

THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION HISTORICAL GAZETTE

DOCENTS OF THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION

AUSTIN, TEXAS

2011

Governor Buys "Necessities"

January 2nd, 1860. Governor Sam Houston reports he spent \$1,000 for curtains, rugs, china, kitchen utensils, carpeting and additional furniture for the governor's mansion. In March 1859, he purchased 29 blankets, 9 mattresses, 75 pounds of feathers, laundry equipment (including plenty of lye soap), bedroom supplies (including chamber sets), and 8 spittoons. A bill for \$30 was paid on December 24, 1859 for one "Superior Bed Stead, mahogany."



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, 5-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!



Mansion Not Always White

In 1856 the Greek Revival style Governor's Mansion was constructed with brick made from tan clay dug from the banks of the nearby Colorado River. The columns, porch railings, and wide wooden cornice at the roofline were constructed of pine cut from the "Lost Pine" forest about 30 miles downriver in Bastrop. An 1864 photograph suggests that these wooden elements were painted white or off-white. An 1886 photo shows the brick painted to provide a seal from moisture. **The photograph dated 1886 (above)** shows the wooden elements painted various colors. Because there was no color photography, there was no way to determine what colors were used. From 1912 to the present, the house has been various shades of white or off-white with green shutters.

"For its first 15 years, the mansion was unpainted brick," said Kevin Koch, Assistant Project Manager with the State Preservation Board (SPB). To remove lead-based paint, crews actually stripped 22 layers of paint. They found that some interesting colors had been added over the years. "There were cranberry reds, rusts, tans, browns and grays," said Koch. "We removed each brick piece by piece, stripping off the mortar, removing the soot, and putting it back into place," said Koch. Repairing the brick, wood trim, windows and roof was just the first step. "After the new roof was put on last April, the interior work began," said Koch. The inside has not been as daunting since all of the furnishings, lights and doors were removed for a maintenance project prior to the arson. The staircase was protected from the fire - thanks to thermal insulation which is still on the stairs. Many of the walls needed plaster replaced and the house has new electrical wiring. Once it's completed in 2012, it should look just as it did before the fire. "A disaster though it was, it could have been a lot worse," said Koch.

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 31st.

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.

Mansion's 155th Anniversary

June 9th, 2011. This date marks the 155th anniversary of Texas' most historic home. The Governor's Mansion has served as the official residence of Texas governors and their families since 1856. It is the oldest building in the Capitol Complex – 32 years older than the 1888 Capitol. The enduring legacy of the Governor's Mansion is the juxtaposition of public and private stories. Think of the people who have visited — a pantheon of Texas power and politics! Can you imagine dinner with Sam Houston and his eight children? Tea with Governor Ann Richards and Queen Elizabeth? The Mansion was — and will again be — a bold reflection of Texas history, culture, and identity.

DPS identifies persons of interest in Mansion Fire \$50,000 reward offered

February 17, 2011. Texas Rangers have developed information about a man they considered to be a person of interest in the Texas Governor's Mansion arson on June 8, 2008.

Anyone with information that could be helpful to investigators is urged to call 1-800-252-TIPS (8477) or text "DPS plus your tip" to 274637 (CRIMES). All calls or texts are anonymous. Any reward would be paid in cash.

Mansion Changes Through the Years

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 pre-dates 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.

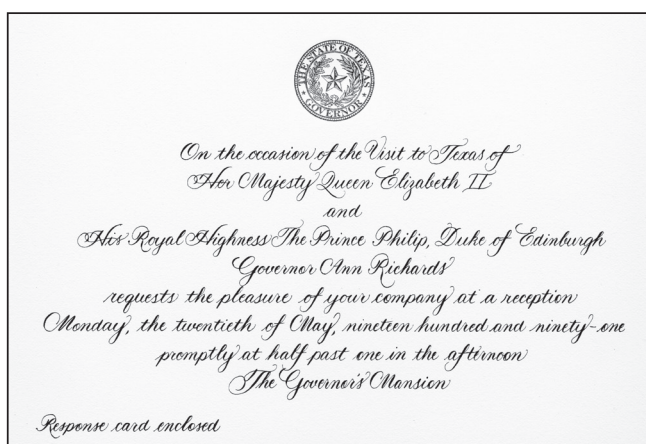
FACTS ABOUT TEXAS GOVERNORS

- 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

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



Following the devastating arson, the 81st Texas Legislature appropriated \$22 million in general revenue funds to restore the historic home. The Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund raised more than \$3.5 million from private donations. "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."

Mansion Restoration Update

September 15, 2011. More than three years have passed since an arsonist set fire to the Texas Governor's Mansion. The 81st Texas Legislature appropriated the necessary funds to restore the historical home. In addition, the Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund (Fund) raised private donations. The State Preservation Board (SPB) oversees the state's appropriation and is the project manager. In February 2010, state funding was reduced as a part of the 5% across-the-board budget cuts for all state agencies. With the current budget challenges, donations have been crucial. Private contributions have been used for some of historic features such as the column restoration, new Americans with Disabilities Act and code requirements, the addition, landscaping, and changes necessitated by security, as well as historical documentation. The Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund Board oversees the allocation of these private funds. The Fund is chaired by First Lady Anita Perry and Ambassador Pamela Willeford with board members Edward Safady, Janey Briscoe Marmion, former First Lady Linda Gale White and Brian Newby.

The State Preservation Board (SPB) selected a renowned preservation architecture firm, Ford, Powell & Carson as the Project Architect. White Construction Company was selected as the Construction Manager-at-Risk for the Project. For the first phase of the Governor's Mansion Exterior Restoration Project, SPB worked closely with the contractor to engage the most qualified craftsmen at the best value to the State. The construction of the Exterior Project is complete and includes repair of

the exterior masonry, columns, and porches, production of the signature entablature, and construction of the new roof. The permanent roof is visible, exciting progress. Interior construction began in the spring of 2011. The Interior Project includes a restoration of the historic spaces, new addition on the west side, kitchen renovations, a new elevator, and new code compliant restrooms, which will be handicap accessible. While the building will have improvements to mechanical, electrical and other systems, the historic rooms will return to their pre-fire appearance.

The Governor's Mansion Grounds Project includes the landscape design of the historic grounds and the perimeter fence. The Landscape Architect, TBG Partners, in collaboration with SPB, the Texas Historical Commission and Friends of the Governor's Mansion, continues to ensure balance is reached between respect for historical elements and the introduction of native plantings as well as security adjustments to the perimeter wall. Additionally, there will be a Department of Public Safety screening facility along Colorado Street. The Historic Structures Report was completed by Volz & Associates, summarizing and documenting the architectural history of the Mansion and serves as an invaluable resource and guide.

The Mansion belongs to all Texans and in 2012 this "Texas Treasure" will reopen and be fully restored to its former grandeur -- preserved for generations to come.

On the morning of June 8, 2008, Texans awoke to news that an arsonist had set fire to our state's most beloved home, the Texas Governor's Mansion. Fortunately, notable artifacts, artwork and furnishings had been removed from the Executive Residence during a deferred maintenance project. However, much of the historic house was burned, and its signature front porch columns were badly charred.

ABOUT 95% OF THE MANSION'S COLUMNS WERE SAVED



TOLL FREE 1-866-771-5829

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Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund Major Gifts

Governor Dolph Briscoe and Family
The Jean and Price Daniel Foundation
Governor and Mrs. Rick Perry
The Dan Moody Jr. Memorial Fund and Ms. Nancy Moody
President and Mrs. George W. Bush
Cissie Shivers Ferguson
The Family of Governor Preston Smith and Robert and Jan Smith Taylor
The Clements Foundation
The Family of Governor William P. Hobby
Governor and Mrs. Mark White

Mr. and Mrs. Houston Daniel
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Connally

Andrew and Teresa Hobby
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Schmid

Mr. Charles C. Butt, HEB
His Highness the Aga Khan

BP America Inc.
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The Sid W. Richardson Foundation
The NRG Texas Fund

USAA
The Michael and Susan Dell Foundation
Energy Future Holdings
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Valero Energy Foundation
The Zachry Foundation
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Alice and Erle Nye

Mickey and Renee Long
Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution
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William S. and Lora Jean Kilroy Foundation
The Eugene McDermott Foundation
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AAA - Texas
Reliant Energy
The Stemmons Foundation
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The Heritage Society of Austin
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Anheuser-Busch Companies
The Grogan Family Foundation
State Employees Charitable Campaign
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NuStar Energy L.P.
The Pamela Wright Collection
Barbara Tucker Harrell
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Mrs. Carrin Mauritz Patman
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Young
Meg and Jay Propes
Senator and Mrs. Steve E. Ogden
Honorable & Mrs. Charles Matthews
Mr. and Mrs. William O. Geise
Tom Green Co. Historic Commission
San Benito Historical Society