

FIRST LADY IS HOSTESS TO THE NATION

Everything that pertains to the White House is of exceptional interest to the American people. They feel that it belongs to them and that they have a close relationship with its occupants. It has been the home of every President since the founding of the United States.

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John F. Kennedy: Mrs. Kennedy (The White House)

También en el Salón Este está el famoso retrato de George Washington, realizado por Gilbert Stuart.

Señora Kennedy: "Este es el objeto más antiguo de la Casa Blanca. La única cosa que está desde siempre. El Gobierno sentó un interesante y extraño precedente cuando este cuadro fue pintado. Encargaron al mejor artista de aquellos tiempos el que retratará al Presidente y entonces lo regalaron a la Casa Blanca. Yo hubiera deseado siguieran esta costumbre, ya que muchas pinturas de posteriores Presidentes están realizadas por artistas bastante inferiores... Y hay más acerca de este cuadro que es muy interesante. Gilbert Stuart pintó la cabeza del modelo, y el cuerpo fue pintado por gentes de su estudio, lo cual era una costumbre corriente en el siglo XVIII, y entonces Dolley Madison, cuando la Casa Blanca fue quemada por los ingleses en 1814, se arregló para salvarlo junto con una carretada de muebles y documentos que han sido muy valiosos para nosotros en nuestra labor de búsqueda."

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8-18 Also in the East Room is Gilbert Stuart's famous portrait of George Washington.

Mrs. Kennedy: "That's the oldest thing in the White House. The only thing that was here since the very beginning. The government set a rather interesting precedent when that picture was painted. They commissioned the finest living artist of the day to paint the President and then they gave it as a gift to the White House. I often wish they'd followed that because so many pictures of later Presidents are by really inferior artists.... There's more about this picture which is rather interesting. Gilbert Stuart painted the head from life and then the body was painted by people in his atelier which was a common practice in the 18th century--and then Dolley Madison, when the White House was burned by the British in 1814, managed to save it along with a cartload of furniture and documents which have been invaluable to us in our research." (62-1327)

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