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THE WHITE HOUSE: AN HISTORIC GUIDE
26th Edition


Since 1962, the White House’s celebrated spaces and rich history have been portrayed for the public in a continually updated guidebook, The White House: An Historic Guide. The guidebook marked the beginning of White House history as a unique field of study. It was the first, and for its time, only comprehensive published work on a place that symbolized the history of America and all that the nation stood for to the American people.

The first guidebook was published on July 4, 1962 with a first print run of 250,000 copies. Sales now exceed 5 million copies and on July 28th, 2022, the White House Historical Association will release its 26th edition, offering an intimate room-by-room tour of the interior of the house, with new photographs and content.

With this the 26th edition, The White House: An Historic Guide, celebrates 60 years in print, and with it, the White House Historical Association celebrates its 60th year in publishing.
It was First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy’s wish that such a book be written, and her letter
opened the first edition, the first project of the White House Historical Association. Since that
time eleven first ladies have continued the tradition, including First Lady Dr. Jill Biden who
has written an opening letter for this new edition. Of the guidebook, First Lady Dr. Jill Biden
has said: “As an educator, I hope this guidebook will inspire curiosity about the presidents
and first families who reflect their time in history and help us learn from that past so that we
can build a more just nation.”

The 26th edition will be released to coincide with First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy’s birthday
on July 28th and will feature new spreads with photographs of behind-the-scenes areas
including the bowling alley, the kitchen, collections storage, the calligraphy office, the floral
shop, the tennis court, and pool. The new edition of guidebook will also provide readers with
a more comprehensive view of the White House with fold-out pages and wide-angle photos.

Among the rooms that are featured in the 26th edition with new photography and updated
text include the State Rooms, the West Wing, and the Second Floor, as well as new
photographs of the Queens’ Bedroom, Lincoln Bedroom, Center Hall, Yellow Oval Room,
President’s Dining Room, West Sitting Hall, Oval Office, West Wing Reception Room, and
the Roosevelt Room. There are photographs of never-before-seen features from within some
of these rooms including: the Presidential Seal on the ceiling of the Oval Office, the
Gettysburg Address displayed in situ in the Lincoln Bedroom, and President Theodore
Roosevelt’s Nobel Peace Prize Medal in the Roosevelt Room. The guidebook also shares
updated photography of the gardens and grounds around the White House.

While the White House re-opened for tours this spring, the new guidebook offers a walking
tour of the exterior, with a key to its architectural elements and grounds, so that visitors
viewing the White House from the streets of Washington, D.C.—and armchair tourists at
home—can enjoy and appreciate the house that belongs not just to the president, but to all the
American people.

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**About the White House Historical Association**

First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy envisioned a restored White House that conveyed a sense of
history through its decorative and fine arts. In 1961, the White House Historical Association
was established to support her vision to preserve and share the Executive Mansion’s legacy
for generations to come. Supported entirely by private resources, the Association’s mission is
to assist in the preservation of the state and public rooms, fund acquisitions for the White
House permanent collection, and educate the public on the history of the White House.
Since its founding, the White House Historical Association has contributed more than $50
million in fulfillment of its mission. To learn more about the White House Historical
Association, please visit [www.whitehousehistory.org](http://www.whitehousehistory.org).