Book Reviews

The Homes of the Hoovers, by Ruth Dennis. West Branch, Iowa: Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association, 1986. 66 pp. Illustrations, appendix.

The Homes of the Hoovers, by Ruth Dennis, is a short volume about, as the title states, the many homes of Herbert Hoover and Lou Henry Hoover in China, Australia, England, and the United States. Ms. Dennis, a former librarian at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library, does more, however, than simply relate the architectural features and locations of those homes. She captures "the humanness and humor of our former President and his wife" (p. 1) in her narrative by interspersing information on the character and personality of the Hoovers which Ms. Dennis has garnered from her research over several years in the papers and memorabilia of the Hoovers. The volume also has an excellent appendix which provides a chronology of addresses of the very mobile Hoovers.

The Homes of the Hoovers is a valuable addition to the literature on the Hoovers not only because of its subject matter but also because it provides rich insight into some not popularly known aspects of "the humanness and humor" of the Hoovers. The work should be a useful tool for Hoover scholars and of interest to students of the history of Iowa.

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