

The Governor's Mansion: The Building That Represents our Great State

Imagine dancing in the elegant State Ballroom or eating in the State Dining Room. Imagine being greeted in the Governor's Reception Area by Louie B. Nunn or having tea in the Sunroom with Wendell H. Ford. Think of all the important decisions that have been made in these hallowed halls. Listen closely and you can almost hear the hustle and bustle. This is our Kentucky Governor's Mansion. This is part of what makes our state great.

We should preserve the Kentucky Governor's Mansion because of its importance to Kentucky's history. Many people think it is just a building where the governor lives, but the Governor's Mansion has played a large role in Kentucky's history in its 100 years opened. It's also known as "The People's House." Many famous people have visited the Governor's Mansion, including Presidents, Vice Presidents, governors from other states, and British Royalty. If we don't preserve the Governor's Mansion, we will lose a large part of Kentucky history.

Another reason we should preserve the Governor's Mansion is because of the many traditions tied to the historic home. One of these traditions is for people to bring a silver tray of food to the new governor and his or her family. Another tradition is for the outgoing governor and his or her family to invite the new governor's family to dinner at the mansion. There are also traditions for the first ladies. The outgoing first lady leaves the incoming first lady a platter of baked ham with beaten biscuits and a white cake. Preserving the Governor's Mansion means preserving all these wonderful traditions.

Many people don't realize that the current Governor's Mansion was not Kentucky's first. Kentucky's Old Governor's Mansion has a very interesting background and should also be preserved. It was completed in 1798 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. The first governor to live in the old mansion was Kentucky's second governor, James Garrard. Some visitors to the old mansion included Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay, William Jennings Bryan, and Theodore Roosevelt. The last governor to live in the old mansion was James McCreary.

McCreary was also the first governor to live in the new mansion when its door opened in 1914. There have been a total of 23

governors to live in the New Mansion, including one female Governor, Martha Layne Collins. The New Mansion was added to the United States Register of Historic Places in 1972. Roughly 12,000 people visit the Governor's Mansion every year. This leads to some wear and tear on the beautiful building. To keep the mansion in good shape, a renovation was completed in 1983 during the John Y. Brown Jr. Administration.

The Governor's Mansion is very important to our state's history. It has seen the visits of a greater number of important individuals than any other home in the Commonwealth. The Governor's Mansion should be preserved because it stands as a reminder of the growth and history of our great state.

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Works Cited

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