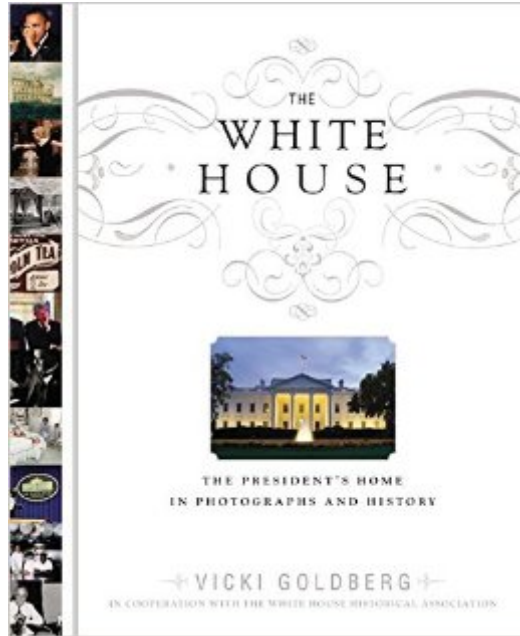


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The White House: The President's Home In Photographs And History



Synopsis

THE WHITE HOUSE: THE PRESIDENT'S HOME IN PHOTOGRAPHS AND HISTORY covers every aspect of White House Life over the past 200 years. Witness multiple refurbishments to the house, media coverage and popular photography of the White House, and photos of its illustrious inhabitants, visitors, and even pets and illustrations. Accompanying the photographs is an incisive, informative text by renowned critic Vicki Goldberg. A rich visual history and a beautiful gift book, THE WHITE HOUSE is a must for photography and history buffs alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When I recently visited Washington, DC for the first time in many years, I picked up a number of handsome books to bring home with me, including "The Public Vaults Unlocked" covering the National Archives (double-jacketed version available in the Archives) and "Master Paintings from the Collection" covering the National Gallery of Art (out of print, but still available in the Gallery). I planned to pick up a book covering the White House as well. Alas, the White House Visitor's Center offered only the out-of-date 12th edition of "The Living White House" in paperback. I left empty-handed, disappointed that the one building in Washington, DC deserving of a timely, high-quality book had none. So I was pleased to discover this book; just released and completely up-to-date, it's exactly the souvenir I was hoping to bring home from DC. Its solid history of the White House does not overwhelm and its stunning selection of White House photographs, and the stories behind them, has kept me browsing for hours. (Yes, the Nixon-and-Elvis photograph is here,

complete with its own funny story.) Interestingly, this book was published "in cooperation with the White House Historical Association" - the group that has published "The Living White House" for 45 years. If the WHHA's goal here was to breathe new life into its old book by having Vicki Goldberg take the reins, then it succeeded admirably.

Fascinating and informative book that explores the history of the White House and its inhabitants, much of it through archived photography, both formal and informal in tone. There was a good deal of material I hadn't known personally before, and I found the choices of photographs, divided into chapters by themes, to be ideal. Some of them convey the character of the people; others are carefully set to give a dramatic look. Well worth the read for those interested in the history of the United States and the way Presidents and their families live.

For someone who can't remember bare facts and dates, Vicki Goldberg's book, uniting memorable backstage scenes with public appearances, is a wonderful way to learn more about presidential history. Some photographs are known and iconic, others unfamiliar. The layout is marvelous and the text is totally original--spirited, witty, idiosyncratic, without being partisan or unduly irreverent. Combining deep scholarship and a graceful style, Goldberg traces the parallel history of the rise and dominance of the image in American culture through its growing importance in presidential self-presentation.

This book is a must if someone is interested in this historic building. I didn't know that during the Truman Administration that the White House was gutted and remade from the inside out. The different renovations that several president's made and all of the offices that are under one roof. I highly recommend this book.

The structure at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington D.C. not only houses bits of our American history, but is itself a part of history. Photography critic Vicki Goldberg, in cooperation with the White House Historical Association, has compiled some of the structure's history in the beautiful format of THE WHITE HOUSE: THE PRESIDENT'S HOME IN PHOTOGRAPHS AND HISTORY. This coffee table-style book contains more than 250 photos, both color and black and white, depicting the White House and its occupations. In addition, there is background information on each photo. Some information is brief, while other is quite informative. The book is broken down into chapters. These chapters include: The East Room; Weddings and Funerals; President's

Portraits; President's Families; Cameras at the White House; White House News, Media and Image; The White House and Technology; Animals at the White House; and The People's House. The beginning of the book also features a list of all the presidents, the dates they served, and the names of their first ladies. Former White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry provides the foreword for this delightful book. The featured photos show a wide range of topics from important meetings of world leaders to First Lady Grace Coolidge's pet raccoon, from John Travolta and Princess Diana dancing at a gala to President John Kennedy's casket, from First Lady Betty Ford dancing on the Cabinet Room table to cowboy Monty Montana lassoing President Dwight D. Eisenhower. THE WHITE HOUSE is filled with a wealth of information about America's presidents and their temporary residence. This would be a great book for students to learn by, as well as a lovely addition to anyone's library collection. FTC Full Disclosure - This book was sent to me by the publisher in hopes I would review it. However, receiving the complimentary copy did not influence my review.

What I love about this book is not only its combination of wonderful pictures and sparkling text, but its wealth of information on all sorts of things: when picture postcards came into being; how Lincoln's photographer doctored his picture to make him look like a dignified candidate, and how that photo was reprinted tens of thousands of times; the feminism of Warren Harding's wife Florence, who was a lot more interesting than her husband; and on and on. Then, of course, there's the spectacular photo of Lyndon Johnson and Carol Channing (and Princess Di and John Travolta opposite them). Calvin Coolidge, about whom nobody knows much, appears on several pages in various costumes, along with the story of how hard it was to reach him when he suddenly became President. There are many photos here that I had never seen before and so many delicious stories about the Presidents, their home and their habits. Never mind coffee tables--this is a book to read and to savor.

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