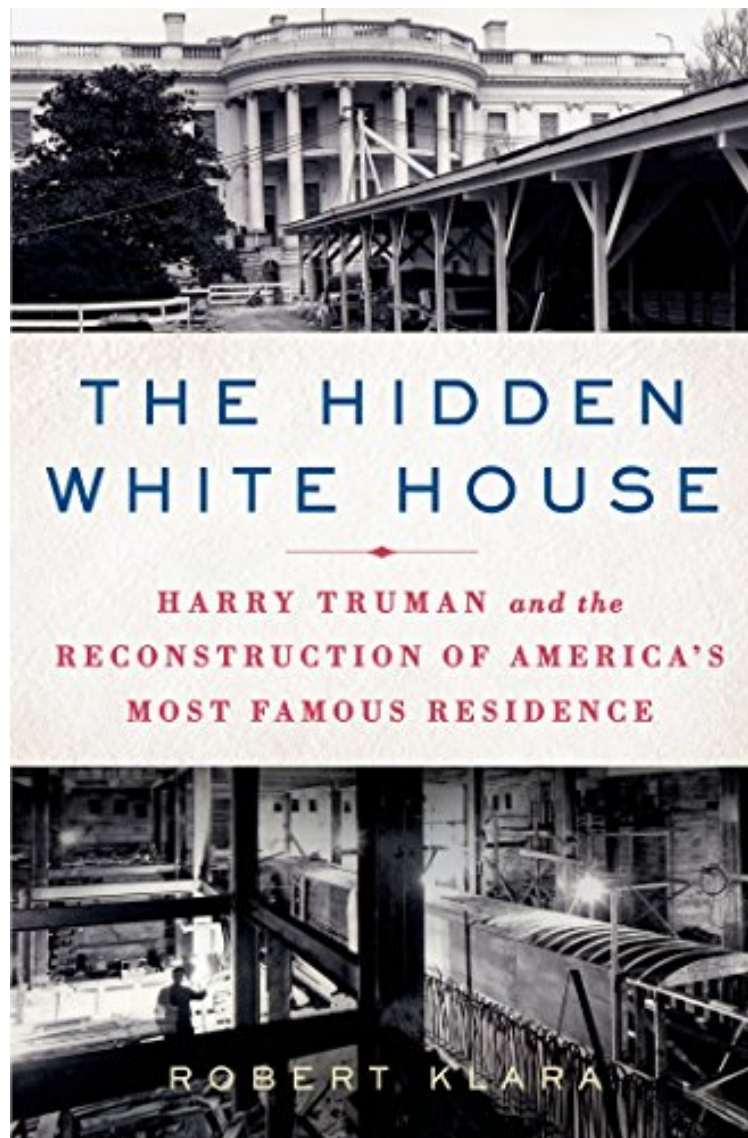


(Read and download) The Hidden White House: Harry Truman and the Reconstruction of Americas Most Famous Residence

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Von Robert Klara

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Von Robert Klara : The Hidden White House: Harry Truman and the Reconstruction of Americas Most Famous Residence before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hidden White House: Harry Truman and the Reconstruction of Americas Most Famous Residence:

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Reconstruction of the White House Von James G. Callaghan Many books have been written about Harry Truman and his administration but "The Hidden White House" covers a known but often skimmed over project, the rebuilding of the Executive Mansion. The Trumans moved into a house that was old. Besides that it had been built at the dawn of the Nineteenth Century, adapted to changing technologies, modified on a large scale in 1902 but, prior to Truman's accession, had had 16 years of deferred maintenance occasioned by depression and war. The First Family's living quarters were so shabby that they really longed to return to their old, modest, apartment. Adapting to their new surroundings they came to learn that the floors shook, the woodwork creaked and the chandeliers swayed. Margaret's piano falling through the floor and the ceiling below and a light fixture threatening to crush participants in a high level meeting were events that could not be ignored. The initial recommendation was that the second floor be rebuilt. It gradually became apparent that the whole structure was in danger of collapse. Between the lack of a foundation, the aged and burnt timbers (remember the British in 1814?) poor workmanship and doors cut into weight bearing walls, it, like Jericho, was about to come tumbling down. Truman took his usual decisive approach and recommended the renovation of the structure. That raised the question of what to do. Shore up the interior supports? Gut it and just retain the exterior walls (the solution adopted), tear it down and start over or build a new Mansion in Maryland and turn the White House into a museum? All of these were debated before appropriations were made for the reconstruction efforts. The book covers the details of the construction in terms understandable by any layman. The interaction of the characters involved, Harry and Bess Truman, builder John McShain and the Committee on the Renovation of the Executive Mansion makes fascinating reading. Author Robert Klara has thoroughly researched the topic and presents it in an even handed manner. While willing to criticize where he thinks it is due, this book is neither a hatched job nor a paean. For the most part, everyone involved is portrayed having given their best to a job in which they really interested. Despite the President's dissatisfaction with the pace of the project, McShain is shown as more a victim of circumstances than a cause of failure. Truman is seen as an historian, which he was, who was determined to preserve the White House and refurnish it with the finest material and craftsmanship available. His constant supervision was shown by his almost daily inspections. The project did not take place in a vacuum. Events as far away as war in Korea and the Soviet atomic bomb and as near as labor strikes would impact the cost and the timeliness of the work. Ultimately the People's House would be preserved for generations to come. Klara points out that many artifacts that could have been, and in today's world would have been preserved were discarded. Criticisms of the "New White House" were probably inevitable. Who builds or rehabs a house and does not move in with some things to be revised later? What furnishing scheme is perfect when it is first in place? Like any other house, the White House is a living institution that molds itself to be comfortable to its changing occupants. We owe thanks to all who participated the preservation of the White House and to Robert Klara for documenting this phase of its history in "The Hidden White House".

Kurzbeschreibung Now including an excerpt from THE DEVIL'S MERCEDES: The Bizarre and Disturbing Adventures of Hitler's Limousine in America by Robert Klara. Coming March 2017. Critically acclaimed author Robert Klara leads readers through an unmatched tale of political ambition and technical skill: the Truman administration's controversial rebuilding of the White House. In 1948, President Harry Truman, enjoying a bath on the White House's second floor, almost plunged through the ceiling of the Blue Room into a tea party for the Daughters of the American Revolution. A handpicked team of the country's top architects conducted a secret inspection of the troubled mansion and, after discovering it was in imminent danger of collapse, insisted that the First Family be evicted immediately. What followed would be the most historically significant and politically complex home-improvement job in American history. While the Trumans camped across the street at Blair House, Congress debated whether to bulldoze the White House completely, and the Soviets exploded their first atomic bomb, starting the Cold War. Indefatigable researcher Robert Klara reveals what has, until now, been little understood about this episode: America's most famous historic home was basically demolished, giving birth to today's White House. Leaving only the mansion's facade untouched, workmen gutted everything within, replacing it with a steel frame and a complex labyrinth deep below ground that soon came to include a top-secret nuclear fallout shelter. The story of Truman's rebuilding of the White House is a snapshot of postwar America and its first Cold War leader, undertaking a job that changed the centerpiece of the country's national heritage. The job was by no means perfect, but it was remarkable and, until now, all but forgotten. Pressestimmen Praise for "FDR's Funeral Train" "In the manner of Bob Greene's Once Upon a Town or Jody Rosen's White Christmas . . . Klara charms as he informs. A little gem." --"Kirkus s" (starred) "Klara has put together a thrilling piece of history. . . . [he] has managed to provide a fresh look at history as well as the political landscape of the twenty-first century." --"The Daily Beast" "Full of fascinating anecdotes. . . . This is popular history at its best: engaging, informative and insightful. It is very well written and . . . a pure pleasure to read . . . sheds welcome light on a fascinating and largely forgotten episode." --"Christian Science Monitor" Praise for "The Hidden White House" "A delightful and informative narrative... Klara brings the reconstruction's major players--

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