

Great Historic Homes *of America*

Travel back in time to experience an important aspect of the lives of some of the most famous and memorable Americans. These houses are now preserved and open to the public so that we can all discover what made these iconic Americans tick in the places they called home.

This page:
Hearst Castle

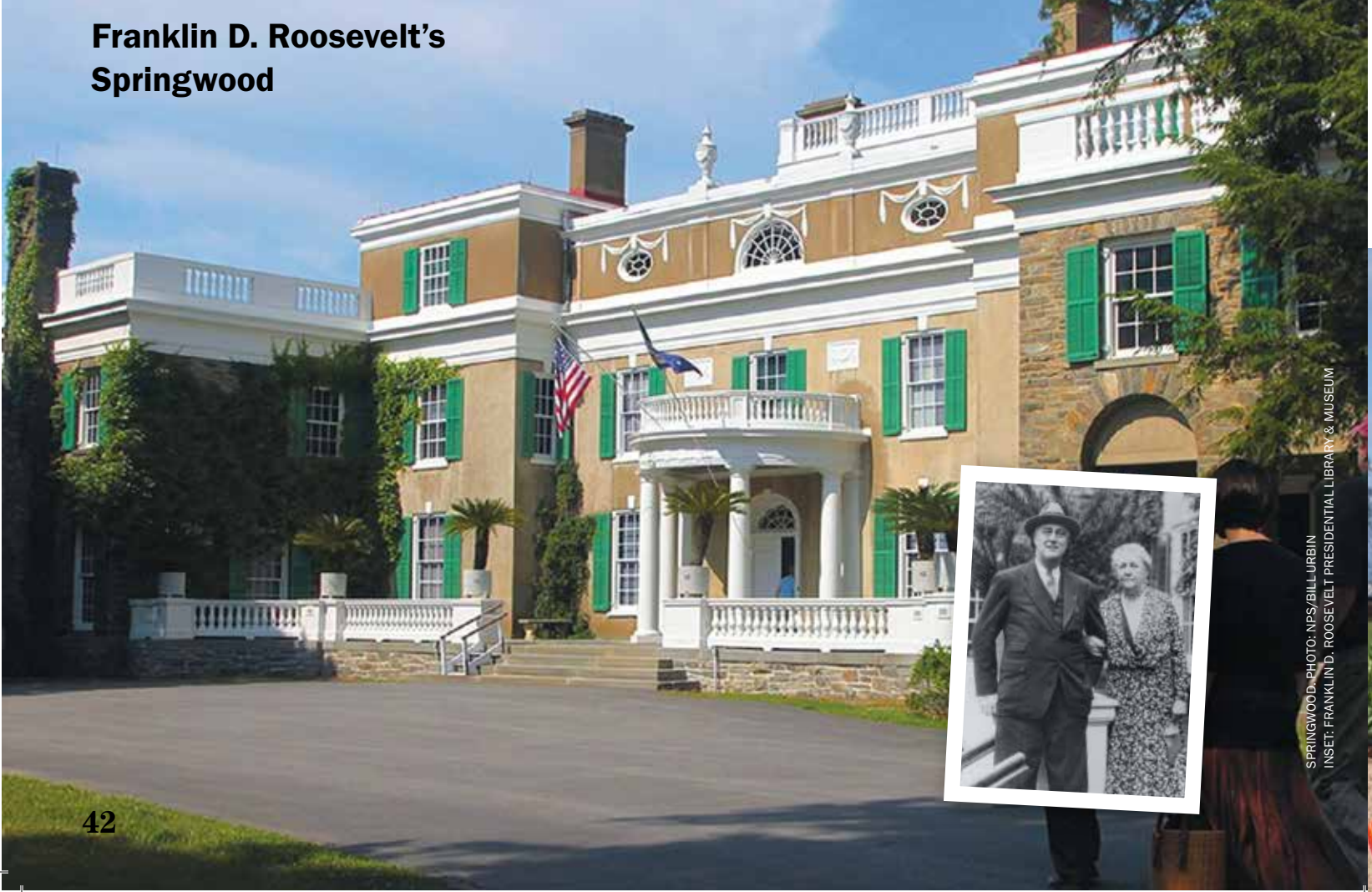
George Washington's Mount Vernon



INSET: WASHINGTON AND LAFAYETTE AT MOUNT VERNON, 1784 (THE HOME OF WASHINGTON AFTER THE WAR) BY THOMAS PRICHARD ROSSITER AND LOUIS Remy MIGNOT. MOUNT VERNON PLANTATION. PHOTO: BUDYK SECOR



Franklin D. Roosevelt's Springwood



SPRINGWOOD. PHOTO: NPS/BILL URBIN
INSET: FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM



George Washington's Mount Vernon (Alexandria, VA)

George Washington was one of the largest landowners and richest and most innovative planters in Virginia. During his lifetime, the Father of Our Country oversaw two large expansions to his mansion and expanded Mount Vernon plantation from 2,000 to 8,000 acres consisting of five farms, flour milling, commercial fishing, and a distillery. Open daily, April–October: 9AM to 5PM; November–March: 9AM to 4PM. Adults: \$20 (\$17 when purchased online); Children ages 5–11: \$9. www.mountvernon.org; 703-780-2000

Franklin D. Roosevelt's Springwood (Hyde Park, NY)

Springwood Estate was the lifelong home of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was born in a second-floor bedroom in the house. He made his last trip there two weeks before his death. He was laid to rest in the Rose Garden, with his wife Eleanor and two of the family dogs. It is also the site of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum. Open daily, 9AM to 5PM. Top Cottage is open May 1–October 31, 2016. Free. www.nps.gov/hofr/; 845-229-9115

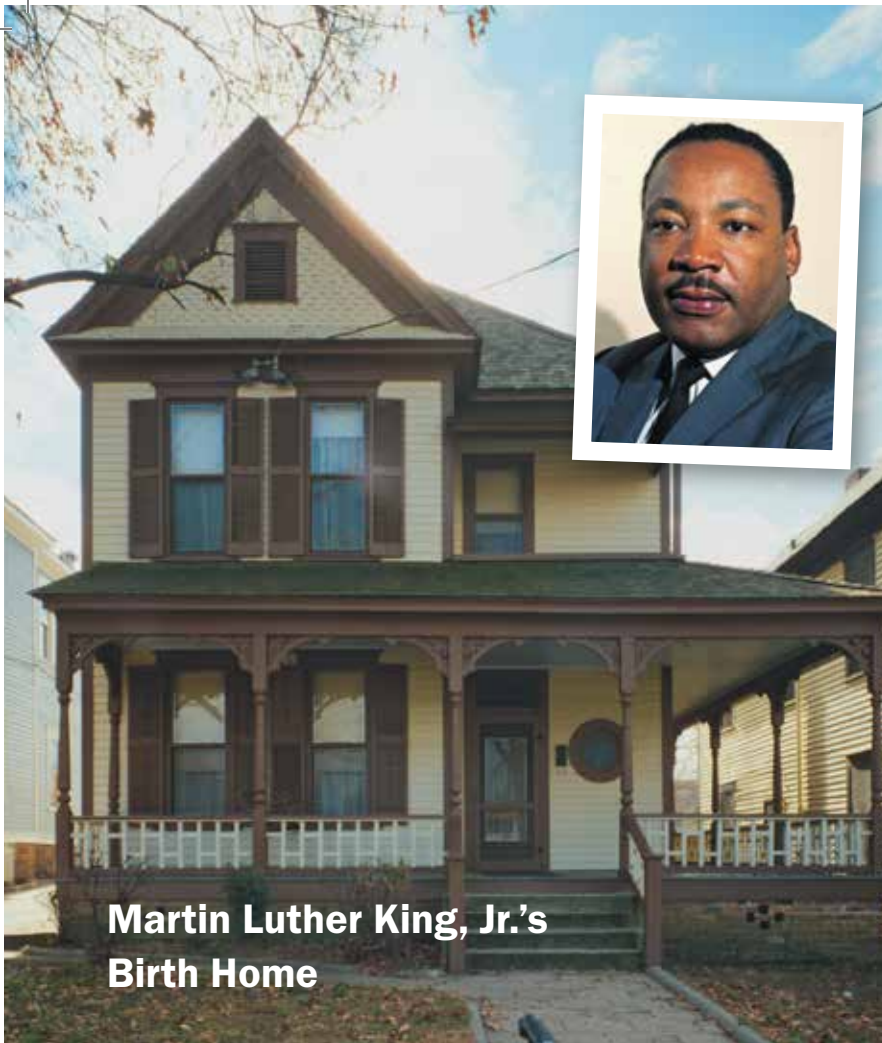
Thomas Jefferson's Monticello (Charlottesville, VA)

The author of the Declaration of Independence and the third US president inherited the 5,000-acre plantation, and he personally designed the neoclassical mansion, its furnishings, and the surrounding gardens. Monticello is the only house in the US designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. Open daily, hours vary by month and day. Adults: \$20–25; Children (5–11): \$9. www.monticello.org; 434-984-9800

MONTICELLO. PHOTO: © THOMAS JEFFERSON FOUNDATION AT MONTICELLO, PHOTO BY JACK LOONEY
THOMAS JEFFERSON. INSET: © THOMAS JEFFERSON FOUNDATION AT MONTICELLO, PORTRAIT OF THOMAS JEFFERSON BY THOMAS SULLY, 1821.

Thomas Jefferson's Monticello





**Martin Luther King, Jr.'s
Birth Home**

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birth Home (Atlanta, GA)

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in the upstairs middle room in 1929 and the family lived in the house until he was 12 years old. According to Mrs. Christine King Farris, Dr. King's sister, the home looks much the way it did when she was a child. The Birth Home became a part of the National Park Service in October 1980 when Congress established the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. Open daily for ranger-led tours from 10AM to 4PM. Tours are limited to 15 people and are on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of the tour. Free. www.nps.gov/malu/; 404-331-5190

MLK BIRTH HOME PHOTO: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MARTIN LUTHER KING. INSET: AP PHOTO

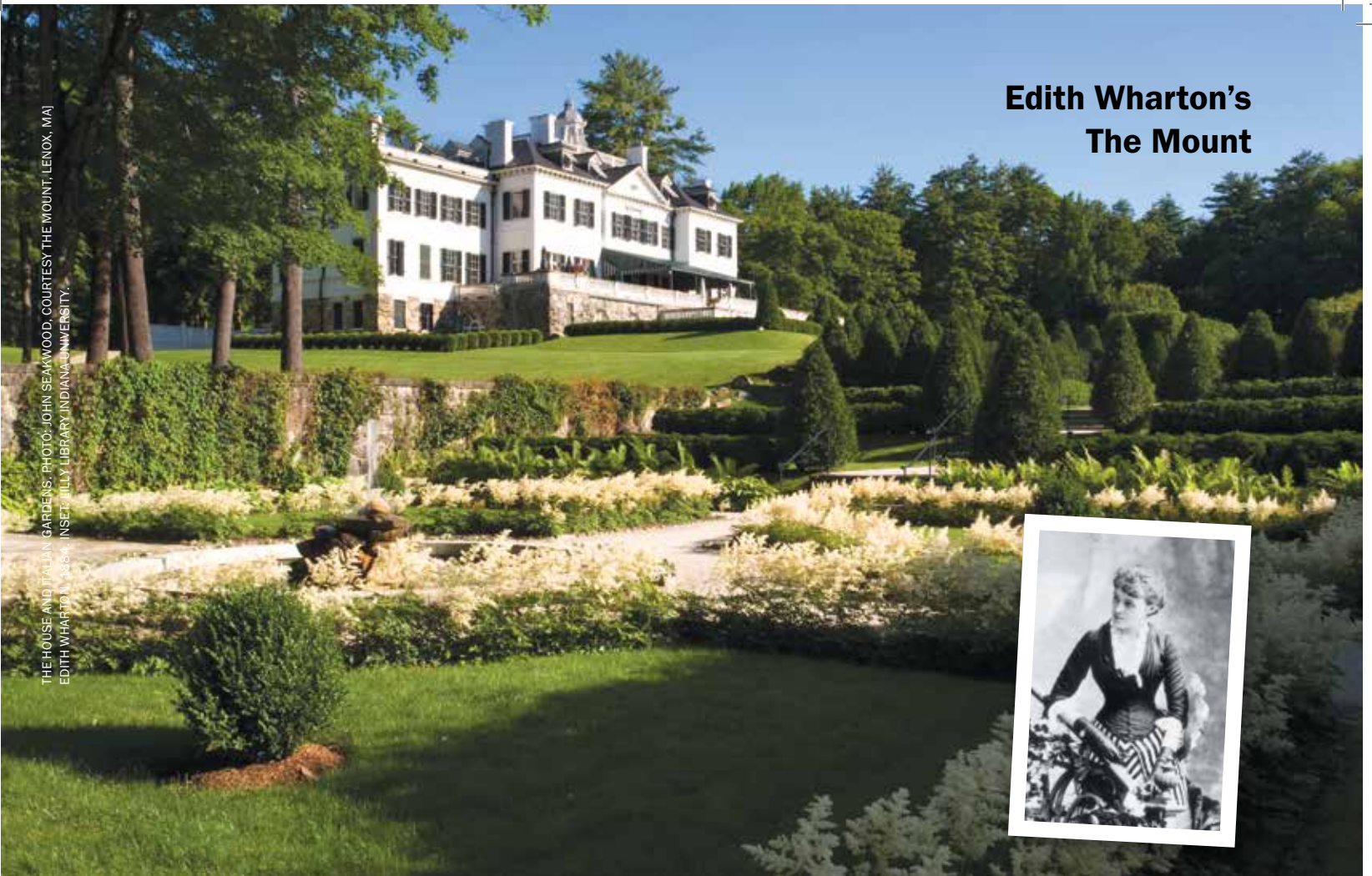
Edith Wharton's The Mount (Lenox, MA)

The Mount is a turn-of-the-century home that Edith Wharton designed and built in 1902 based on the precepts outlined in her first book, *The Decoration of Houses* (co-authored with architect Ogden Codman, Jr.). Many of her great works were created while she was in residence there, most notably *The House of Mirth* and *Ethan Frome*. Like Monticello, it is an autobiographical house, one that embodies its creator's spirit. Open daily, May 14–October 31, 10AM to 5PM with special events and programs throughout the year. Adults: \$18; Seniors (65+): \$17; Student (with valid ID): \$13; Children (18 and under): Free. www.edithwharton.org; 413-551-5111

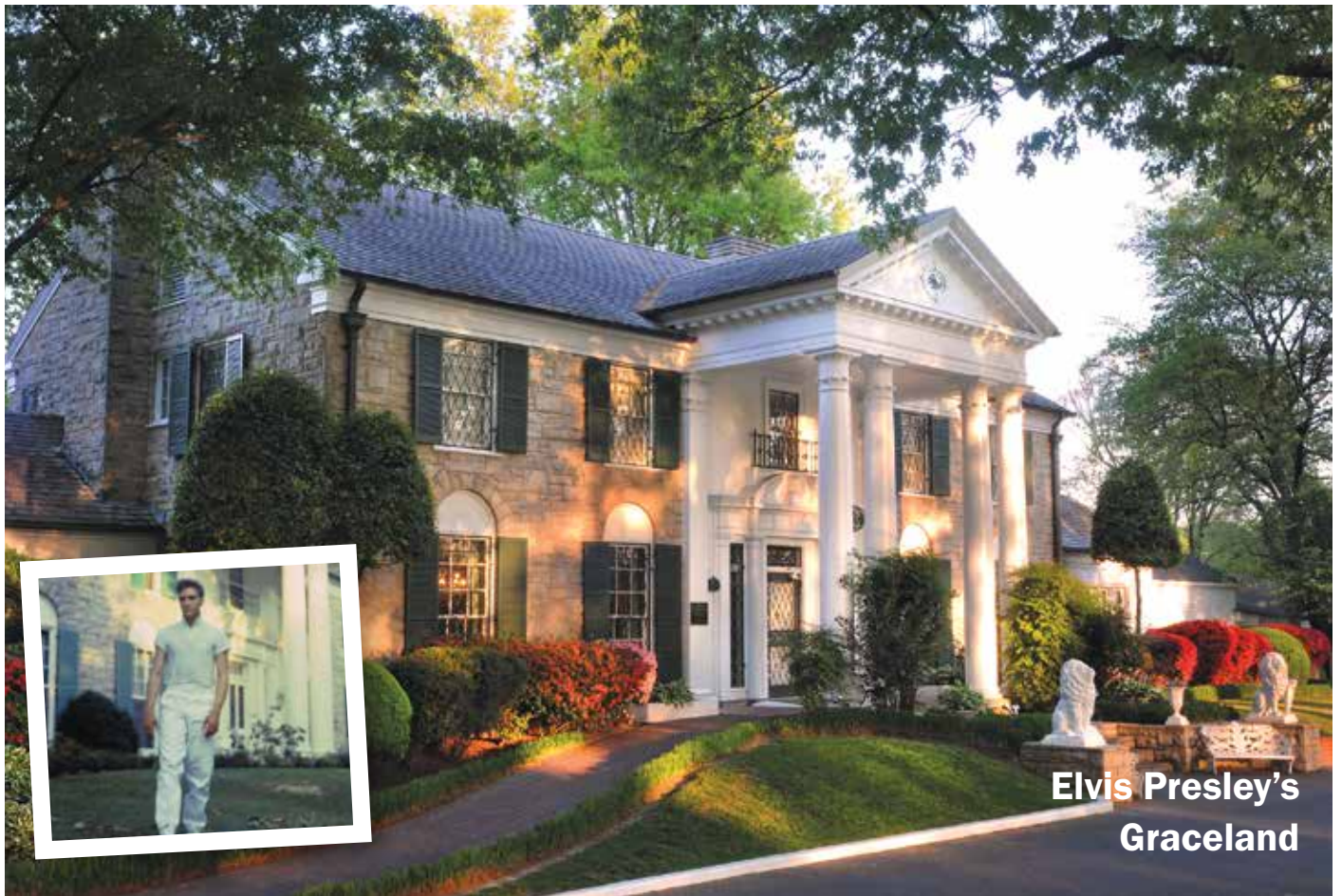
Elvis Presley's Graceland (Memphis, TN)

Graceland was the fulfillment of a promise Elvis Presley had made to his parents as a child: that one day, he would buy them the finest house in town. In 1957, the 22-year-old burgeoning superstar paid \$102,500 for Graceland and the surrounding 13.8 acres to serve as his home base, which he shared with his parents and grandmother. When he died at the estate on August 16, 1977, an estimated 80,000 fans passed through its gates the following day to view The King's body. Open daily, hours vary by month and day. Adults: \$38.75; Youth/Student (13–18, with college ID) & Seniors (62+): \$34.90; Children (7–12): \$17.00. www.graceland.com; 800-238-2000

Edith Wharton's The Mount



THE HOUSE AND ITALIAN GARDENS. PHOTO: JOHN SEAKWOOD. COURTESY THE MOUNT, LENOX, MA |
EDITH WHARTON, c. 1884. INSET: JILLY LIBRARY INDIANA UNIVERSITY.

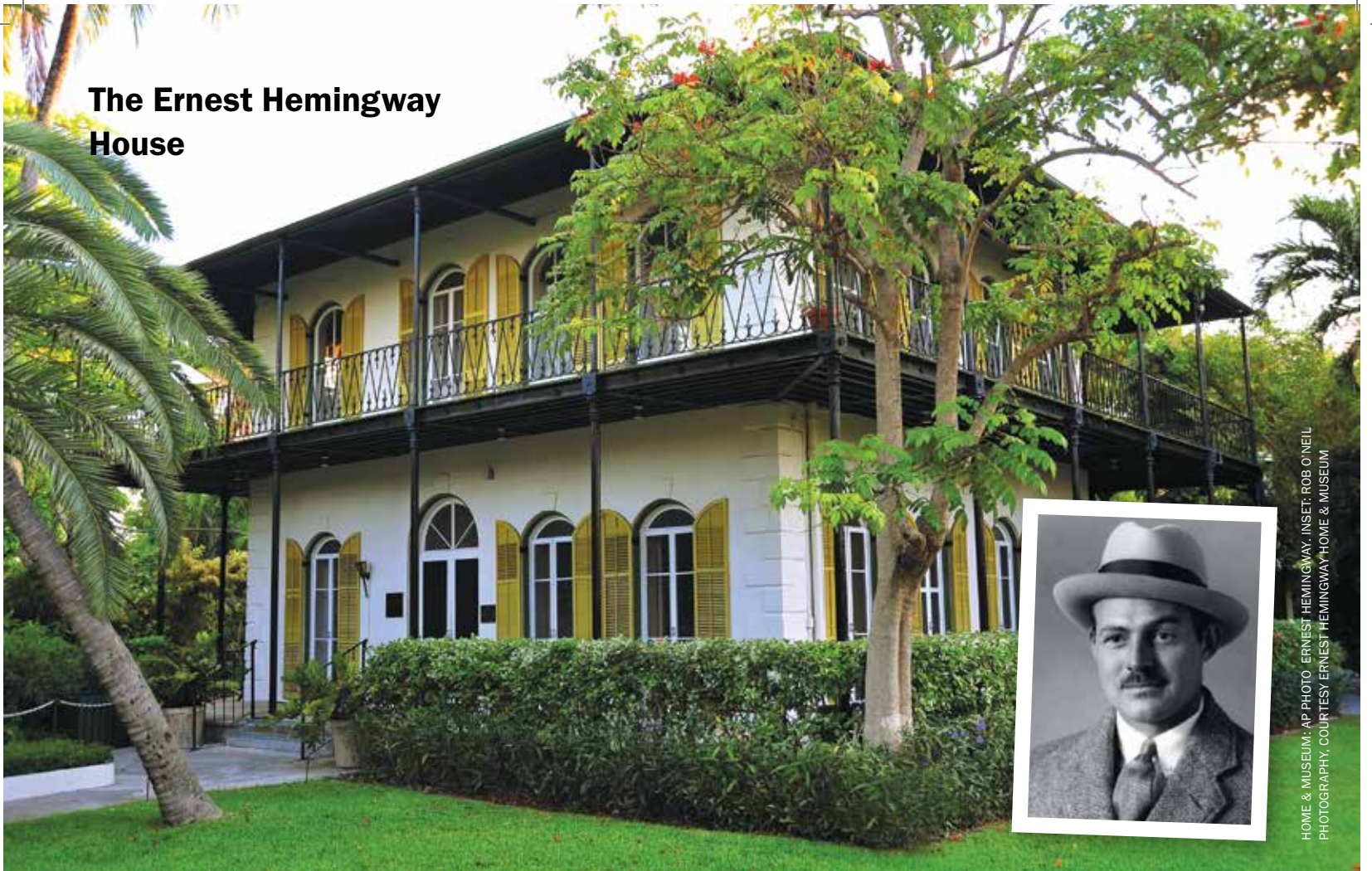


Elvis Presley's Graceland



PHOTOS: ELVIS PRESLEY'S GRACELAND

The Ernest Hemingway House



HOME & MUSEUM: AP PHOTO. ERNEST HEMINGWAY. INSET: ROB O'NEIL PHOTOGRAPHY. COURTESY ERNEST HEMINGWAY HOME & MUSEUM

Hearst Castle

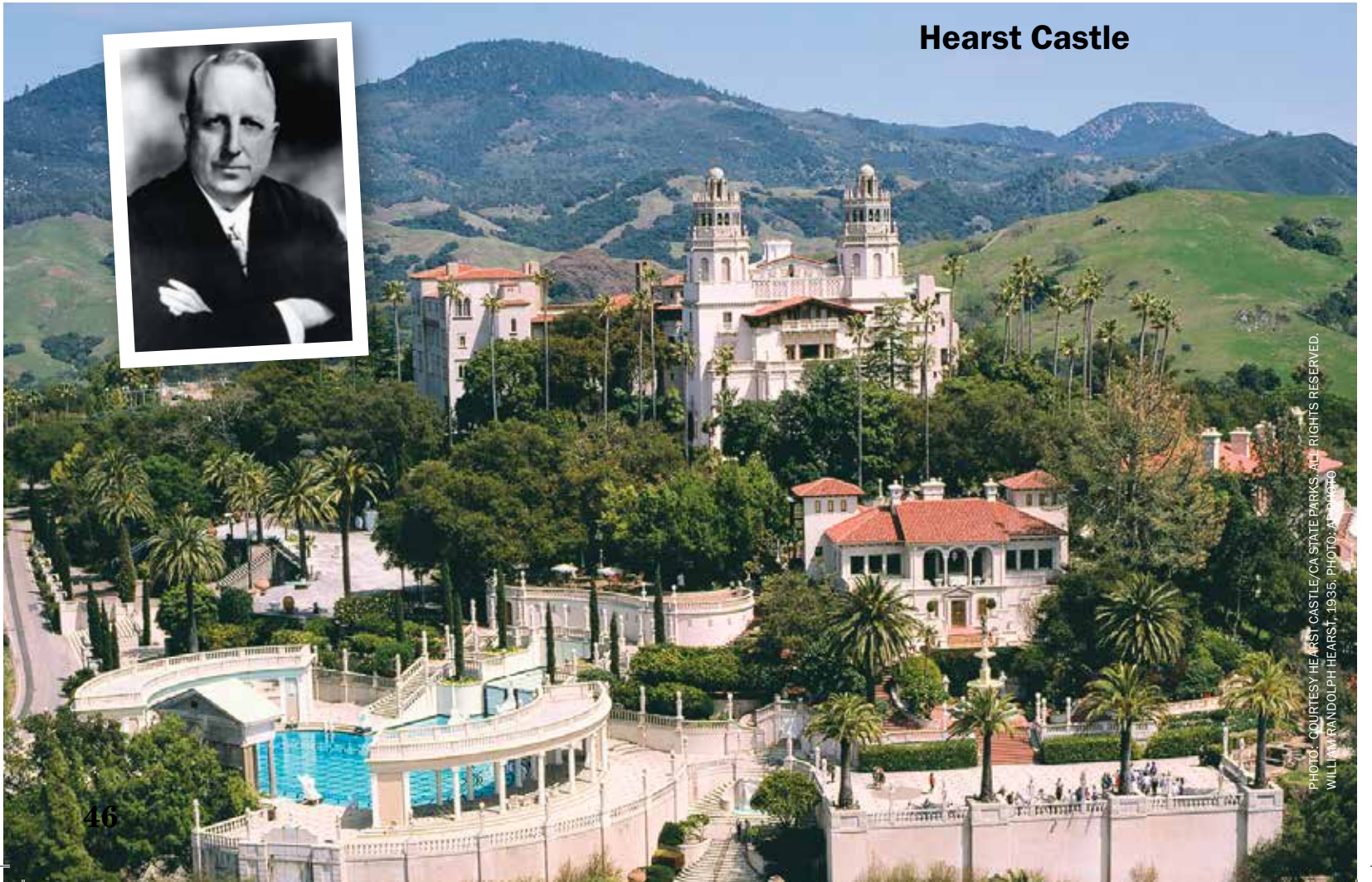


PHOTO: COURTESY HEARST CASTLE/CA STATE PARKS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST, 1936. PHOTO: AP PHOTO

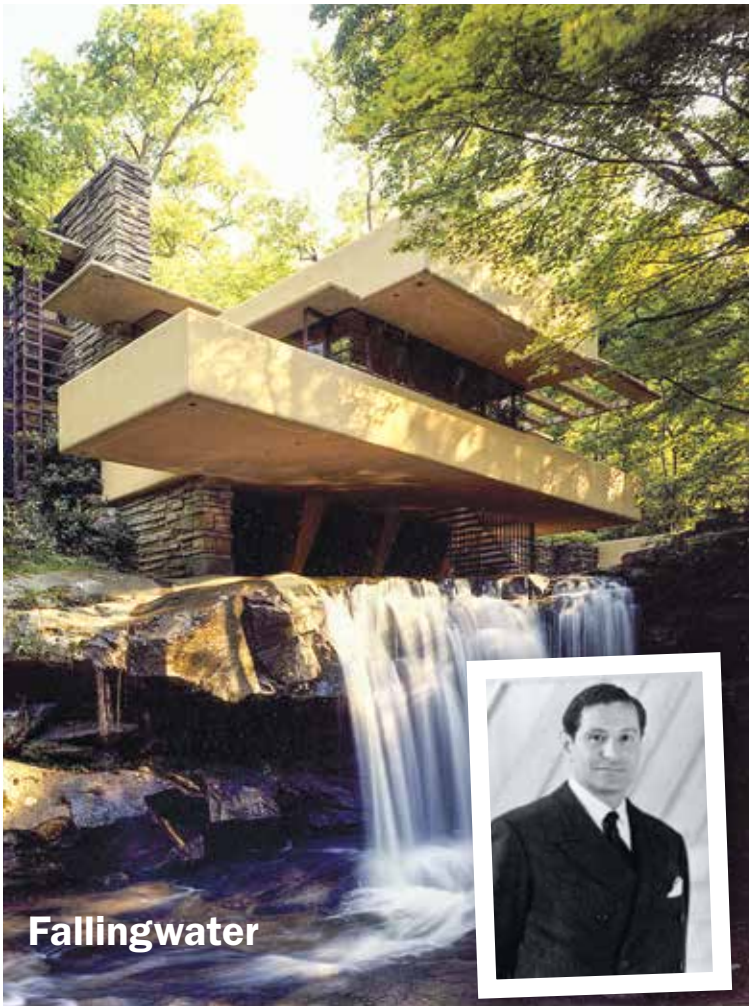
The Ernest Hemingway House (Key West, FL)

Ernest Hemingway lived in the Spanish colonial-style home from nearly ten years in the 1930s, and is where he wrote 70% of his lifetime works including “The Snows of Kilimanjaro” and “The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber”. Today, several dozen six-toed (polydactyl) cats live about the home and grounds, descendants of the felines that Mr. Hemingway kept while he lived there.

Open daily, 9AM to 5PM. Adults: \$13; Children (6 and up): \$6. www.hemingwayhome.com; 305-294-1136

Hearst Castle (San Simeon, CA)

In 1919, William Randolph Hearst inherited about 40,000 acres of ranchland (Mr. Hearst would then acquire more land to expand the ranch to more than 250,000 acres) and began to build a retreat overlooking the Pacific Ocean that he called La Cuesta Encantada (Spanish for “The Enchanted Hill”). By 1947, Hearst Castle was comprised of the enormous main house and three guest-houses, 127 acres of gardens, the indoor and outdoor swimming pools, tennis courts, a movie theater, an airfield, and a zoo—not to mention a considerable collection of art and antiques. Open daily, hours vary by month and day. Adults: \$25–\$36; Children (5–12): \$12–18. www.hearstcastle.org; 800-444-4445



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY

Fallingwater, or Kaufmann Residence (Mill Run, PA)

America’s most famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright built his masterpiece, Fallingwater, as an organic mountain retreat for the Edgar J. Kaufmann family of Pittsburgh, owners of the elegant Kaufmann’s Department Store. Designed and constructed between 1935 and 1939, the timeless home is suspended above a waterfall, deep in the forest. Fallingwater is the only major house by Mr. Wright to open to the public with its furnishings, artwork, and setting intact. Open daily, except for Wednesday, mid-March through November, hours vary by month and day. Tickets: \$8 up. www.fallingwater.org; 724-329-8501 ■