

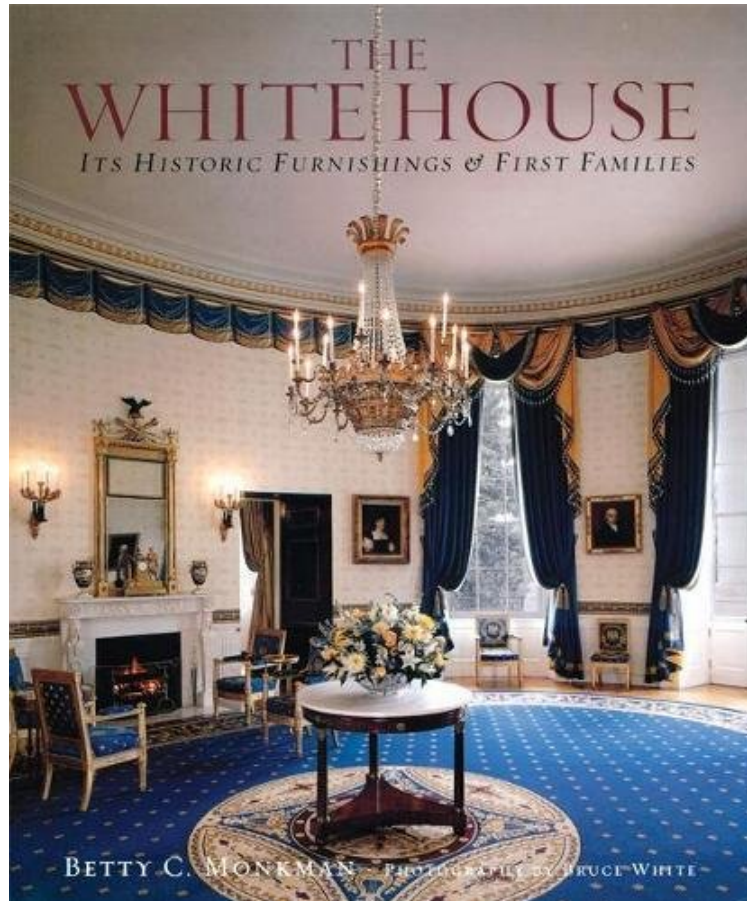
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Betty C. Monkman

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[Read ebook] The White House: Its Historic Furnishings and First Families

The White House: Its Historic Furnishings and First Families

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For 200 years the White House has served as the residence of our nation's president and his family. John and Abigail Adams were the first residents, and each family ever since has been able to make the White House a comfortable home and to acquire the necessities for handsomely carrying out its additional functions as nexus for state ceremony and entertaining. In captivating detail, this volume--produced in association with the White House Historical Association--

reveals how the decoration of the White House has reflected the personal style of our first families and their countless forays into redecorating. Illustrated largely with photographs especially commissioned for this book, as well as historic pictures, *The White House* focuses on some of our nation's most important heirlooms, including furniture, silver, glass, porcelain, and textiles. Enlivened with stories about the first families and how their furnishings often clashed with the politics of the time, this book is an ideal gift for those interested in the decorative arts, biography, and history.

From *Library Journal* Publication of this well-written, beautifully photographed book coincides with the 200th anniversary of White House occupancy. Monkman, the White House curator, documents the furnishings and decorative objects as well as the metamorphoses of White House interiors. The impact of the presidents and first ladies is particularly intriguing. Monkman traces the house's history from its humble beginnings—John and Abigail Adams moved in to a partially finished building in November 1800—through its sacking during the Madison administration to Jacqueline Kennedy's impressive efforts to keep the history of the house alive. Her work led to the institutionalization of the White House as a museum, which the American Museum Association accredited in 1988. The back of the book features a catalog of the illustrated objects. This important work is highly recommended for any collection. Jennifer Mayer, Univ. of Wyoming Libs., Laramie Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Betty C. Monkman has worked in the White House curator's office since 1967; in 1997 she was named curator. She has written numerous articles on White House decorative arts. Bruce White, formerly a staff photographer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, specializes in photographing art and architecture.