



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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MEDIA ADVISORY

**FURNISHING THE NATION'S HOME;
TREASURES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE**

A LONG-TERM EXHIBIT AT THE WHITE HOUSE VISITOR CENTER
(TO OPEN OCTOBER 26, 2000)

For 200 years – since John Adams moved in on November 1, 1800 – the White House has been the official residence of the President of the United States. An historic site with an ever-evolving story, and in more recent times a museum as well, it has welcomed millions of visitors to the rooms where the presidents and their families live, work, and entertain. Often at the forefront of American fashion – and at times even a bit worn – 19th-century White House interiors were refurbished repeatedly due to constant wear and changing styles. When Theodore Roosevelt renovated the house in 1902, to reflect the nation's expanded international role, the public rooms assumed a formal and ceremonial character that they retain today.

Treasures from the presidential collections, few ever seen before outside of the White House, have been assembled to impart the flavor of 200 years within America's most historic house. Most of these objects also have been illustrated in a new book *The White House: Its Historic Furnishings and First Families* by Betty Monkman, White House curator. They include furniture, silver, china, lighting and fireplace equipment, and design elements, ranging from John Adams to the end of the 20th century.

The White House Visitor Center located at 1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. is open daily. For information please call 202.208.1631.

Objects in the exhibition

pieces from a family china service of President and Mrs. John Adams. the first occupants of the White House

silver tureen from among the first furnishings purchased for President James Monroe in refurnishing the rebuilt White house after the fire of 1814

side chair purchased for the State Dining Room in 1845 under President James K. Polk center divan from President James Buchanan's 1860 suite for the Blue Room

side chair from the principal guest bedroom suite purchased by Mary Todd Lincoln and a punch bowl from the Abraham Lincoln state china service. 1861

marble mantel clock purchased for the President Ulysses S. Grant's Cabinet Room. 1369

silver centerpiece of Hiawatha's Boat, acquired by Julia Grant 1866

faux bamboo side chair from the bedroom suite used by Presidents Rutherford E Hayes and James A. Garfield

Family Dining sconce. one of the first fixtures installed during electrification of the White House under President Benjamin Harrison. 1891

State Dining Room side chair and Blue Room Egyptian-revival andiron from the 1902 renovation of the White House for President Theodore Roosevelt

design for an eagle-medallion Green Room rug made for President and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge

night stand made in a craft shop on the Franklin D Roosevelt estate on New York. purchased for Eleanor Roosevelt in 1933

model of the eagle legs on the Steinway piano given to the Franklin L Roosevelt White House in 1938

casting of the inscription added to the State Dining Room mantel by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1940

card table made in Baltimore, c.1800, acquired during Jacqueline Kennedy's establishment of a White House museum collection, 1961

side chair labeled by Philadelphia cabinetmaker James Gillingham c.1770, donated to the White House in 1970

desk attributed to White House architect James Hoban c. 1800, reportedly made of surplus original White House wood, donated to the White House in 1974

French porcelain vase painted with a portrait of Andrew Jackson, acquired in 1979