren’t you a good deal of a wizard, Mr. Edison?”

— New York Daily Graphic reporter interviewing Thomas Edison, who held over 1,000 patents



Helen Taft's Inaugural Gown, 1909

▶ 2 West, *First Ladies at the Smithsonian* (opens December 2008)

“It was made of heavy white satin which I had sent to Tokyo to have embroidered, and the people who did the work surely knew their art.” — First Lady Helen Taft



Celia Cruz's Dress, 1986 ▶ 3 West, *Thanks for the Memories*

“Don’t ask for definitions, *caballero* (gentleman), I belong to the world.” — Singer Celia Cruz, the Cuban-born “Queen of Salsa,” who used her sense of art and style and her powerful voice to create a larger-than-life personality on stage

▶ See the Ruby Slippers from *The Wizard of Oz* in this gallery, too!



Thomas Jefferson's Desk, 1776

▶ 3 Center, *The American Presidency*, Roles of the President

“Politics, as well as Religion, has its superstitions. These, gaining strength with time, may, one day give imaginary value to this relic . . .” — Thomas Jefferson, in a note he attached to the desk he used to draft the Declaration of Independence

Appomattox Courthouse Furniture, 1865

► 3 East, *The Price of Freedom, Civil War*

“It would be useless and therefore cruel to evoke the further effusion of blood, and I have arranged to meet with General Grant with a view to surrender.” — *Gen. Robert E. Lee*



Greensboro Lunch Counter, 1960 ► 2 East

“We decided it was really up to us to find some relief for this kind of thing we were suffering. And what started out very personal turned out to be very public.”

— *Franklin Eugene McCain, one of four students who began the Greensboro sit-in*

John Bull Locomotive, 1831 ► 1 East

“The surprise and gratification experienced from the rapid locomotion of the engines, has been more than equaled in the current season by its wonderful capacity for propelling ponderous loads. It is a power which has almost annihilated time and space.” — *From the first Annual Report of the Camden and Amboy Railroad, on the benefits of steam-powered locomotives*



Julia Child's Kitchen, 2001 ► 1 West, *Bon Appétit!*

“In it we receive our friends, we cook and dine, we teach and experiment. It is certainly the most loved and most used room in the house.” — *Julia Child*

Real National Treasures



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