

Painting # 10

White House (Green Room) Washington, DC

Title: *Sand Dunes at Sunset, Atlantic City*

Artist: Henry Ossawa Tanner

(United States, Pittsburgh, PA)

Date of Painting: 1885 (Style, Realism)

Henry Ossawa Tanner is considered by many art historians to be the most distinguished African American artist of the 1800s. His father was a college educated school teacher, minister and later a bishop in his church. His mother, Sarah Miller, was born a slave. She escaped slavery using the Underground Railroad, arriving in Pittsburgh. His mother be-came a school teacher and taught students in their home.

Even at a very young age Henry loved art. While living in Philadelphia he loved to visit art museums and just gaze at the art work. From age 11 to age 21 he worked in the summers at Atlantic Beach, New Jersey.

This painting now hangs in the White House. It was painted at Atlantic Beach in 1885 and gives a view of the beach in the foreground looking out across the Atlantic Ocean in late afternoon. The sun is obscured by a haze which is not uncommon over the ocean. To capture the essence of the beach he mixed sand into his wet paint.