

Despite the many changes that occur in the world on an everyday basis, there are many aspects of life that should stay as they once were. Current generations can learn many valuable lessons from the previous ones, and preservation of the artifacts and creations of the older times can provide a tangible connection to those lessons. Because of the unmeasurable amount of information that people are exposed to daily, they only absorb a very limited number of relevant details. The Governor's Mansion is an example of a creation of a previous time that can be very beneficial to the population of today because it provides a window to the past.

Petit Trianon, designed by Ange-Jacques Gabriel, was meant to be a simple masterpiece among the extravagant buildings of the French reign (Thurman). In designing the Governor's Mansion after this building, C. C. and E. A. Weber lent a subtle style and elegance to the building ("Visiting"). Both edifices allude to constructions of previous times. Ancient architecture developed without the use of cranes and calculators and other kinds of modern technology. Looking at and studying ancient architecture can evoke a sense of reverence toward the eras that it represents as one contemplates the question, "How was this made?" By preserving examples of early designs, younger generations can have a source from which to seek inspiration. The greatest inventions come from those who are inspired to think outside of the box. Most young people today, unfortunately, do not have the financial means to travel abroad to see palaces outside of Versailles in France, but many have the opportunity to travel to Frankfort to visit the mansion. In this way, they are able to see a version of those styles. However, the one hundred year old mansion needs preservation for this opportunity to be available.

The mansions of the governors of many other states tend to have similar styles. For example, the mansions of Texas, Georgia, and Mississippi are all based in a traditional Greek revival style ("Texas," "Welcome," "Governor's Mansion: A History"). Similarly, both the mansion in California and the mansion in North Carolina are grounded in the Victorian era ("Governor's Mansion SHP," "North"). However, Kentucky is the only state whose gubernatorial mansion is in the Beaux Arts design. This makes it unique among all the mansions in the United States. Part of the reason behind the choice of the Beaux Arts style is the large influence that the French have had on the history of Kentucky ("Explore"). Some illustrations of this influence include the naming of the city of Louisville after King Louis XVI, who was the husband of Marie Antoinette ("King"). When such information is considered, the building of the Governor's Mansion in the semblance of Petit Trianon seems to bring much of Kentucky's rich

history to full circle. The meaningful reason behind the mansion's architecture deepens its connection to the state and its past, unlike many other mansions that were more than likely built to please the architect or commissioner or to conform to the architectural whims of the time. An erection such as the Governor's Mansion is one-of-a-kind, and even if it were to be replicated, the new building would not possess the charm and historical atmosphere of the old one. Not many creations live to celebrate a Centennial in the modern age where newer is better, but the ones that do gain a story that cannot be duplicated.

Berenice Abbott said, "The camera is no more an instrument of preservation, the image is" ("Preservation"). It is safe to assume that everyone in the United States has seen a picture of an artifact sitting on a shiny, white pedestal in a museum. Most people have probably also wandered through a museum, and a great percentage of those people probably wandered rather aimlessly. But how much does that single artifact mean when it is among hundreds of other artifacts on identical shiny, white pedestals? How much does it mean to read one plaque about the origin of an object when there are a plethora of other plaques waiting to be read? Items such as the "late 19<sup>th</sup> century mirrors" and the "silver regency candelabras" have a more multifaceted background when they are in their natural setting because one can wonder at how they were used and what they may have meant to generations of owners ("Visiting"). Candelabras were used in a time before lights came on at the flick of a switch, a time that is unimaginable to most young people. Artifacts such as those are proof that technology is not an essential part of life. Seeing an image of an artifact in a museum does not seem as real as an image of an artifact in a house, where it is used and, truthfully, more appreciated. Objects in a museum have a one-paragraph story; objects in their natural place have a personality.

Preservation is not always the first priority for people in the modern age, but it truly is an important part of life. Leaving an embodiment of the past for future generations is an invaluable service to them, for they can learn about a different time and connect directly to its history. A substantial amount of effort has gone into the preservation of the Governor's Mansion to keep it a source of education and inspiration for the past one hundred years, and it would be a shame to end that now.

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