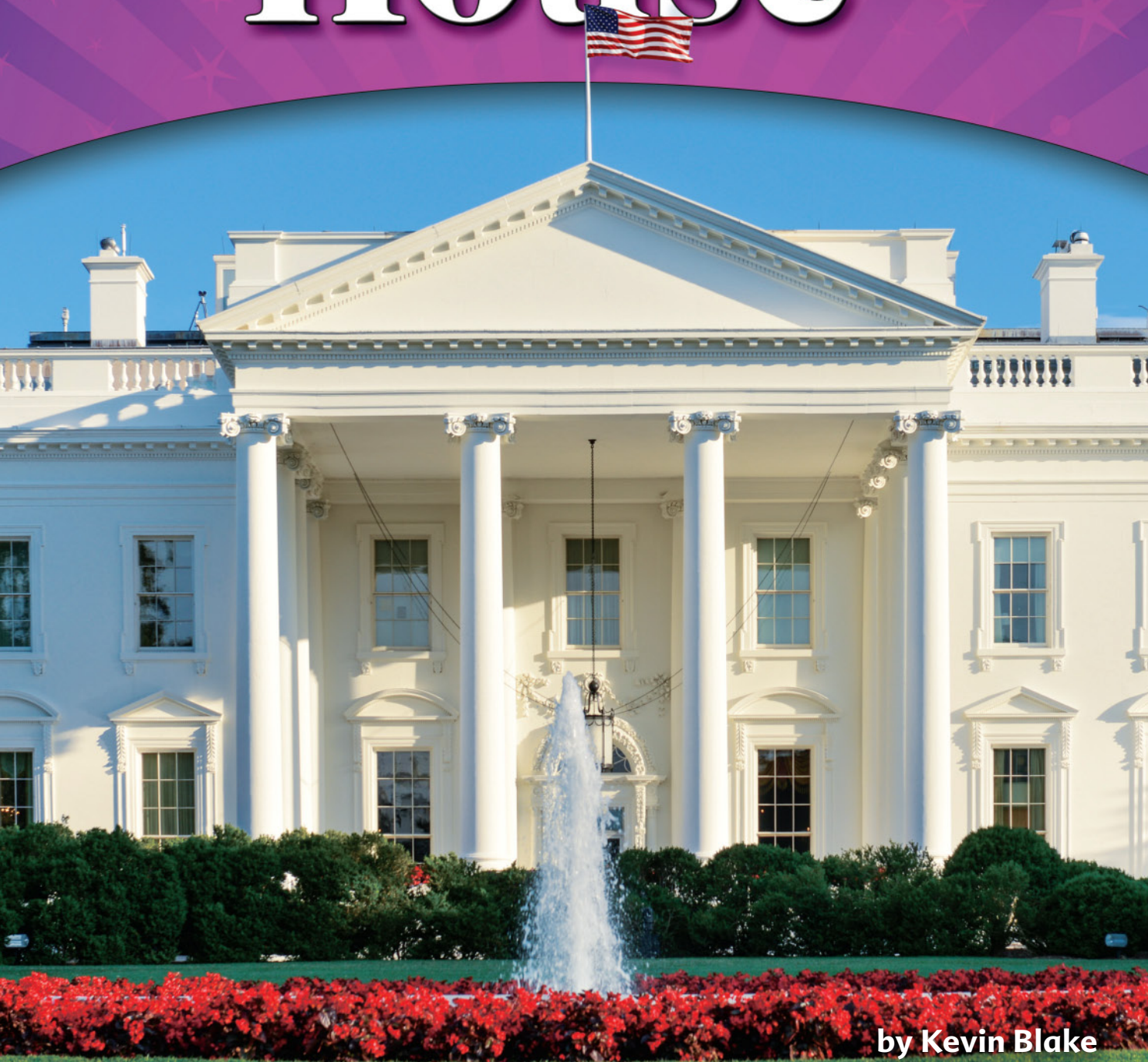




The White House



by Kevin Blake

[Intentionally Left Blank]



The White House



by Kevin Blake

Consultant:
Nicole Hemmer, Visiting Research Associate
Miller Center of Public Affairs
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

Cover, © Orhan Cam/Shutterstock; 2–3, © andriano.cz/Shutterstock; 4, © North Wind Picture Archives/Alamy; 5L, tinyurl.com/hrvdqcv/Public Domain; 5R, tinyurl.com/h9jj98c/Public Domain; 6, tinyurl.com/zfhyyzn/Public Domain; 7T, © White House Collection/White House Historical Association; 7B, tinyurl.com/jjsapg8/Public Domain; 8, © Jose Ignacio Soto/Shutterstock; 9, © Granger, NYC; 10L, © Everett Historical/Shutterstock; 10R, WHHA/Public Domain; 11T, © Courtesy of the Maryland Historical Society, 1976.88.3; 11B, © Jean Housen/CC BY-SA 3.0; 12, © North Wind Pictures Archive/Alamy; 13L, © White House Collection/White House Historical Association; 13R, © Everett Historical/Shutterstock; 14TL, tinyurl.com/jljgp8h/Public Domain; 14TR, tinyurl.com/jnljfw5/Public Domain; 14B, © White House Historical Association; 15, © White House Historical Association; 16L, tinyurl.com/jh3fulk/Public Domain; 16R, © Marcnorman/Dreamstime; 17, © Everett Historical/Shutterstock; 18–19, tinyurl.com/hn8e63m/Public Domain; 19BR, © White House Collection/White House Historical Association; 20T, © Everett Historical/Shutterstock; 20B, © Everett Historical/Shutterstock; 21T, Library of Congress; 21B, © FPWing/Shutterstock; 22L, tinyurl.com/zt6kky7/Public Domain; 22R, Library of Congress; 23, © Everett Collection Inc/Alamy; 24, U.S. National Archives/tinyurl.com/zg5oyo5/Public Domain; 25, U.S. National Archives/tinyurl.com/gszmr59/Public Domain; 26L, © Everett Collection Inc/Alamy; 26R, © WDC Photos/Alamy; 27, © Everett Collection Inc/Alamy; 28–29, © imagedj/Shutterstock; 28–29 (background), © robert_s/Shutterstock; 31, © Orhan Cam/Shutterstock; 32, © Liz Van Steenburgh/Shutterstock.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Senior Editor: Joyce Tavalacci

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: The Design Lab

Photo Researcher: Editorial Directions, Inc.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Blake, Kevin, 1978— author.

Title: The White House / by Kevin Blake.

Description: New York, New York : Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 2017. | Series: American

places: from vision to reality | Includes bibliographical references and index. | Audience: Age 7–12

Identifiers: LCCN 2016012277 (print) | LCCN 2016012627 (ebook) | ISBN 9781944102425 (library binding) | ISBN 9781944997151 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: White House (Washington, D.C.)—Juvenile literature. | Washington (D.C.)—

Buildings, structures, etc.—Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC F204.W5 B58 2017 (print) | LCC F204.W5 (ebook) | DDC 975.3—dc23

LC record available at <http://lccn.loc.gov/2016012277>

Copyright © 2017 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc.,
45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010.
Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

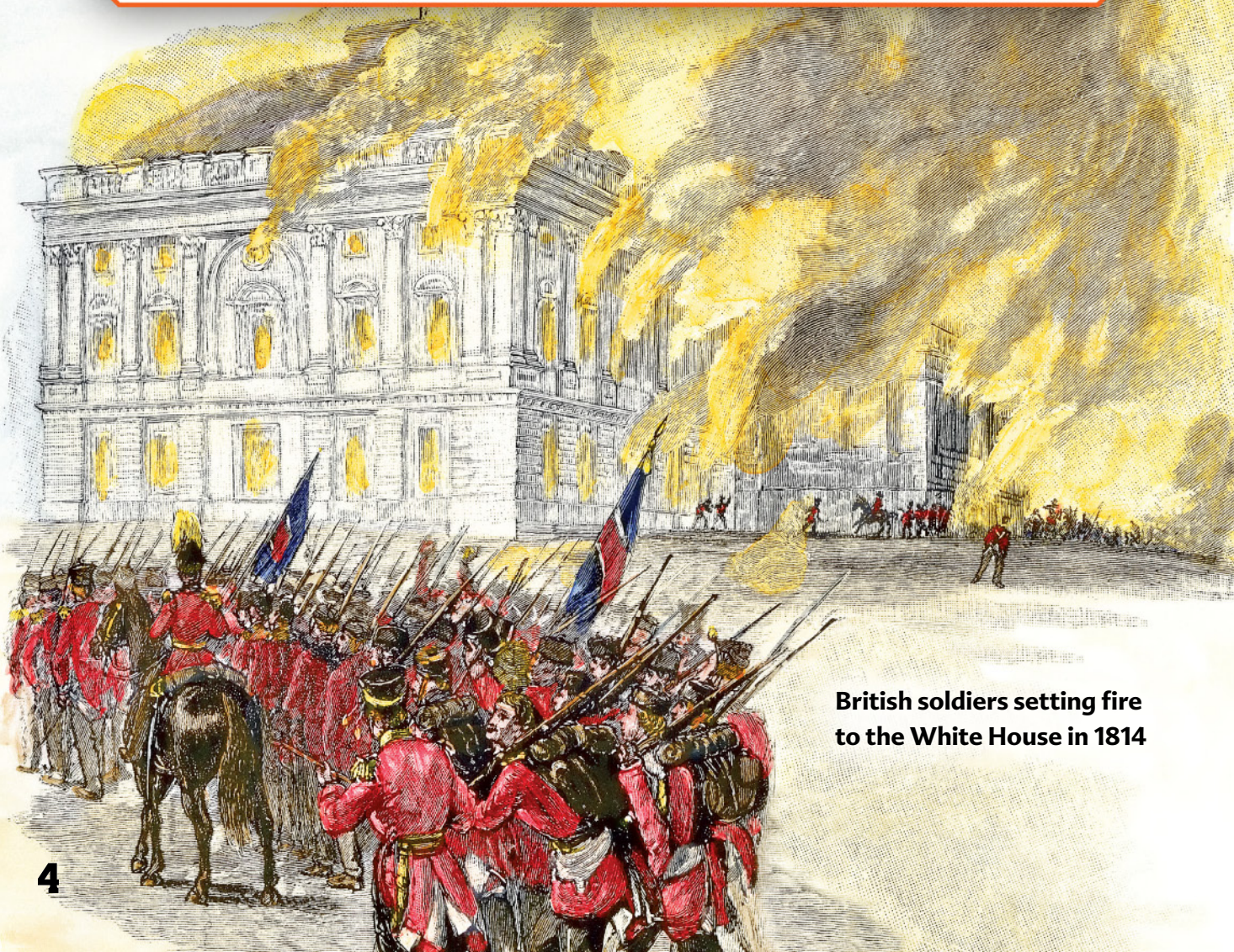


Contents

Fire!	4
The New Capital	6
A House for a President	8
The Contest	10
Construction	12
The First Family	14
A Personal Touch	16
Rebuilding	18
Making It Modern	20
A Home Office	22
Fixer-Upper.	24
The White House Today	26
 The White House: By the Numbers.	 28
Glossary	30
Bibliography	31
Read More	31
Learn More Online	31
Index.	32
About the Author	32

Fire!

On a warm night in August 1814, fifty British soldiers stood outside the White House in Washington, DC. It was the **War of 1812**, and the British were on the attack. Each soldier held a long pole with an oil-soaked rag on the end. The soldiers lit the rags and held the poles high in the air. One of the men shouted an order, and, all at once, the soldiers threw their flaming poles through the windows of the **majestic** house.



British soldiers setting fire to the White House in 1814

Within seconds, the White House was on fire. Nearby, a group of Americans watched in horror as flames **engulfed** the home of their president, James Madison. As the fire spread, it destroyed almost everything inside the building. If not for the heavy rain from a powerful thunderstorm later that day, the entire White House might have burned to the ground.



Dolley Madison

President James Madison had left the White House before the British arrived. However, his wife, Dolley, was at the house when it was under attack. Before escaping the blaze, she made sure to save a few items, including a large portrait of George Washington.



The portrait of George Washington that Dolley Madison saved

The New Capital

Not long before the British attack, there wasn't a White House or a Washington, DC. In fact, there wasn't even a United States of America! America had started as a group of British **colonies** in the 1600s. In 1775, these colonies decided they wanted to rule themselves. They fought for their **independence** from Great Britain during the Revolutionary War. In 1783, the United States of America won the war.

A painting showing
a battle during the
Revolutionary War
(1775–1783)



This new nation would need a permanent **capital** for its new government. In 1790, a group of leaders known as the Founding Fathers decided to build the capital on a piece of land between Maryland and Virginia. They named the land Washington, DC, in honor of George Washington, the nation's first president. Now that there was a capital, the president of the United States needed a place to live.

An early map of Washington, DC



In the late 1700s, the Founding Fathers helped set up the government of the United States. The group included George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and several other men.