

THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION HISTORICAL GAZETTE

DOCENTS OF THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION

AUSTIN, TEXAS

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Governor Holds Open House at the New Mansion

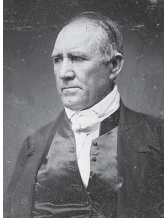
August 24, 1856. Last evening Governor Eliza Pease held an open house at the newly completed Governor's Mansion. Mrs. Pease was not in attendance and when asked about her whereabouts, the governor said that she was visiting relatives in Connecticut. He admitted that the citizens of Austin were seeing Mrs. Pease's new home before she did.

Governor Pease was obviously pleased with the mansion. He guided the citizens of Austin through it much as any other proud owner would. Over 500 people toured the new mansion. Governor Pease invited his visitors to stay for supper and over 300 did so.

Four neighbor ladies arrived on Saturday morning to prepare a "Gay & Brilliant Affair." Pigs, chickens, turkeys, salads, cakes and preserves were served. The governor said, "The table was the finest I ever saw set in Austin." It was well after midnight before the last guest departed.

Governor Sam Houston Resigns

March 3, 1861. Governor Sam Houston has resigned as governor of the State of Texas. Announcing his resignation, Governor Houston said that he was remaining true to his strong belief in maintaining the Union.



Since serving as United States senator, Sam Houston has consistently maintained that it is important to the State of Texas that it remains in the Union. He told the press that his views on the critical situation were in conflict with the majority views of the citizens of Texas and, therefore, the citizens would best be served by another governor.

Mrs. Houston also revealed that the governor's Texas supporters and even President Lincoln offered to help him remain in office by use of force if necessary. Mrs. Houston believes that the Governor burned Lincoln's letter in the Library fireplace.

Governor Houston knew that the end was near when, on Tuesday, the Secession Convention decreed that all state officials must sign an oath of loyalty to the Confederacy.

Last evening, family friends helped the Hous-

tons pack. Mrs. Houston confided to them that it was particularly hurtful to hear people ridiculing her husband when the same people earlier had praised him as the "Hero of San Jacinto."

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

Hogg Family Menagerie

July 1, 1891. Governor James Hogg, the first native-born Texas governor, and his 4 children have added a new dimension to life at the Governor's Mansion.

The mansion grounds now include a croquet lawn, fish pond, vegetable garden and stable. A running ground for the children's pony is behind the stable.

Will, Ima, Mike and Tom keep dogs, cats, rabbits, cockatoos, o'possums, raccoons and parrots. They also adopt stray or injured animals and care for them

Governor Hogg's favorite pet, a red-headed parrot named Jane, greets him by calling "Papa" when the governor appears. Jane has been known to perch on the governor's shoulder while he has his lunch.



Kids Will Be Kids

March 15, 1894. Governor Hogg admitted today that his children, being typical adventurous youngsters, have been unable to resist sliding down the banister of the staircase in the mansion. A recent fall by Tom prompted the governor to put an end to such pranks by hammering nails into the banister.

Connally Pet Left Behind

January 10, 1963. For the first time, the Texas White House will be without a family pet to

room its halls. Governor and Mrs. Connally have decided that "Patch" Connally – the family's dachshund – will not be making the trip to Austin. Son Mark was not at all happy with his parents' decision regarding his beloved friend.

The Governor's Mansion has been home to many pets through the years; some commonplace and others not, such as Governor O.B. Colquitt's rooster and Governor Dan Moody's deer grazing on the south lawn.

The Allan Shivers family, however, is believed to have set a record for the mere number of pets residing in the Mansion. They owned a St. Bernard, a boxer, a German shepherd, a Welsh terrier, love birds, tropical fish, canaries and turtles.

Mansion Tradition

The first meal that each governor and his or her family take at the mansion is the midday meal on inauguration day. The outgoing governor has this meal prepared and left to welcome the new family into the mansion.

Texans Proud of Refurbished Mansion

April 14, 1982. The Governor's Mansion reopened to the public today, furnished in the elegant style in keeping with its stately Greek Revival architecture.

When Governor and Mrs. William Clements moved into the mansion, they found it structurally unsound and shabbily furnished. At Governor Clements' urging, the state legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 for renovation work. Mrs. Clements helped form Friends of the Governor's Mansion to raise additional funds for furnishings and interior decoration. The \$3,000,000 raised was used to restore historic state-owned pieces such as the Sam Houston bed and Stephen F. Austin's desk and to purchase 19th century museum-quality antiques. Texans can be proud of their beautifully restored Governor's Mansion.

The public rooms of the mansion will now remain the same throughout each new administration. First families may decorate the private quarters to accommodate their needs.

UPDATE: Perry Family Moves into Mansion

February 16, 2001. Governor Rick Perry and his family moved into the mansion after the Bushes departed for Washington and the White House. George W. Bush resigned as governor on December 21, 2000, upon becoming President-elect of the United States. Rick Perry was sworn in as governor later that same day. He and his wife, Anita, have two children and a beloved pet dachshund. Governor Perry is the 40th governor to reside in the mansion.

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.

Sorrow Haunts the Mansion

June 17, 1865. Newly inaugurated Governor Andrew J. Hamilton and his family moved into the Texas Governor's Mansion. As the family moved through the Mansion, surveying every detail of their new home, they were shocked when they entered the small north room – on the walls were bloodstains.

According to the Mansion's servants, the north room is haunted and has not been entered or cleaned since the administration of Governor Murrah (1863-1865). The Governor and Mrs. Murrah housed their niece and nephew – cousins – in the Mansion for some time. The servants recall the young

man's admiration of his cousin and her surprising refusal of his marriage proposal. The same night as the refusal, a pistol shot shook the Mansion and the heartbroken young man's body was found in the north room – blood staining the walls.

Shortly after the incident, fearing reprisals as the defeat of the Confederacy was eminent, the Murrahs abruptly fled Texas, leaving the vacant Mansion in the hands of the servants. Frequent reports of ghostly moans and eerie activity surrounding the north room continue, causing concern among today's residents and visitors alike.





TEXAS GOVERNOR'S MANSION RESTORATION FUND



Restore a Texas Treasure



Historic Texas Governor's Mansion Burns, Arson Suspected

June 8, 2008. Statement by Gov. Rick Perry and First Lady Anita Perry regarding the fire at the Texas Governor's Mansion:
"We are heartbroken by the fire that has ravaged the Texas Governor's Mansion. It has not only been our home for the past eight years, but has stood as a symbol of Texas pride throughout its history. Though it can certainly be rebuilt, what Texas has lost today can never be replaced."

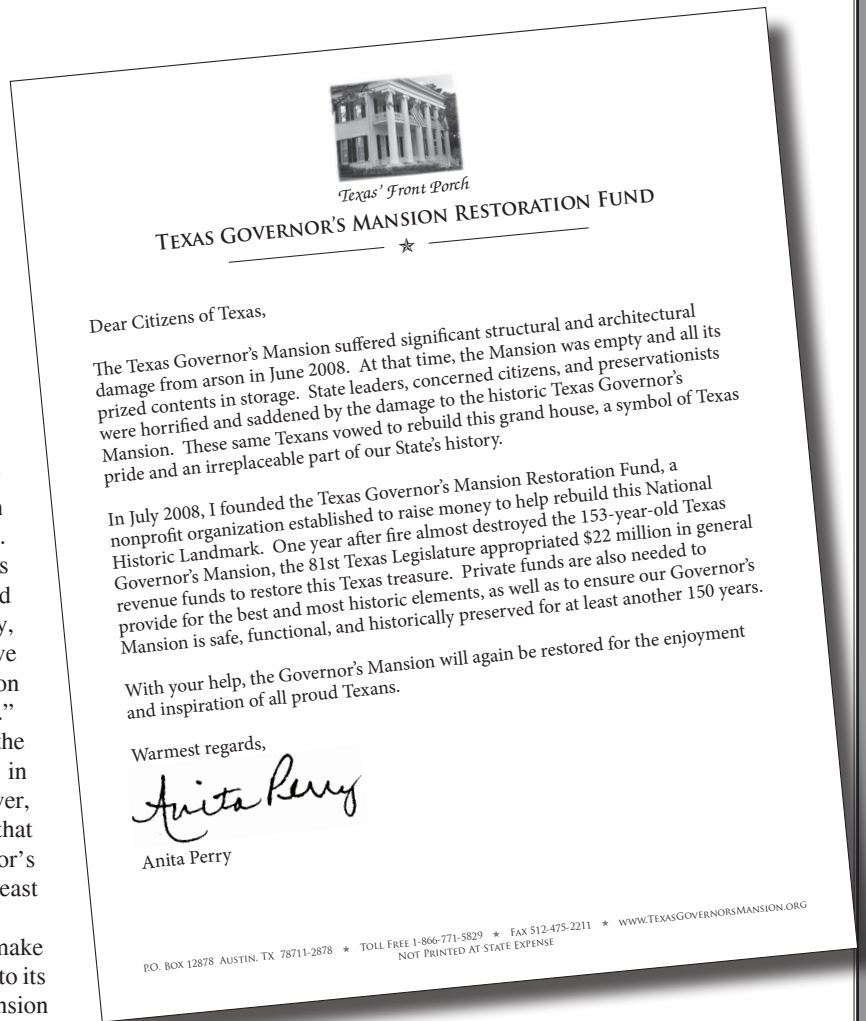
Texans Rally to Rebuild Governor's Mansion

The Texas Governor's Mansion suffered significant damage in June, 2008 from arson. State elected leaders, concerned citizens, preservationists and Texans from all walks of life were horrified and saddened by the damage to the historic Texas Governor's Mansion. These same Texans have vowed to rebuild this grand house, a symbol of Texas pride and an irreplaceable part of our State's history.

Our Texas Governor's Mansion pre-dates the Texas Capitol and is the oldest home for governors in continuous use west of the Mississippi. Elisha Pease was the first occupant; Sam Houston roamed its halls; Governor Hogg's rambunctious children slid down the banister; President McKinley and Will Rogers and many heads of state visited; Wilbert "Pappy" Lee O'Daniel hosted radio shows with his band; Governor Connally recuperated from the gunshot he suffered while riding when President Kennedy was assassinated; George W. Bush awaited news of the outcome of the 2000 presidential election. The Texas Governor's Mansion has been home to 40 governors since 1856 and a part of our proud State's legacy with these and countless other historic events and people. Governor Rick Perry, in expressing his shock after the fire, said, "As long as I have been the governor - few sights have left a deeper impression on me than the charred remains of this genuine Texas treasure."

The Mansion belongs to all Texans and we are confident the Texas Legislature will appropriate needed funding to assist in the restoration of this "Texas treasure." Private funds, however, are needed to provide for the best and most historic elements that will not be covered by state funds and to ensure our Governor's Mansion is safe, functional and historically preserved for at least another 150 years.

Texans can make a difference and are encouraged to make donations - large or small - to restore the Governor's Mansion to its former grandeur by contributing to the Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund.



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

Former governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr. recently 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."

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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:

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P.O. Box 12878
Austin, TX 78711-2878**

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

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www.TexasOnline.com

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