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**Collection:** Tate, Sheila: Files

**Folder Title:** White House Historical Association  
Release on Angel Ornament, 12/14/1981

**Box:** OA 6222

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WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

740 Jackson Place, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20506

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1981

CONTACT: Bernard Meyer  
202-737-8292

WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION CREATES CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

The White House Historical Association announced today the creation of the first White House Christmas angel ornament.

The 1981 angel ornament has been included in the decoration of the White House Christmas tree. Exact copies of the ornament are being made available for sale to the public by the White House Historical Association.

The ornament is the first in a series and is a faithful hand-crafted miniature replica of the famous angel weathervane made in 1840 in Charlestown, Massachusetts, for the spire of the Universalist Church in Newburyport. It is made from the traditional copper sheeting used to make the original and has been antiqued to recreate the patina the original weathervane has acquired from over one hundred years of weathering.

Christmas was first celebrated in the White House in 1803 when President Thomas Jefferson resided there. The first record of a Christmas tree in the White House was in 1889 when President Harrison decorated a live tree with tinsel and popcorn. A trimmed Christmas tree has become a tradition in the White House.

The ornament, which is four inches long, comes gift-packed on a red velour backing within a forest green box. Proposed as the first in an annual series of White House ornaments, it is available by mail order through the White House Historical Association, 740 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C. 20506.

Cost per ornament is \$7.50 plus \$1.00 postage and handling. The proceeds benefit the White House Historical Association, a private non-profit educational organization established in 1961 to publish accurate and informative materials about the White House and to acquire historical furnishings and other objects for the White House.

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White House Christmas  
Angel Ornament  
Page Two

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date: 12/10/87

To:

Peter

for your clearance  
for Sheila

*dl*  
*PKH*

From:

Chris Hathaway  
210 East Wing  
x 6702





WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
740 Jackson Place, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20506

*has been revised*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1981

CONTACT: Bernard Meyer  
202-737-8292

#### WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION CREATES CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

Bernard Meyer, executive director of the White House Historical Association, announced today the creation of the first White House Christmas angel ornament.

The 1981 angel ornament has been included in the decoration of the White House Christmas tree. Exact copies of the ornament are being made available for sale to the public by the White House Historical Association.

The ornament is the first in a series and is a faithful hand-crafted miniature replica of the famous angel weathervane made in 1840 in Charlestown, Massachusetts, for the spire of the Universalist Church in Newburyport. It is made from the traditional copper sheeting used to make the original and has been antiqued to recreate the patina the original weathervane has acquired from over one hundred years of weathering.

Christmas has been celebrated in the White House since 1803 when President Thomas Jefferson resided there. The first record of a Christmas tree in the White House was in 1889 when President Harrison decorated a live tree with tinsel and popcorn. Since then a trimmed Christmas tree has become a tradition in the White House.

The ornament, which is four inches long, comes gift-packed on a red velour backing within a leather-grained forest green box. Proposed as the first in an annual series of White House ornaments, it is available by mail order through the White House Historical Association, 740 Jackson Place, Washington, D.C. 20506.

Cost per ornament is \$7.50 plus \$1.00 postage and handling. The proceeds benefit the White House Historical Association, a private non-profit educational organization established in 1961, to raise funds for the refurbishment of the Ground and State Floors of the White House.

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Unclass

CLASSIFICATION

CIRCLE ONE BELOW

MODE

PAGES 1

IMMEDIATE

DACOM #     

RELEASER     

PRIORITY

DEX # 09

DTG 082219Z Dec 8

ROUTINE

TTY #     

FROM/LOCATION/

1. Westport Marketing Group

TO/LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT

1. Sheila Tate / Press Off for Mrs. Reagan

2. TOR: 082732 Z Dec 89 WJ

3.     

4.     

INFORMATION ADDRESSES/LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT

1.     

2.     

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/REMARKS:

Unclass

CLASSIFICATION

WHITE HOUSE  
SITUATION ROOM

81  
P 6: 25

RED LABEL TO SHEILA TATE, PRESS SECRETARY TO MRS. REAGAN

PROPOSED COPY FOR PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE:

The White House Historical Association

Bernard Meyer, Executive Director of

The White House Historical Association announced today the creation of the first White House Christmas angel ornament. The 1981 Angel ornament has been used <sup>in the</sup> to decoration of the President and Mrs. Reagan's tree in the Blue Room of the White House. Exact copies of the ornament are being made available <sup>for sale</sup> to the public by the White House Historical Association.

The ornament is the first in a series and is a faithful hand-crafted miniature replica of the famous angel weathervane made in 1840 in Charlestown, Massachusetts for the spire of the Universalist Church in Newburyport. It is made from the traditional copper sheeting used to make the original and has been antiqued to re-create the patina the original weathervane has acquired from over one hundred years of weathering .

Christmas has been celebrated in the White House since 1803 when President Thomas Jefferson resided there. The first record of a Christmas tree in the White House was in 1889 when President Harrison decorated a live tree with tinsel and popcorn. Since then a trimmed Christmas tree has become a tradition in the White House.

The ornament which is 4 inches long, comes handsomely gift-packed against a rich red velourbacking within a leather-grained forest green box. Proposed as a first in a series of White House ornaments, ~~it is exclusively available~~ <sup>the ornament</sup> <sup>by mail order</sup> through the White House Historical Association, 740 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C. 20506. ~~the~~

The cost is \$7.50 plus 1.00 postage and handling <sup>per ornament</sup> ~~per each ornament~~. The proceeds benefit the continuing restoration of the White House. <sup>Restoration etc.</sup>

*Put in copy about WHHA*

*ornament with help from the kitchen*



THE WHITE HOUSE

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 1981

CONTACT: Sheila Patton  
202-456-2164

Peter McCoy, chief of staff for Mrs. Nancy Reagan, today announced that the Reagans will not accept the traditional \$50,000 Congressional appropriation for refurbishing the Private Residence in the White House.

"We have decided instead to accomplish this historical task through private contributions," McCoy explained. "The White House Residence needs to be restored for the benefit of all future occupants and to assure the preservation of historic furnishings. To that end, we have arranged for tax-deductible contributions to be made through the White House Historical Association, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization."

According to Sheila Patton, Mrs. Reagan's press secretary, a \$200,000 goal has been set to restore and repair furnishings on the Second and Third Floors.

The objective of the effort is to restore, refinish and reupholster many historic furnishings from past Administrations, currently stored under conditions not conducive to their long-term preservation, and display and use them throughout the White House. Concurrent with the restoration of furnishings, rooms will be repainted and carpeting, curtains and drapes will be repaired or replaced. The last major refurbishment took place during the Kennedy Administration nearly twenty years ago.

The Second Floor, in addition to housing the Family quarters, is also where the President and First Lady officially receive visiting heads of state. The Third Floor contains guest bedrooms used by official and personal visitors. There are no plans to alter the most historic rooms on these floors, such as the Treaty Room and the Lincoln and Queen's Bedrooms.

This fund-raising effort is separate and distinct from that of two other organizations involved in the conservation and enhancement of the White House.

The White House Historical Association, a non-profit educational organization, <sup>private</sup> ~~will continue~~ <sup>established in 1961,</sup> ~~to provide~~ <sup>to provide</sup> funds donated by public spirited Americans for the refurbishment of the Ground and State Floors, <sup>of the White House.</sup> ~~The White House~~

Preservation Fund is a trust, providing an annual income which is used to acquire period furnishings and art objects for the White House collection.

Mrs. Reagan has personally conferred with representatives of both the White House Historical Association and the Committee for the Preservation of the White House on this program. Both groups have pledged their full cooperation and support. Dr. Melvin Payne, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the White House Historical Association, was briefed by Mrs. Reagan on her plans to restore the many important items in the White House Collection that are presently in storage and to display them in the White House. "The restoration of these furnishings along with a much needed renovation of the Second and Third Floors of the White House is a most worthy project and certainly one that the White House Historical



Association can enthusiastically endorse and support," Dr. Payne said.

The completed project, which does not have a timetable due to the careful and methodic nature of the work, is expected to be appreciated by visitors to the White House for many years to come.

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