Washington at Home: An Illustrated History of Neighborhoods in the Nations Capital

Interesting Book On Washington's Neighborhoods

Washington, D.C., conjures images of marble monuments, national memorials, and world-class museums. To many, the world beyond the National Mall is invisible. Yet within an area of only 68 square miles lies a residential city of diversity, beauty, and charm. In the long-awaited update of her 1988 classic Washington at Home, Kathryn Schneider Smith and a team of historians, journalists, folklorists, museum professionals, and others who know the city intimately offer a fresh look at the social history of this intriguing city through the prism of 26 diverse neighborhoods.

Lavishly illustrated with engaging historical photographs and maps, Washington at Home introduces readers to the famous residents, colorful characters, distinct flavors, and important events that helped shape the city beyond the federal façade. This second edition adds six new neighborhoods from all parts of the city. Extensive notes make the book invaluable for those doing their own research as well as the more casual reader.

Journalists, historians, politicians, residents, real estate agents, and students regularly consult Washington at Home as the standard resource on the social history of Washington, D.C. This expanded and updated edition will appeal to residents, both new and old, as well as to visitors eager to deepen their experience in the nations capital.

My Personal Review:
I've been studying Washington, DC a lot, but I've learned a lot about the development of the city from this book. For instance, I didn't realize what an important center of factory work the Navy Yard had been, in a city which always had relatively few factory jobs. Each of the neighborhoods are very different, and their colorful histories are well described. The photographs are good, and there are enough maps to keep you
The discussions of race relations and demographics are refreshingly honest. There are good references in the back that will help you dig deeper into a particular neighborhood. It's also interesting to see that some of the realtors and developers who were very central to the covenants (and other shenanigans) that kept blacks and Jews out of many neighborhoods were sponsors of the publication of the book.

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