

# THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION HISTORICAL GAZETTE

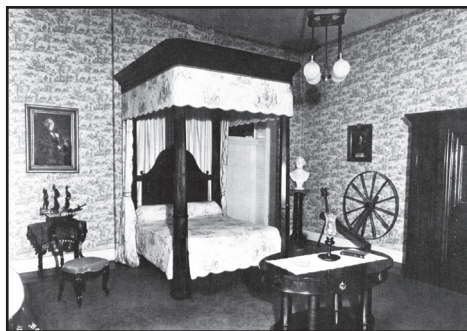
DOCENTS OF THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION

AUSTIN, TEXAS

VOLUME 2, 2010

## Mansion Gets New Furniture

December 24, 1859. Because of the Mansion's sparse furnishings, Governor and Mrs. Houston have purchased several beds, including a \$30, seven foot long, mahogany four-poster bed.



## The Houston Family

August 12, 1860. Governor and Mrs. Houston's eighth child, Temple Lea Houston, is the first baby born in that bed and in the Mansion. He is the latest addition to a mischievous troupe of siblings. Recently, five-year-old Andrew Jackson Houston locked members of the Legislature in their chamber at the Capitol and hid the key.



Threats of a whipping had no effect, but when Governor Houston threatened to have him arrested, he produced the key and the lawmakers were released. Governor Houston admitted, however, that his son had done a better job of controlling the Legislature than the governor!

## Power Failure at the Mansion

March 5, 1919. Governor and Mrs. Hobby celebrated in the dark at the inaugural reception last night. Governor Hobby postponed the reception because he wanted to take care of urgent legal matters before celebrating his victory. Mrs. Hobby rescheduled the event for March 4, last night, and invited hundreds of guests for an informal celebration. At one point, the lights



First Lady Willie Hobby

went out in the mansion due to a power failure. The reception guests continued to celebrate by candlelight. Apparently, the event was a huge success because Governor and Mrs. Hobby were late for the inaugural ball and the grand march didn't begin until 11 p.m.!

## Facts About Texas Governors

- 40 governors have lived in the mansion
- Average age at election: 47
- Oldest: Sam Houston, age 66
- Youngest: Dan Moody, age 33
- Longest serving: Rick Perry
- Only 19 governors have been native-born Texans
- 28 governors have been lawyers
- 20 governors served in the Texas Legislature before their election as governor

## Presidential Visitors Welcomed to Texas

May, 1901. Texas First Lady Lena Sayers has redecorated the mansion in the latest Victorian style – adding a new parlor furniture set amid a forest of potted plants. The Sayers are to receive Texas' first Presidential visitors, President and Mrs. William McKinley and Vice President and Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt. Because anger over the Civil War still runs high in Texas, Confederate veteran Governor Joseph D. Sayers and President McKinley, a former Union officer, set an example of reconciliation with a parade through downtown and an elegant dinner at the Mansion. The First Lady remained in Austin, while the governor accompanied the presidential party to Houston. While there, President McKinley paid tribute to Mrs. Anson Jones, the wife of the last President of the Republic of Texas.



## Presidential Candidates Stay at Mansion

October, 1960. The Mansion has hosted numerous foreign dignitaries and Hollywood stars through the years, and some have had the honor of sleeping in the famous Sam Houston Bed. Recently, while campaigning for the Presidency, Senators John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Baines Johnson, the Democratic nominees, spent the night with Governor Price Daniel and his family

at the Mansion. Senator Kennedy was rumored to have slept in the Sam Houston Bed. Mrs. Daniel confided that after feeling the feather mattress, the Senator decided that his ailing back needed firmer support and slept in the Daniels' personal bed. This morning, both candidates were presented by the Governor at a rally in front of the Capitol. Mrs. Daniel also tells of visits from James Arness of television's "Gunsmoke" and Fess Parker of Davy Crockett fame. The Daniels' children measured Arness in the Sam Houston Bed, confirming that the bed could definitely accommodate someone 6 1/2 ft. tall.

## Mansion Changes Through the Years

October, 2007. For more than 150 years, the Governor's Mansion has served as a residence for 40 Governors and their families – visited by the public more than any house in Texas. In the 19th century, the Governor was responsible for making the Mansion a comfortable home, bringing in family furniture. Until the Clements' renovation (1979-1983) and acquisition of period furnishings, Governors were, for the most part, free to make changes to the house.

The Mansion interior has had numerous renovations, restorations and repairs. Interior structural changes began with Sam Houston's family in the 1860 creation of a small, center bedroom upstairs. The only major addition was made during the Colquitt administration (1911-1915) when they replaced the old kitchen, built a new cellar, and added two servants' rooms and the conservatory.

Former First Lady Jean Houston Daniel co-authored a definitive history, *The Texas Governor's Mansion*, and wrote "... the day will probably come when it should be enlarged in a manner which will not detract from its Greek revival style and appearance. Additional space is needed for entertaining...and other modern requirements."

The grounds have seen numerous changes with the addition and subtraction of fencing and various buildings, such as greenhouses, outhouses, chicken coops, stables and gazebos.

The Texas Governor's Mansion actually predates the Texas Capitol building, is the oldest Governor's residence west of the Mississippi, and is the fourth-oldest continuously occupied governor's residence in the United States. Currently being restored, this grand house is a symbol of Texas pride and an irreplaceable part of Texas history.

## MANSION FIRSTS

**SOCIAL EVENT – 1856** Levee to celebrate completion of mansion during Gov. Pease's administration.

**CHILD – 1860** Temple Lea Houston, born to Gov. and Mrs. Sam Houston on August 12.

**INDOOR TOILET – c 1871** Installed during the Davis administration.

**WEDDING – 1872** Mary Hall, Gov. Davis' niece, married George Sampson on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**GAS LIGHTS – 1875** Installed during the Coke administration. Kerosene lamps and candles had been used to provide illumination.

**RUNNING WATER – 1882** Installed during Gov. Roberts' administration.

**TELEPHONE – 1883** Installed during Gov. Ireland's administration.

**NATIVE-BORN TEXAN ELECTED GOVERNOR – 1891** Gov. James S. Hogg

**ELECTRICITY – c 1900** Installed during Gov. Sayers' administration.

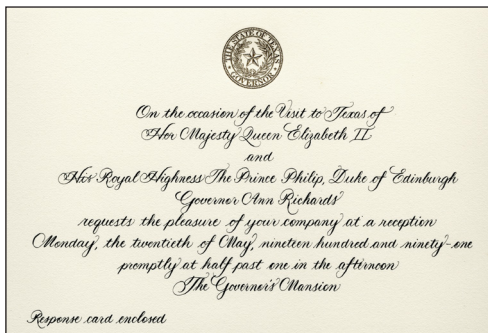
**CENTRAL HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING – 1952** Installed during Gov. Shivers' administration.

**TELEVISION SET – 1954** Installed during Gov. Shivers' administration.

## The Queen to Visit Texas

May 18, 1991. The Queen of England, Elizabeth II, will be arriving in Texas tomorrow. She will be the first British monarch to visit the state. Though her husband and her son, Prince Charles, have come before, this will be her first time. They have been touring the United States for the last week and will wrap up their trip in Texas. They are visiting Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio over the next three days. They will arrive in Austin tomorrow afternoon with a welcome ceremony on

the steps of the Capitol. She will be receiving an inscribed gavel from House Speaker Bob Bullock, a Texas flag and a book about the history of the Capitol. She plans to address a joint session of the Texas Legislature. Later, tomorrow afternoon, she will be attending a reception hosted by Governor Ann Richards at the Governors' mansion.



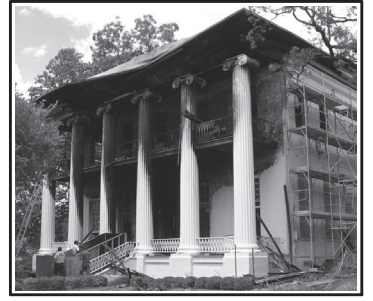




# TEXAS GOVERNOR'S MANSION RESTORATION FUND



*Restore a Texas Treasure*



**Mansion Update** - Following the devastating arson in June, 2008, the 81st Texas Legislature appropriated \$22 million in general revenue funds to restore the historic home. "I'd like to thank Texas Legislators and the many Texans from all walks of life who have contributed to saving the Texas Governor's Mansion," First Lady Anita Perry said. "We now are able to restore this state treasure, so that future generations can walk the same halls walked by Sam Houston." To date, The Texas Governor's Mansion Fund has raised more than \$3.5 million, the State Preservation Board has selected a renowned preservation architecture firm, and the Mansion restoration is moving forward. Private contributions to the project will not be used to supplant state dollars, but will be used for restoration of some of the important and costly historical features, new ADA and code requirements, landscaping and a time-sensitive evaluation and historical documentation. The Mansion architects have agreed to an aggressive schedule for the project.


### State Preservation Board Progress - Historic Structures Report and Design Work

The Historic Structures Report (HSR) provides historic architecture research, changes to it over time, photographs that show the home at the various stages, and an overview of the historic significance of the property. The HSR also includes a preservation approach suggested for restoration. This study focuses on architecture, touching only slightly on the grounds and interior décor. An invaluable tool, the HSR assists the State Preservation Board staff, Ford, Powell & Carson Architects, and the Texas Historical Commission with the decision-making process.

The Mansion has been well-documented over time. The HSR consolidates the research into a single document that is an excellent preservation and planning tool. While it may need to be updated, the relevant historic content will not change.

Dealey Herndon, State Preservation Board project manager of the Mansion restoration, has overseen important forensic research of mortar, bricks, paint, and structural density of the wood, and is preparing the design team to finalize documents.

At the conclusion of the design phase, phase one of construction began on the exterior in October. Phase two will be the Interior Project.



*Texas' Front Porch*  
TEXAS GOVERNOR'S MANSION RESTORATION FUND

Dear Citizens of Texas,

The Texas Governor's Mansion suffered significant structural and architectural damage from arson in June 2008. At that time, the Mansion was empty and all its prized contents in storage. State leaders, concerned citizens, and preservationists were horrified and saddened by the damage to the historic Texas Governor's Mansion. These same Texans vowed to rebuild this grand house, a symbol of Texas pride and an irreplaceable part of our State's history.

In July 2008, I founded the Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund, a nonprofit organization established to raise money to help rebuild this National Historic Landmark. One year after fire almost destroyed the 153-year-old Texas Governor's Mansion, the 81st Texas Legislature appropriated \$22 million in general revenue funds to restore this Texas treasure. Private funds are also needed to provide for the best and most historic elements, as well as to ensure our Governor's Mansion is safe, functional, and historically preserved for at least another 150 years.

With your help, the Governor's Mansion will again be restored for the enjoyment and inspiration of all proud Texans.

Warmest regards,

Anita Perry

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Governors, past and present, gathered at the Mansion. Former governors Preston Smith, Dolph Briscoe, William Clements, Mark White, Ann Richards, and Governor Rick Perry stand behind former First Lady Rita Clements, First Lady Anita Perry and former First Lady Linda Gale White.



### Former Texas Governors Speak Out About Mansion

Texas' beloved former governor Dolph Briscoe once recounted one of his most cherished memories. At age nine he accompanied his parents on a visit to the Governor's Mansion as overnight guests of then Governor Ross Sterling. Spending the night in the Mansion and sleeping in Sam Houston's four poster bed inspired the statesman and rancher to fulfill his dreams and grow up to become governor.

"When I first heard about (the fire), I got a terrible feeling — just like that day in February 1983 when I got word that the Capitol was on fire," said former governor Mark White of Houston. "This is not just Texas history. It is priceless Texas history."

**TOLL FREE 1-866-771-5829**

**WWW.TEXASGOVERNORSMANSION.ORG**

#### Donate by Check or Money Order

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation by check or money order, please mail it to:

**Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund  
P.O. Box 12878  
Austin, TX 78711-2878**

Checks or money orders should be made payable to **Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund.**

#### Donate by Credit Card

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation by credit card, please visit our Web site:

**www.TexasOnline.com**

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