

2. A video station for viewing the upstairs exhibits for handicapped persons.

### THE UPSTAIRS FRONT LANDING

The large landing upstairs was used as a sitting area for reading and sewing.

*The White's furnishings:*

1. The oak Mission style furniture made by famous Gustav Stickley Furniture Co. Ca. 1910
2. Photo of Mrs. Tomlinson, Mrs. White's mother and the wood carving of Mr. White.

*Of special interest:*

1. Hand woven Navajo rug
2. Large portrait on the stair landing of 14-year-old boy, Willie Sturgess.
3. Transoms above doors used for ventilation on the second floor.

### THE BED CHAMBER

Originally this bedroom belonged to the twin's, Tom and George's.

*Of special interest:*

1. Portrait of Mrs. White when she was 18 years old.
2. Ornately carved mahogany bedroom furniture, ca 1885.
3. Teakwood screen displays lady's clothing circa 1910
4. Chamber pot under the bed
5. Green velvet "slipper chair"

### THE BATHROOM

*Of special interest:*

1. The large claw footed bathtub
2. Medicine case (originally a door into the hall) depicts early 1900 medicines.
3. The pull chain toilet with the water tank above.

### THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

Originally this room was Zoa's bedroom, the White's only daughter.

The exhibits and vignettes in this room pertain to children related subjects.

### THE BACKHALL

*Of special interests:*

1. A welcome panel that introduces the ROSWELL REGIONAL HISTORY GALLERY that follows in the next rooms.
2. A wall panel giving a brief history of the James Phelps White Family.

3. A smaller wall panel giving facts about the J. P. White House.
4. A lighted exhibit case featuring artifacts relating to Roswell Region history.

### VIDEO ROOM

Originally this room was Mrs. White's sewing room. Today a 15-minute video on early Roswell Area History can be viewed.

### TIMELINE ROOM

Originally the room was a sleeping porch where the children slept in the summer. Today, the room exhibits information on various Roswell prominent events and people.

*Of special interest:*

1. A timeline runs along the entire wall relating the history of the Roswell Region Area from prehistoric times through the year 2,000
2. The four busts are of John Chisum, J. J. Hagerman, Joseph Lea, and Amelia Church.
3. The three stained glass windows were donated by First Baptist Church.
4. A panel revolving-stand of various aspects of Roswell region history subjects.

### LEGACY ROOM

Originally this room was Mr. and Mrs. White's summer bedroom. Today the room exhibits various historical subjects involving Roswell area events and people using the over 5,000 artifacts collected and preserved by the Historical Society. Exhibits change from time to time.

### FASHION ROOM

Originally this was J. P's bedroom, the White's oldest son. Later it was a guest room. Now it displays clothing artifacts related to subjects from the eras of the late 1800s thru 1950s. Exhibits change from time to time.

### THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR SOUTHEAST NEW MEXICO

The White heirs donated their family home to the Chaves County Historical Society in 1976 to be used as a museum. Later it was renamed the Historical Society for Southeast New Mexico. The Museum and the Archive Building next door are operated and maintained by the Historical Society and the Foundation for Southeast New Mexico by donation support with no assistance from local or state government.

# MUSEUM GUIDE

Historical Society for  
Southeast New Mexico, Inc.



200 N. Lea Ave.

Roswell, NM 88201

Museum: 575-622-8333

Archives: 575-622-1176

historydirector@outlook.com

www.RoswellNMHistory.org



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# THE FAMILY

## JAMES PHELPS WHITE

James Phelps White was born in Gonzales, Texas 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, he 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, Texas in 1934 at the age of 76.

## LOU TOMLINSON WHITT

Lou Lee Tomlinson was born in Taylor, Texas 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 and George, twins, were born in 1908. Tom died in 1976, George in 1978. All of the boys stayed in the ranching and farming business and all but George raised their families in Roswell. Four of the grandchildren still live in Roswell.

## THE HOUSE AND GROUNDS

Construction of the home began in 1910 and was completed in 1912. David Young Tomlinson, Lou White's father, was the contractor and did much of the work himself.

The architecture is called the Prairie or Schooner style that was popular in the early 1900s. Frank Lloyd Wright developed this design. The roof was originally pressed tin but was replaced by red hollow tile in the early '20s. The exterior walls are yellow brick. The house contains 14 rooms, 3 baths, an attic, a basement, 10'6" ceilings, narrow wood floors, and mostly oak wood in the interior. The walls are lath and plaster. Steam heated radiators supplied by a steam boiler in the basement, and 3 wood burning fireplaces heated the house. The fireplace in the parlor has gas logs. Today, the museum is heated and cooled by 4 forced.

The Carriage House north of the house included a small apartment on the second floor for a servant couple and a hayloft. The White's buggy was kept in

the east side of the first floor and there were three stalls for horses and a milk cow on the west side.

The large tank on the east side of the Carriage House is called a cistern. Rainwater was stored in the tank. Water could be drawn from a faucet when needed.

## ADDITIONS

In 1916, the screened-in back porch at the back of the house was walled in for a small sitting room and an informal dining room, also stairs to the second floor to the addition of a sewing room and a sleeping porch. Then stairs were constructed to continue to the attic where a library room was built to house a large collection of books and a pool table.

In 1920s the porte-cochere was added to the north of the house and also the auto garage at the rear of the property.

## THE FRONT ENTRY HALL

Of Special interest:

1. The 4' entry door called a casket door was to allow a coffin to be carried through. Funeral services were held in homes.
2. The circassian walnut wood piano made by Decker Bros. of N. Y. in 1889.
3. The lighted bronze statue at the bottom of the banister is named "Libule" by the Italian sculptor par A. de Rainieri.
4. The stained glass window on the landing is a European scene bordered by American glass. It was lighted naturally until the back of the house was added in 1916.
5. All the original ceiling light fixtures were duo gas and electric.

## THE PARLOR

The parlor was used for entertaining adult guests.

The White's furnishings:

1. The oil painting, over the mantel, is painted by the Dutch painter, Raysdael. Jacob.
2. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. White are over the pump organ.
3. The fringed green Victorian parlor set. Circa late 1800s.
4. The bronze statue, "The Fisher Boy", was created by Jean-Babstise Carpeaux, the leading French sculptor of the middle 1800s.
5. The Oriental teakwood screen with ivory petaled flowers.
6. The Wilton wool rug
7. The white marble lighted statue of a boy

reading. (unmarked)

*Of special interest:*

The large box grand piano. Circa 1890.

## THE DINING ROOM

After the informal dining room was built this dining room was used only for Sunday dinners and special occasions.

*The White's furnishings:*

1. The dining room furniture. Circa 1885.
2. The Wilton wool made carpet.
3. Marble statuary "Tennyson's Princess" by William Cooper an American. Circa 1900.
4. Portrait of the White's twin sons, Tom and George at the age of two.
5. Ornamental 3 piece decorative German made china pieces. Circa 1895.

*Of special interest:*

Stained glass windows were installed when the house was constructed.

Silver souvenir spoon collection on west wall.

## THE KITCHEN

The room was originally a bedroom where Mr. and Mrs. White slept in the winter.

The kitchen is a simulation of a farm or ranch kitchen with no electricity. Circa 1915.

*Of special interest:*

1. The stove that was powered by either wood or gas, patented 1922
2. Icebox and ice card.
3. Stocked pantry with a vintage iron display
4. Carpet sweeper
5. Ornate hot water heater
6. Wool braided rug- 100 lbs of wool strips
7. Laundry tubs and wringer
8. Crank telephone
9. Pie safe cabinet for baked goods-holes on sides for ventilation

## THE LIBRARY

The library was comparable to the family room of today. The family spent evenings together here. It is now used for the Museum Gift Shop.

The White's furnishings:

1. The hand made woodcarvings from Switzerland. Circa 1900
2. Green velvet drapes
3. Wool Rug

*Of special interest*

1. The wall safe above the fireplace was used for storing ledgers and business papers.