

Grover Cleveland Presidential Library & Museum Committee 2025 Annual Board Report

Louis L. Picone (Committee Chairman)

November 30, 2025

The mission of the “**Grover Cleveland Presidential Library and Museum at his Birthplace, Caldwell, New Jersey, USA**” is to preserve, collect, and make available material documenting the public and private life of Grover Cleveland (1837-1908). Manuscripts, artifacts, and exhibits will cover his life from his birth in Caldwell, to his presidencies in the White House, as well as his post-presidential years in Princeton, New Jersey. The Library also includes archives related to First Lady Frances Folsom Cleveland (1864-1947).

Grover Cleveland Presidential Library and Museum Committee Members

- Louis Picone (GCBMA) – Chairman
- James Gardner (GCBMA)
- Akiko Axe (GCBMA)
- Sharon Farrell (State of NJ) - Grover Cleveland Birthplace Caretaker
- E. Jay Rogacki (GCBMA)
- Paul Maloney – GCBMA president
- Greg Crump – special guest

Grover Cleveland Presidential Library and Museum at his Birthplace history:

The initial concept for the **Grover Cleveland Presidential Library and Museum at his Birthplace** was first discussed thirty years ago, but for various reasons was unable to gain traction. With the new visitors’ center and the recent establishment of Presidential Libraries for our early (pre-Herbert Hoover) presidents as an impetus, the concept was rejuvenated in 2020. Plans for a Grover Cleveland Presidential Library were approved by the GCBMA board of trustees in 2021 and by the State of New Jersey in spring 2022. The Grover Cleveland Presidential Library Committee was established in August 2022, and meets monthly.

2025 Annual Report

This past calendar year we have made tremendous strides all due to the extraordinary efforts of the extraordinary committee members! Thank you, Akiko, E Jay, James, Paul, Sharon, Greg & Louis

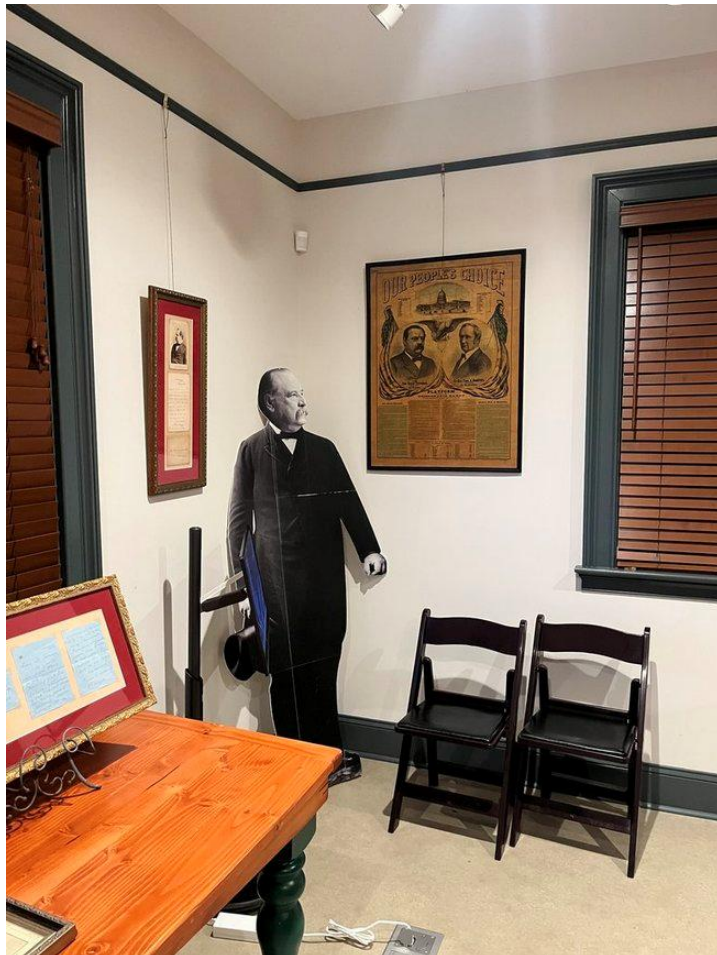
We have established the Grover Cleveland Presidential Museum. The museum includes artifacts & images within three display cases (two horizontal, one vertical) with Grover Cleveland’s desk and chair as the centerpiece in the visitor center. A public announcement has been drafted & will be posted to the website soon

Artifact identification has been introduced for items in the 2 horizontal display cases

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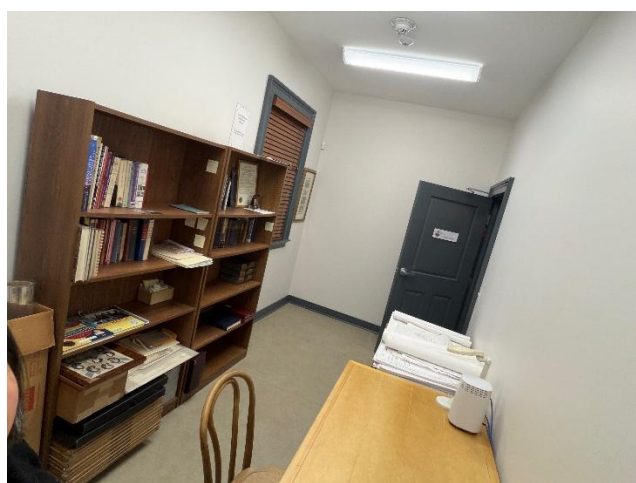


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We have established the Grover Cleveland Presidential Research Center for researchers & scholars. The room includes workspace on two desks and two bookshelves.



Website

- **Online digital presidential library:** The Grover Cleveland Presidential Library and Museum established a website at <http://groverclevelandpresidentiallibrary.org/> which

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features a digital archive of 59 items accessible from the Grover Cleveland Presidential Library website or can be accessed directly at <https://groverclevelandpresidentiallibrary.omeka.net/>.

What's next- museum

- Continued artifact identification
- narration via museum boards
- more comprehensive artifact display (many available in the birthplace upstairs storage area)
- Tell the story of President Cleveland's political career & philosophy in a more organized and chronological fashion

What's next- research room

- Organize book shelf & enhance collection with books from the birthplace upstairs, a book about each president
- Create & provide access to informational material for multiple aspects of Grover Cleveland's career (ex. Tariff policy, civil service reform, Hawaii, etc.)

What else

- Internal & external, on-property & off-property signage
- A Grover Cleveland statue on the property

Challenges

Staffing: At current, the visitor center which houses the research center and museum is not consistently open to the public and is not staffed beyond Sharon. As well, the state has no staffing plans until May 2025 which is causing us to postpone a planned March grand opening. This is frustrating to the committee as our work is not able to be utilized, enjoyed, and appreciated by the general public beyond special events.