

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Visits to Pulpit Harbor

In June 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt first visited Pulpit Harbor while on a sailing trip to Campobello Island, New Brunswick. The president, as skipper, and his crew, which included his son James, traveled aboard the *Amberjack II* to Pulpit Harbor.

One reason for the *Amberjack* to stop in Pulpit Harbor was to collect the White House mail, sent specially to North Haven. The island's postmaster, Herman Crockett delivered the mail to the *Amberjack* and also brought along the Haven's Inn register, which he asked Roosevelt to sign as President Ulysses Grant did during his 1873 visit to North Haven.

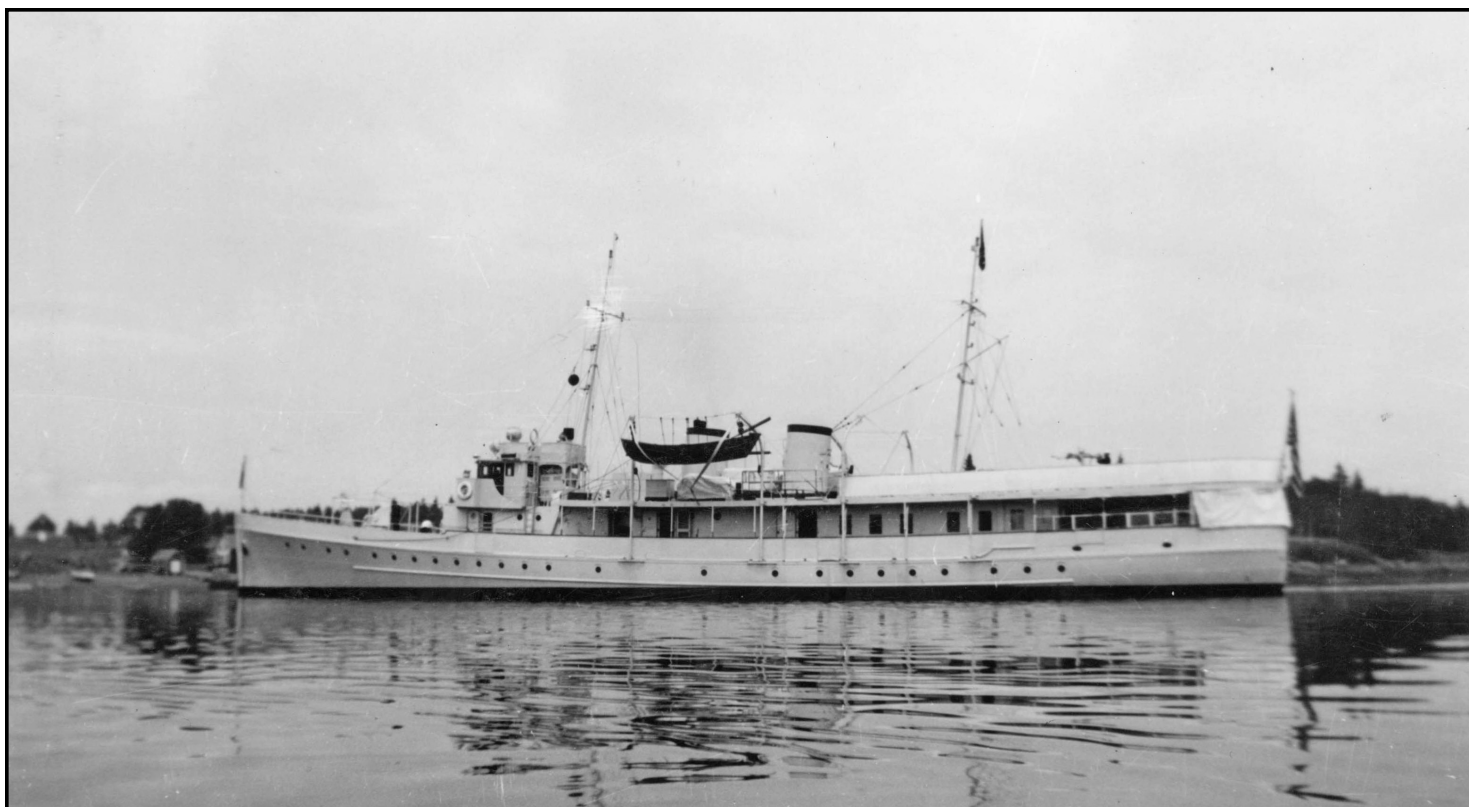
Despite most of the island's population being staunch Republicans at the time of Roosevelt's visit, many people gathered along the shorelines of Pulpit Harbor in hopes of a glimpse of the President. In his book *Cold Milk and Apple Pie*, Lewis Haskell recalled being among the crowd that came to visit the President. Lewis wrote:

*Our neighbor, George Young, was sure that Roosevelt feller would lead the country into chaos, but Dad thought possibly the country had reached that condition already... It was a fine June morning, in 1933, when George reported a sail yacht that FDR was on anchored in Pulpit Harbor. He invited my sisters and me to go and said he would take us up in the old Ford right after dinner. We were overjoyed at being offered an opportunity to ride in George's car, to say nothing of seeing the President. That afternoon, we found ourselves in a big field overlooking Pulpit Harbor. It seemed most of the people on the island were gathered there. President Roosevelt's yacht, *Amberjack II*, was moored in a little cove (we call it Cabot's Cove) on the opposite side of the harbor. George had brought along his brass telescope and binoculars... We noted George was as interested in seeing the President as anyone else gathered there, and he would call out, "I see him, I see him," from time to time. In the latter part of the afternoon, the *Amberjack II* cast off its mooring and sailed out of Pulpit Harbor with President Roosevelt at the wheel. He waved his hat to all of us. We all stood and cheered, and George cheered too. Back at the Young Farm, I helped George push the old Ford back into the carriage shed. I thanked him for giving my sisters and me an opportunity to see President Roosevelt. "Well," George said, "I don't think much of Roosevelt as our President but I'll give him credit for knowing a good harbor when he sees one." It is unfortunate neither George nor Mrs. Young lived to see President Roosevelt revisit Pulpit Harbor, not once but twice. Yes, President Roosevelt knew a good harbor when he saw one.*

On July 14, 1936, with the *USS Potomac* anchored off "Blue Point", the North Haven Town Band gathered on the shore to serenade the President. Five years later, in 1941, FDR made a final visit also aboard the *Potomac* after having met earlier with Prime Minister Winston Churchill.



In 1933, President Roosevelt made the first of three visits to Pulpit Harbor. FDR was aboard the yacht AMBERJACK II on his way to Campobello Island.



U.S.S. POTOMAC

Right: North Haven Band salutes
FDR in 1936.

Below: U.S.S. POTOMAC
The second visit of FDR to Pulpit Harbor
July, 1936

The third visit occurred in August of 1941
after FDR met with Prime Minister
Winston Churchill.

