

## The Louisiana Old Governor's Mansion

This is the second Governor's Mansion to occupy the site. The first Governor's Mansion, a large frame house built for Baton Rouge businessman Nathan King Knox, served as the official residence of Louisiana Governors from 1887 until 1929, when it was razed and the present Old Governor's Mansion was built. The building cost almost \$150,000.

The Mansion is four stories high, including a basement and an attic. The front entry to the Mansion is a portico. Four 30-foot-tall columns span two stories to support a fancy carved pediment featuring the design of the great seal of the State of Louisiana. Steps lead up to the portico, and the main entry has double doors with a leaded glass fanlight transom above. Pilasters with Ionic capitals surround the double doors. Wrought iron grillwork covers small windows on each side of the double doors. On the second story above the main doors, French doors open onto a small balcony with a wrought iron banister. The mansion's first story windows have rounded carved pediments above.

The floor plan of the Mansion is very much like the floor plan of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. Both have similar entrance rooms, East Rooms and State Dining Rooms on their first floors. Both have Oval rooms on their second floors, as well as East Wing guest bedrooms. Just inside the front doors is a vestibule with coatrooms. There is a stairway with a beautiful, large, curving marble staircase with a fancy wrought iron banister. The floor of the stair hall is black and white checked marble.

The Foundation's mission for the Old Governor's Mansion is to research and interpret, through educational programs, permanent and changing exhibits, the period from 1930 to 1962, when the building served as home to Louisiana Governor's; and to increase appreciation of Louisiana's social, political, and governmental history.

**Did you know?** Gov. Huey Long brought in convicts from Angola to tear down the original home and dump it all in the Mississippi river while the legislative groups were not in session so that they **WOULD** have to build him a new home. (His reason was that it was termite infested – plus he wanted a new one anyway.)

### WORD PLAY

Find all the governors who lived in the old mansion before it was replaced in 1967

L	Q	L	O	W	N	P	H	K	N
O	B	A	G	F	S	Y	A	T	E
N	E	H	T	I	E	K	C	M	L
G	O	Z	L	E	O	N	P	X	L
D	F	N	H	J	O	N	E	S	A
E	A	C	N	N	D	O	D	W	K
J	E	V	G	E	E	R	O	I	F
L	D	O	I	V	K	S	N	T	Q
Z	K	O	R	S	T	G	R	C	K
Z	B	G	H	J	Z	F	H	C	Z

ALLEN  
KENNON  
LONG

DAVIS  
KING  
MCKEITHEN

JONES  
LECHE  
NOE



### Activity

Imagine you are the new governor and your grandchildren are coming to visit on a regular basis. Change one of the rooms into a playroom. What colors would you use, and what type of furniture and game would you include?

Draw a sketch of the new playroom on the back of this sheet.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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