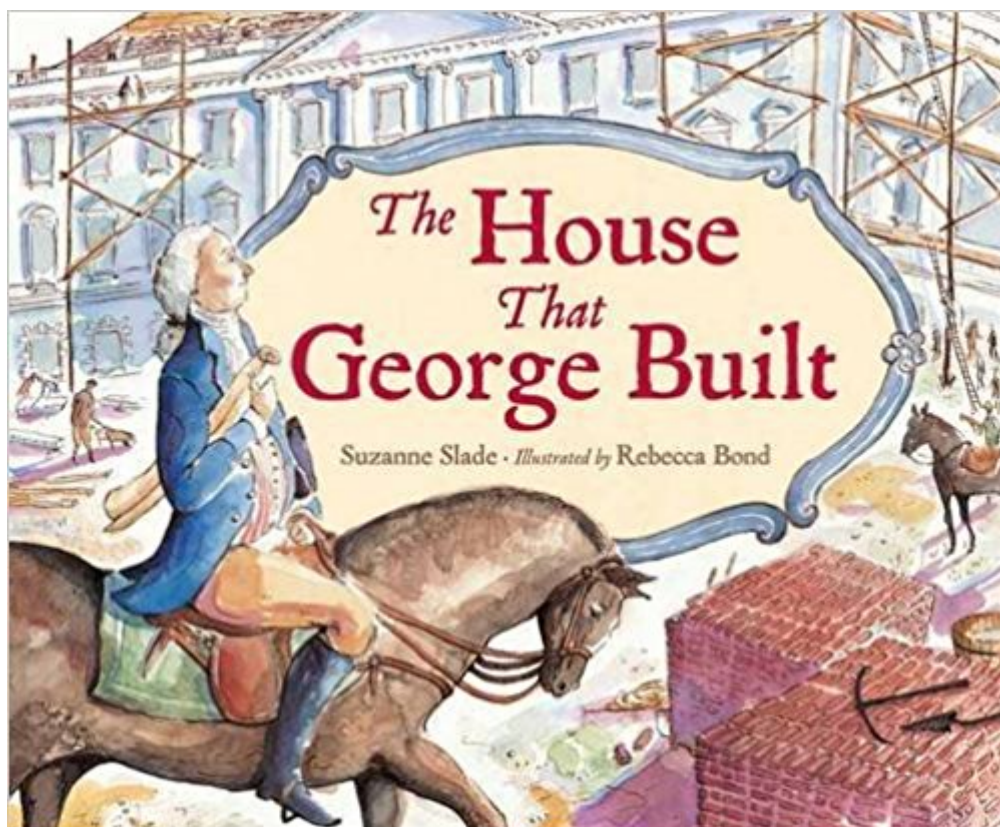


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# The House That George Built



## Synopsis

THE HOUSE THAT GEORGE BUILT takes readers through the process of how the president's house came to be "starting with the contest George held to choose the perfect design for this legendary landmark, all the way to President John Adams's move into the grandiose home. Cleverly written in the familiar format of "The House That Jack Built," author Suzanne Slade supplements her rhyming verse with lively conversational prose, describing how George was involved in this project from beginning to end, from selecting the location to figuring out how to get the thousands of heavy bricks to the construction site. Rebecca Bond's watercolor illustrations help readers follow the steps to what became the White House as we know it today.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 890L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Charlesbridge (December 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1580892639

ISBN-13: 978-1580892636

Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #543,497 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #314 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Colonial & Revolutionary

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

I love some of the non-fiction books being published for kids today. As my third grade students have learned about the presidents, they are intrigued with certain historical figures, and also amazed by the White House (especially the fact that it contains a bowling alley, swimming pool, and movie theater). The House That George Built by Suzanne Slade has been my read aloud of the week. Not only does it tell the story of how the White House was built, but an entirely separate poem is contained within mimicking This Is the House That Jack Built. On our first read through we read the poem version in order to get the feel for the cadence and rhyme and also the repetition of it. Then we began the book again, this time reading the text that included more details about how the White

House was built. A few weeks ago I tried reading *Those Rebels, John and Tom* by Barbara Kerley and Edwin Fotheringham to this same group. While it was interesting to me, I misjudged my audience and they had a hard time paying attention to this book. There were too many facts for them. *The House That George Built* fit my audience well - a perfect amount of factual information still written as a story to capture their interest

We came across this book at the library, and I am so glad that we did. The watercolor paintings capture the time well, and it was wonderful for my four and six year old to learn the thoughts behind building the White House. I was very impressed that George Washington rolled up his sleeves and helped in the work himself. What a great work ethic and role model. The facts were interesting, and we enjoyed that it was combined with a poem that added a couplet on each page as the house progressed. Beautifully worded, your kids will start memorizing the poem as you read the book repeatedly. One key aspect in learning how to write well is to read things that are written well by others.

I was expecting this to be another silly retake on the classic folk tale *The House that Jack Built*; it was so much more! While this book did follow the similar ever increasing repetitive verse, it also had several interesting facts about how the President's mansion was built and the many unexpected difficulties and changes that arose during its construction. A fantastic read aloud to share with elementary age students about the people's house, especially the additional information provided in the afterward about later changes and original design plans.

What a cute way to teach a little history about the building of the White House. *The House that George Built* is a take on the old song/poem *The House that Jack Built*. It follows the steps that it took to build the White House starting with the finding the land, drawing the plans, digging the hole, etc. Along with that it gives history of exactly what building was like back then. It also tells about the fact that George Washington was finished his term as President before the house was even finished. At the end there are some resources and facts to enhance the story. A good book for younger children to learn some history. I received a copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

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