A PRESIDENTIAL RECTANGLE

SAM HARLAN Mangum, Oklahoma

In the February 1976 issue of Word Ways, Robert Cass Keller called for readers to construct an interlocking rectangle of the 33 different surnames of U.S. Presidents (keeping Van Buren as two separate words). Although the following 17-by-31 rectangle is a fairly compact one, it may be possible to find another with slightly smaller dimensions:

WI	A	S	H O	Ι	N	G A	Т	0	N																				M C
L			0			R							J	Α	C	K	S	0	Ν								P	0	LΚ
S			\mathbf{v}			F	I	L	L	M	0	R	\mathbf{E}			\mathbf{E}											Ι		I
0			\mathbf{E}			I		I					F			N	I	X	0	Ν							\mathbf{E}		N
N			R			\mathbf{E}		N			T	Α	F	\mathbf{T}		Ν											R		L
						L		C					\mathbf{E}			\mathbf{E}							J				C		\mathbf{E}
			F	0	R	D		0		M			R			D			Α			M	0	N	R	0	\mathbf{E}		Y
	Η							L		Α			S		T	Y	L	\mathbf{E}	R				Η		0				
V	Α	Ν		В	U	R	E	N		D			0						\mathbf{T}				N		0			C	
	R			U						I			N						Η	Α	Y	E	S		S			0	
	D			C						S									U				0		\mathbf{E}			0	
	Ι			H	Α	R	R	Ι	S	0	Ν			\mathbf{T}	Α	Y	L	0	R				N		V			L	
	N			Α						N					D										\mathbf{E}			I	
	G	R	Α	N	\mathbf{T}										Α					C	L	\mathbf{E}	V	\mathbf{E}	L	Α	N	D	
				Α								\mathbf{T}	R	U	M	Α	N								\mathbf{T}			G	
\mathbf{E}	Ι	S	\mathbf{E}	N	H	0	W	E	R						S													\mathbf{E}	

It is interesting to look at the present crop of presidential candidates (and non-candidates) and see what modifications are necessary to include them. Obviously, FORD, KENNEDY and JACKSON can be accommodated without any trouble. CARTER is extremely easy to include, since the E in his surname can intersect the E in PIERCE. WALLACE, REAGAN and UDALL can be included by intersecting an A in their surnames with the A in ADAMS. However, this requires that TRUMAN be moved to intersect with HARRISON (on the letter R), and EISENHOWER be moved to intersect with ADAMS (on the letter S). HUMPHREY requires more drastic surgery which has not been explored.