

2000



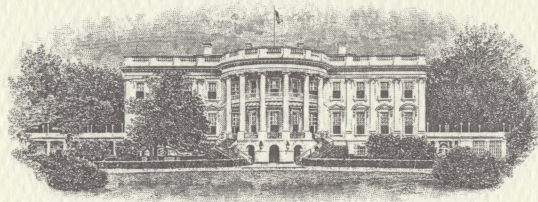
THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON

welcome you to

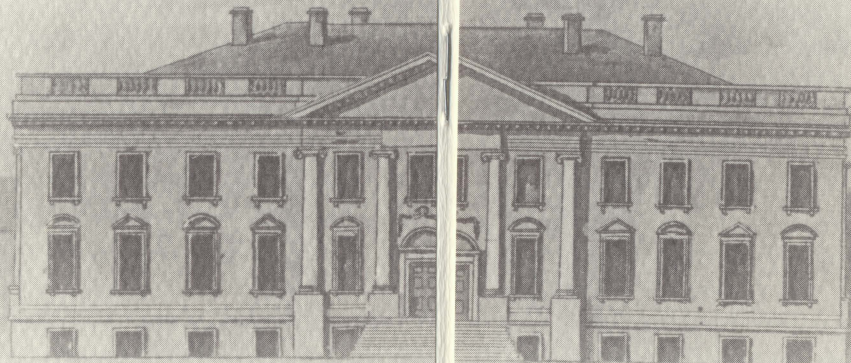
THE WHITE HOUSE

in celebration of the

TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
WHITE HOUSE



Thursday, November 9, 2000

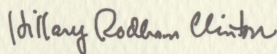


- 1791* President George Washington selects site for the President's House
- 1792* James Hoban's design is chosen and the cornerstone is laid
- 1800* President and Mrs. John Adams are the first residents of the unfinished house
- 1801* President Thomas Jefferson is the first President inaugurated in Washington
- 1814* The President's House is burned by the British; Dolley Madison rescues portrait of George Washington
- 1817* President and Mrs. James Monroe move into the rebuilt house
- 1824-1830* South and North Porticoes added
- 1901* President Theodore Roosevelt declares "White House" the official name
- 1902* Roosevelt renovations result in the removal of 19th century interiors; a new temporary office building (West Wing) is constructed
- 1909* The West Wing is enlarged with the first Oval Office
- 1927* Grace Coolidge works with the first advisory committee on furnishing the state rooms
- 1942* East Wing office building is constructed with a movie theater in the East Terrace

- 1948* Truman Balcony is added to the South Portico
- 1948-1952* Truman renovation modernizes the White House
- 1961* Congressional legislation ensures the museum character of the public spaces; Jacqueline Kennedy begins to assemble a museum collection of art and furnishings and creates historic interiors; the White House Historical Association is formed
- 1963-2000* Examples of American art continue to be acquired; preservation and conservation of the White House and its collections are undertaken
- 1964* President and Mrs. Lyndon Johnson establish the Committee for the Preservation of the White House
- 1974* President Gerald Ford is inaugurated in the East Room
- 1990-1998* Barbara Bush establishes the White House Endowment Fund, successor to the White House Preservation Fund begun in 1979 by Rosalynn Carter, to pursue the goal of permanent support for principal public rooms; Hillary Rodham Clinton achieves this goal
- 1995-2000* Hillary Rodham Clinton, with the Committee for the Preservation of the White House, refurbishes state rooms

It is one of our great honors to be living in the White House as we celebrate its 200th anniversary. With the declaration of their votes, Americans invited us to share their House for eight unforgettable years. When we first crossed the threshold in 1993, we realized that our family of three had suddenly grown to include millions of Americans who look to those living and working within the White House to help nurture their communities and expand their opportunities. We often walk with wonder through the historic corridors that have hosted our greatest thinkers, leaders, artists and fellow citizens. It is their creative spirit that lives among the paintings and sculptures, their seeds of hope that grow in the gardens, and their accomplishments that are celebrated within its rooms. It is they who make this the People's House. More than a foundation of stone and mortar, the White House was built on the courage of revolutionaries, and its walls uphold a tradition of democracy that has been crafted day by day for more than two hundred years. At the dawn of this year, we celebrated our youthful Nation's journey into a new millennium. Tonight, we celebrate a place that forty of forty-one American Presidents have called home. But more than that, we celebrate the ideals born and nurtured here that will advance our march for progress through all the years to come.


William Jefferson Clinton


Hillary Rodham Clinton

The White House Historical Association has presented the following special gifts for the President's House in celebration of its 200th anniversary:

- ❖ An elegant pair of gilded porcelain vases, made in Paris circa 1820, displayed in the Red Room, feature hand-painted images of George Washington and John Adams on one side and gilded eagles derived from the Great Seal of the United States on the reverse
- ❖ A rare mahogany cylinder desk and bookcase, made in New York circa 1830, acquired for the Red Room
- ❖ A new state dinner and dessert service for 300, commemorating two hundred years of life in the White House, incorporates designs inspired by architectural motifs in the State Dining Room, East Room and Diplomatic Reception Room
- ❖ A painting commissioned by the White House Historical Association, *Dawn—White House—2000* by Jamie Wyeth, portraying a south view of the mansion, is on loan to the White House and has been reproduced as a special print for tonight's occasion.

As a musical tribute to the anniversary, John Tatgenhorst has composed a new work for the United States Marine Band entitled *The President's House: A Bicentennial Tribute*. This evening the Marine Band, which has performed at the White House since 1801, will present the inaugural performance of this piece.

PROGRAM

The Honorable
GERALD FORD

The Honorable
JIMMY CARTER

The Honorable
GEORGE BUSH

THE PRESIDENT

Two hundred years ago this November, John and Abigail Adams became the first occupants of the White House, which today is the only place in the world where an elected head of state regularly opens his official home to the public. Irish-born architect James Hoban designed the original building, which was approved by President Washington himself, the only President never to inhabit the 132-room mansion.

Some of our Nation's most historic events have taken place at the White House—the signing of treaties, the honoring of heroes and explorers of new frontiers, and the unveiling of America's creative legacy. The White House is also home to the everyday lives of Presidential families—their children and grandchildren have frolicked through its gardens and on the polished floors of its stately rooms. The dreams, sorrows and triumphs shared under its roof connect it to every home in America.

Two centuries of American style are reflected in the White House's collection of priceless artifacts, such as marble-top pier tables, gilded mantel clocks and Presidential china. Its artistic representation of America continues to grow—from Gilbert Stuart's life-size portrait of George Washington, to Henry O. Tanner's rendering of *Sand Dunes at Sunset, Atlantic City*, to the contemporary art that graces the Jacqueline Kennedy Sculpture Garden.

The White House is a living museum that continues to evolve alongside our ever-changing democracy. America's greatest hope for those who inhabit the White House has never wavered, and is echoed in a quotation carved on the State Dining Room mantel from its first resident:

*"I pray heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this house
and all that shall hereafter inhabit it.
May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof."*

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