

## NATIONAL PARTY CONVENTION SITES

1832-1952

[A recent exchange of letters printed in Frank T. Nye's "Political Notes" column in the Cedar Rapids *Gazette* brought to light the fact that nowhere in our historical literature is there a list of the sites of the various political conventions. The question of convention sites arose when Nye wrote in his column: "Only one president was nominated by a convention in a church. Who was he and what was the name of the church?" Nye found his information in a reference work, which declared that the answer was William Henry Harrison, who was nominated in the Zion Lutheran Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, by the Whigs in 1839. But Joe F. Crumley of Iowa City answered Nye and said there were two presidents nominated in churches — Harrison and Martin Van Buren.

Hoping to straighten out the record, both Nye and Crumley sought aid from the Library of Congress. It developed that two successful candidates — Harrison and Van Buren — were nominated in churches, but that three unsuccessful candidates — Henry Clay, Lewis Cass, and John Bell — were also nominated in churches. Senator Guy M. Gillette procured for Mr. Crumley the complete list of convention sites that is printed below, apparently for the first time in any historical publication, because of the interest stimulated by Mr. Nye in his column. Harvey F. Baugh of the Library of Congress compiled the list, using the convention journals, contemporary newspapers, and files of *Nile's Weekly Register*. No conventions were held prior to 1832 — "King Caucus" reigned before that date. In the following list, only those parties that received electoral votes in the election are listed; this eliminates parties that named candidates but did not poll sufficient votes to make a showing. The list includes the name of the party, the site and city of the convention, the date the convention opened, and the name of the presidential nominee. — Robert Rutland.]

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1832

National Republican  
The Athenaeum,

Democratic  
The Athenaeum,



Baltimore, Md.  
December 12, 1831  
*Henry Clay*

Baltimore, Md.  
May 21, 1832.  
*Andrew Jackson*

*Anti-Masonic*  
The Athenaeum,  
Baltimore, Md.  
September 26, 1831  
*William Wirt*

1836

*National Republican*  
None held.

*Democratic*  
First Presbyterian Church,  
Baltimore, Md.  
May 20, 1835  
*Martin Van Buren*

1840

*Whig*  
First Lutheran (or Zion's) Church  
Harrisburg, Pa.  
December 4, 1839  
*William Henry Harrison*

*Democratic*  
Hall of the Musical Association  
Baltimore, Md.  
May 5, 1840  
*Martin Van Buren*

1844

*Whig*  
Universalist Church  
Baltimore, Md.  
May 1, 1844  
*Henry Clay*

*Democratic*  
Calvert Hall,  
Baltimore, Md.  
May 27, 1844  
*James K. Polk*

1848

*Whig*  
Museum Building,  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
June 7, 1848  
*Zachary Taylor*

*Democratic*  
Universalist Church,  
Baltimore, Md.  
May 22, 1848  
*Lewis Cass*

1852

*Whig*  
Maryland Institute Hall,

*Democratic*  
Maryland Institute Hall,

Baltimore, Md.  
June 16, 1852  
*Winfield Scott*

Baltimore, Md.  
June 1, 1852  
*Franklin Pierce*

1856

*Republican*  
National Hall,  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
June 17, 1856  
*John C. Fremont*

*Democratic*  
Smith and Nixon's Hall,  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
June 2, 1856  
*James Buchanan*

*American (Know-Nothing)*

National Hall,  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
February 22, 1856  
*Millard Fillmore*

1860

*Republican*  
The Wigwam,  
Chicago, Ill.  
May 16, 1860  
*Abraham Lincoln*

*Democratic (1st)*  
Hall of South Carolina Institute  
Charleston, S. C.  
April 23, 1860  
(no nomination)  
*Democratic (2nd)*  
Front Street Theater  
Baltimore, Md.  
June 18, 1860  
*Stephen A. Douglas*

*Democratic (South)*  
Market Hall,  
Baltimore, Md.  
June 28, 1860  
*John C. Breckinridge*

*Constitutional Union*  
Presbyterian Church,  
Baltimore, Md.  
May 9, 1860  
*John Bell*

1864

*Republican*  
Front Street Theater,  
Baltimore, Md.  
June 7, 1864  
*Abraham Lincoln*

*Democratic*  
Amphitheater,  
Chicago, Ill.  
August 29, 1864  
*George B. McClellan*



1868

*Republican*

Crosby's Opera House,  
Chicago, Ill.  
May 20, 1868  
*U. S. Grant*

*Democratic*

Tammany Hall,  
New York, N. Y.  
July 4, 1868  
*Horatio Seymour*

1872

*Republican*

Academy of Music,  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
June 5, 1872  
*U. S. Grant*

*Democratic*

Ford's Opera House,  
Baltimore, Md.  
July 9, 1872  
*Horace Greeley*

*Liberal Republican*

Music Hall,  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
May 1, 1872  
*Horace Greeley*

1876

*Republican*

Exposition Hall,  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
June 16, 1876  
*Rutherford B. Hayes*

*Democratic*

Merchant's Exchange,  
St. Louis, Mo.  
June 27, 1876  
*Samuel Tilden*

1880

*Republican*

Exposition Hall,  
Chicago, Ill.  
June 2, 1880  
*James A. Garfield*

*Democratic*

Music Hall,  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
June 22, 1880  
*Winfield S. Hancock*

1884

*Republican*

Exposition Hall,  
Chicago, Ill.  
June 3, 1884  
*James G. Blaine*

*Democratic*

Exposition Hall,  
Chicago, Ill.  
July 8, 1884  
*Grover Cleveland*

# NATIONAL CONVENTION SITES

175

1888

Republican

Civic Auditorium,  
Chicago, Ill.  
June 19, 1888  
Benjamin Harrison

Democratic

Exposition Bldg.,  
St. Louis, Mo.  
June 5, 1888  
Grover Cleveland

1892

Republican

Industrial Exposition Bldg.  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
June 7, 1892  
Benjamin Harrison

Democratic

Special Hall built,  
Chicago, Ill.  
June 21, 1892  
Grover Cleveland

Populist

Coliseum,  
Omaha, Nebr.  
July 4, 1892  
James B. Weaver

1896

Republican

Auditorium built,  
St. Louis, Mo.  
June 16, 1896  
William McKinley

Democratic

Coliseum Bldg.,  
Chicago, Ill.  
July 7, 1896  
William J. Bryan

1900

Republican

Exposition Auditorium  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
June 19, 1900  
William McKinley

Democratic

Convention Hall,  
Kansas City, Mo.  
July 4, 1900  
William J. Bryan

1904

Republican

Coliseum,  
Chicago, Ill.  
June 21, 1904  
Theodore Roosevelt

Democratic

Coliseum,  
St. Louis, Mo.  
July 6, 1904  
Alton B. Parker



1908

*Republican*

Coliseum,

Chicago, Ill.

June 16, 1908

*William Howard Taft**Democratic*

Civic Auditorium,

Denver, Colo.

July 7, 1908

*William J. Bryan*

1912

*Republican*

Coliseum,

Chicago, Ill.

June 18, 1912

*William Howard Taft**Democratic*

5th Maryland Regiment Armory,

Baltimore, Md.

June 25, 1912

*Woodrow Wilson**Progressive*

Coliseum,

Chicago, Ill.

August 5, 1912

*Theodore Roosevelt*

1916

*Republican*

Coliseum,

Chicago, Ill.

June 7, 1916

*Charles E. Hughes**Democratic*

Coliseum,

St. Louis, Mo.

June 14, 1916

*Woodrow Wilson*

1920

*Republican*

Coliseum,

Chicago, Ill.

June 8, 1920

*Warren G. Harding**Democratic*

Civic Auditorium,

San Francisco, Calif.

June 28, 1920

*James M. Cox*

1924

*Republican*

Municipal Auditorium,

Cleveland, Ohio

June 10, 1924

*Calvin Coolidge**Democratic*

Madison Square Garden,

New York, N. Y.

June 24, 1924

*John W. Davis*

*Progressive*

Municipal Auditorium,  
Cleveland, Ohio

July 4, 1924

*Robert M. La Follette*

1928

*Republican*

Civic Auditorium  
Kansas City, Mo.  
June 12, 1928  
*Herbert Hoover*

*Democratic*

Sam Houston Hall,  
Houston, Tex.  
June 26, 1928  
*Alfred E. Smith*

1932

*Republican*

Chicago Stadium,  
Chicago, Ill.  
June 14, 1932  
*Herbert Hoover*

*Democratic*

Chicago Stadium,  
Chicago, Ill.  
June 27, 1932  
*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

1936

*Republican*

Municipal Auditorium,  
Cleveland, Ohio  
June 9, 1936  
*Alfred M. Landon*

*Democratic*

Convention Hall,  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
June 23, 1936  
*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

1940

*Republican*

Convention Hall,  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
June 28, 1940  
*Wendell Willkie*

*Democratic*

Chicago Stadium,  
Chicago, Ill.  
July 15, 1940  
*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

1944

*Republican*

Chicago Stadium,  
Chicago, Ill.  
June 26, 1944  
*Thomas E. Dewey*

*Democratic*

Chicago Stadium,  
Chicago, Ill.  
July 19, 1944  
*Franklin D. Roosevelt*



1948

*Republican**Convention Hall,  
Philadelphia, Pa.**June 21, 1948**Thomas E. Dewey**Democratic**Convention Hall,  
Philadelphia, Pa.**July 12, 1948**Harry S. Truman*

1952

*Republican**Union Stockyards Amphitheater,  
Chicago, Ill.**July 7, 1952**Dwight D. Eisenhower**Democratic**Union Stockyards Amphitheater,  
Chicago, Ill.**July 21, 1952**Adlai E. Stevenson*