



THE EQUATOR COLLECTION

USS Sequoia Fact Sheet

Who built the *USS Sequoia*?

The Sequoia was designed by John Trumpy, the famous wooden-yacht designer. It was built for Emily Roebling Cadwalader and her husband by the John H. Mathis & Company Shipbuilders in Camden, New Jersey. Emily was a granddaughter of John Roebling, the chief engineer and original designer of the Brooklyn Bridge.

When did *Sequoia* launch?

Sequoia was launched October 27, 1925.

What is the significance behind the name *Sequoia*?

Emily Roebling Cadwalader named the yacht *Sequoia* after Sequoyah, a leader of the Cherokee Nation.

How big is *Sequoia*?

The yacht is 104 feet in length and capable of sleeping eight guests in her three double and two single staterooms. She has ample crew quarters and can seat 22 for formal dinners.

When did *Sequoia* begin government service?

The U.S. Bureau of Navigation purchased *Sequoia* on March 24, 1931, and used her to patrol the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays as a decoy vessel to attract would-be bootleggers. President Herbert Hoover brought the yacht into presidential service later that year, and used it for presidential meetings and pleasure cruises.

What presidents used the boat while in office?

The *Sequoia* served every president from Hoover to Ford (Herbert Hoover, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, and Gerald Ford).

After 46 years of distinguished government service, President Jimmy Carter ordered *Sequoia* sold at auction. Thomas Malloy purchased *Sequoia* in May 1977 for \$286,000. President Carter would later jokingly remember that selling the yacht was among his worst decisions as president. In a conversation with NPR, Carter said: “People thought I was not being reverent enough to the office I was holding, that I was too much of a peanut farmer, not enough of an aristocrat, or something like that. So I think that shows that the American people want something of, an element of, image of monarchy in the White House.”

What important government events took place on the *Sequoia*?

President Kennedy celebrated what would be his 46th and final birthday party on the *Sequoia*; President Nixon held a summit with Soviet General Secretary Brezhnev and decided to resign the presidency while on the yacht; President Eisenhower developed his “New Look” defensive policy there, and President Johnson lobbied for civil rights legislation and made decisions about escalating the Vietnam war—all onboard the *Sequoia*.



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How many owners has it had?

Since it was sold by the U.S. Government in 1977, *Sequoia* has had seven private owners. The yacht is currently owned by Equator Capital for its [Equator Collection](#), which provides funding to preserve and maintain maritime assets that are significant to the history of the United States.

What's important about Cambridge, MD, in *Sequoia*'s history?

In October 1935, President Roosevelt sailed to Cambridge on *Sequoia* to dedicate the Choptank River Bridge, one of the nation's first WPA projects. *Sequoia* was the first vessel to pass through the bridge's wingspan, on its way to Long Wharf in nearby Cambridge. From the foredeck of *Sequoia*, President Roosevelt delivered a speech to a crowd of approximately 3,000. In early October 2019, *Sequoia* once again passed under the Choptank River Bridge on its way to Maine for a complete renovation.

For photographs and drone video, please visit this [DROPBOX collection](#)

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