

Press tour given

Adamses replace Kennedys in Green Room



By
Clare
Crawford

The John Quincy Adamses are in and the John Fitzgerald Kennedys out — in the refurbished Green Room of the Nixon White House.

Not one piece of furniture remains from the highly publicized Green Room collection assembled by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis 10 years ago.

John Kennedy's portrait was removed from the room last month and placed in the Great Hall with other recent Presidents. Portraits of President and Mrs. John Quincy Adams — she was the first to do the room in green — hang there now.

A focal point of the room is an Adams' coffee urn.

A porcelain mug of flowers on a four-drawer desk is the only carryover from the Kennedy era. The desk, which was also donated to the White House during the Kennedy years, was placed by Mrs. Onassis in the Queen's bedroom, but the Nixons moved it downstairs last year.

Mrs. Nixon opened the room to the press yesterday and said it had to be refurbished because of "wear and tear." She and White House Curator Clement Conger declined to say how much the refurbishing cost. It was paid for by the Richard King Mellon Foundation of Pittsburgh.

He says he rarely finds what he wants in attics, but more often in drawing rooms.

A White House staffer said the new Green Room furnishings are much better quality than the furniture which Mrs. Onassis collected. The Kennedy antiques are being placed in other White House rooms.

Among other items of national interest disclosed yesterday at the Green Room meeting with reporters:

✓ Mr. Conger revealed that the most difficult acquisition was the Turkish or oriental carpet with a green background. It seems that green was the color of Mohammed's turban and it was thought sacrilegious to walk on that color, so there aren't many green oriental carpets in existence.

✓ The gilt mirror over the mantel is peeling, but it will not be re-silvered "until its unliveable" or unlookable because that's sort of considered altering an antique.

✓ The mirror replaces the Benjamin Franklin portrait donated by U.S. Ambassador to Britain Annenberg during the Kennedy years "because we think



—UPI Photo

This year's White House Christmas card shows the building of the first Executive Mansion. A legend in the back reads: Painted by N. C. Wyeth, this view of the construction of the President's House in the late 18th Century shows President George Washington and the architect of the White House, James Hoban, inspecting the uncompleted building.

they put mirrors over mantelpieces then."

The Franklin portrait is across the room now and can be seen better by tourists going thru the East Room.

✓ A pair of silver candlesticks used by James Madison were found in White House storage by Mr. Conger, but there's nothing else of value in storage.

✓ A book, formerly in the Red Room, is entitled "The History of Philosophy" and is inscribed by James Madison and Dolley Madison and came from the Madison library.

Mrs. Nixon said her favorite piece of furniture was a table with many secret compartments. She said the President liked an upholstered arm chair, which is signed by L. Ackerman, who was furniture-maker Duncan Phyfe's upholsterer.

Recent changes in the red room were

not so extensive and much of the Kennedy-era furniture remains. The Blue Room will be closed in February for refurbishing Mr. Conger said Presidential portraits may again have to be rearranged when this is done.

The new elaborate draperies in the Green Room are tasselled. Each tassel took a skilled woman worker a day and one-half to make.

CHECK your mailbox. The White House Christmas cards were mailed yesterday. Tho no one is saying how many were sent on this last Christmas before election day.

Red borders a reproduction of a painting by N.C. Wyeth of President George Washington and White House architect James Hoban inspecting the half-completed building.