



State of Utah

Department of Administrative Services

NEWS

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Raylene G. Ireland
Executive Director

3120 State Office Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
(801) 538-3010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Spence Kinard
Utah Travel Council, 538-1710

HISTORIC UTAH GOVERNOR'S MANSION REOPENS

Salt Lake City, July 29, 1996 - After two and half years of difficult and detailed restoration, the historic Utah Governor's Mansion is ready to be used again. The Mansion was nearly destroyed by a Christmas tree fire in 1993. Since then workers, artisans and craftsmen have been cleaning up, rebuilding and restoring the stately home to its 1902 original condition. The grand reopening is Monday, July 29, followed by a month of public tours.

Tours are available July 30 through August 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Mondays. There will be no tours on Sundays. The free tickets for scheduled appointments for the tours are available at Council Hall, Utah Travel Council, 300 North State Street between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call 537-9000 for ticket information.

Finishing touches are still being applied to the historic mansion and will continue for several more weeks. The grand reopening on July 29 marks one of the most comprehensive and important restoration projects ever undertaken in Utah.

"This is one of the most outstanding historic restorations in the country," said Governor Mike Leavitt. "The painstaking work of the many artisans and craftsmen to restore this architectural treasure is remarkable. This is one of the great treasures of the state of Utah. Its reopening is a grand moment in our Centennial celebration."

Built in 1902 by the prominent mining magnate, U.S. Senator Thomas Kearns, this elegant and opulent home was often a political debating center where the Senator conducted official business. Using the finest craftsmen and materials available, the residence was comparable in quality and style to eastern mansions like those of the Vanderbilts and Carnegies. The Kearns mansion also served as a grand and elaborate place of entertainment where guests would dance to the music of live orchestras. President Theodore Roosevelt, a personal friend of Senator Kearns, dined there in 1903, as did many political and religious dignitaries throughout the period.

A new phase in the Mansion's history began in 1937 when Senator Kearns' widow, Jennie, donated the Mansion to the state. For the next twenty years the governors of Utah resided at the Mansion during their terms of office. In 1957, Governor J. Bracken Lee thought a new governor's mansion in the Federal Heights area of Salt Lake City would be more appropriate as a governor's residence, and the Kearns Mansion was turned over to the Utah Historical Society. The Society moved into the mansion after the Lees moved out, and the mansion became the home for the Society's offices, library and museum. Governor Scott Matheson proposed restoring the Kearns



Mansion as a governor's residence in 1977. After extensive work restoring the building to accommodate daily living and state functions, the Mansion became a residence again in 1980. Governors Matheson, Bangert and Leavitt have lived in the home.

A holiday fire shortly before noon on Wednesday, December 15, 1993 destroyed much of the Mansion, but thankfully spared the lives of the first family and staff (the governor was not in the home at the time of the fire, but Mrs. Leavitt and some members of the family and staff were). Quick response by Salt Lake City firefighters, the Utah Disaster Kleenup Team, and state employees kept the building from suffering greater damage. Their efforts, such as getting the heat turned back on that day, became the first steps in the remarkable restoration of the Governor's Mansion.

Crucial and conclusive discussions by the Division of Facilities Construction and Management (DFCM) and other state agencies found that enough of the Mansion's original materials remained to warrant a comprehensive restoration and conservation of the building. DFCM and the construction team interviewed all the craftsman, artisans and other trades before carefully selecting the team for the restoration project. Prime focus was to restore the building to its original state and to salvage as much of the historical interior as possible, improve the architectural soundness and capture the splendor of the turn-of-the-century period.

In keeping with the quality and craftsmanship of its original construction, artisans and craftsmen from all over the state and country have been involved in:

- using state-of-the-art techniques in removing soot and smoke damage,
- restoring or replicating wood carvings and millwork damaged or destroyed by the fire,
- replicating & repainting the dome and finishing to the original gold Dutch metal surfaces,
- stenciling walls and replicating other decorative, turn-of-the-century work which enriches the overall elegance of this unique building

The building has been restored to its 1902 original style while upgrading it to current safety standards. There is now a fire sprinkler system, new wiring and plumbing, new heating and cooling system, security system, and seismic upgrades. The family living quarters have been redesigned to provide more security and privacy, and fire exits have been added to the second and third floors. The two and half year restoration has been completed largely with insurance dollars. Total cost of the restoration and upgrades will be about \$7.8 million.

A series of exhibit panels showing the historical and architectural restoration of the mansion provide an explanation of the restoration process. Volunteer tour guides sponsored by the Utah Heritage Foundation also will be stationed throughout the Mansion during the tours. (Anyone interested in being a volunteer guide should contact Mary Lou Gottschall at the Utah Heritage Foundation, 533-0858.)

The mansion is located at 603 East South Temple, Salt Lake City. Enter on the east side off "H" Street behind the Utah Arts Council building. Parking is available at the LDS Church building at 1st Avenue and "J" Street. Please try to arrive 10 minutes ahead of your scheduled tour time.

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FOR RELEASE JULY 1, 1996
Contacts: Spence Kinard, Utah Travel Council, 538-1710
Wendy Groen, DFCM, 538-3585

GOVERNOR'S MANSION REOPENING FACT SHEET

- Grand Opening Monday, July 29, 1996, 9:00 a.m., for media and by invitation.
- Public Tours July 30 - August 31, 1996
Mondays - 10:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesdays-Saturdays - 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Closed Sundays
- Tickets All tickets are free for specific days and times, and must be arranged and picked up in advance at Council Hall, Utah Travel Council, 300 North State Street (in front of State Capitol building). Ticket hours are 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Call 537-9000 for tickets and information. Arrangements can be made for groups of 30 or more.
- Mansion Address 603 East South Temple Street
- Tour Entrance Enter on east side, "H" Street entrance, behind Utah Arts Council.
- Tour Guides Volunteer tour guides, arranged through the Utah Heritage Foundation, will conduct the tours. Anyone interested in being a guide should contact Mary Lou Gottschell, 533-0858
- Parking Available at the LDS Church building at 1st Ave. and "J" Street.
- Restrictions No public cameras, video or audio recording equipment, and no strollers.



GOVERNOR'S MANSION GRAND REOPENING CEREMONY

Monday, July 29, 1996
Utah Governor's Mansion
603 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

- | | | |
|------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Donor Reception and Tour | Mansion |
| 10:25 a.m. | Flag Ceremony, Utah National Guard | South Temple Entrance |
| 10:30 a.m. | Reopening Program
Governor Michael O. & Mrs. Jacalyn S. Leavitt
Mrs. Raylene Ireland, Exec. Director, Admin. Services
Mrs. Norma Matheson, former first lady
Mrs. Jean Maw Nibley, daughter of former Governor Herbert Maw | East Lawn |
| | Music - 23rd Army Brass Quintet
Cathedral of the Madeleine Children's Choir | |
| | Dedicatory Prayer - Mr. Nolan Karras | |
| 11:15 a.m. | Reopening of the Governor's Mansion | South Temple Entrance |
| 11:20 a.m. | Ceremony Attendees' Tours
Refreshments | Mansion
East Lawn |
| 1:00 - 6:30 p.m. | VIP Tours | Mansion |

[All events are open to the media]

Public tours will be Tuesday, July 30 through Saturday, August 31
10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (7:30 p.m. on Mondays), closed Sundays.

GOVERNOR'S MANSION REOPENING CONTACT LIST

Administration	Raylene Ireland, Exec. Director Dept. of Administrative Services	538-3010
Media Relations	Spence Kinard, Utah Travel Council David Porter, Utah Travel Council Vicki Varela, Governor's Office Paula Ernstrom, Governor's Office Wendy Groen, DFCM	538-1710 538-1377 538-1503 538-1509 538-3585
Reopening Events	Amy Hansen, Project Coordinator Allison Norton, Residence General Manager	538-9127 538-1091
Historical	Wilson Martin, Preservation Officer	533-3552
Architects	Max J. Smith & Associates Max Smith, Partner-in-Charge Robert N. Pett, Project Architect Anne Morgan, Interiors	364-5161
Architectural Consultants		
Interior Design	Ellie Sonntag	485-8843
Woodwork	Thom Gentle, Stamford, CT	(802) 694-1475
Construction	Resource Design & Construction, Tim Hoagland	575-5400
Structural	Tanner Willmore Smith, Ken Willmore	298-1118
Mechanical	Olsen & Peterson, Clark Peterson/Mitch Tervort	486-4646
Electrical	Becherer Nielson Assc., Bob Becherer/Gary Mesker	532-2196
Fire Protection	Fire Protection Consultants, Bill Pickett	596-1601
Deodorizing/Cleaning	Martin Churchill Assc., Arlington, VA	(703) 979-3410
Contractor	Culp Construction, Chuck Culp	486-2064
Contractor Consultants		
Wood Carvings	Agrell & Thorpe, Ltd., Sausalito, CA Ian Agrell / Adam Thorpe	(415) 332-7563
Woodwork	Huetter Mill, Roy DeSimone Granite Mill, Winn Auerbach Bringard Mill, Mike Bringard	266-3222 467-3222 973-4466
Painting	Evergreene Painting Studios, NYC Jeff Green /Daniel Peterson	(212) 727-9500
Plaster	Hayles & Howe, Graham Banks, Baltimore	(301) 385-2400
Mural	Berger, Inc., Steve Berger / Dick Cook	553-0993
Needlepoint	Bruce Robertson	254-6562
Floors	Robin McCabe	467-9230
Electric	Ace Hardwood Flooring, Rhett Anderson	963-2247
	Arco Electric, Craig Winger	566-1695

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GOVERNOR'S MANSION REOPENING CONTACT LIST

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Mechanical	Great Western Mechanical, Dave Sowers	268-1731
	Utah Controls, Steve Wall	463-1717
	Western Sheet Metal, Earl & Ed Latimer	973-7072
Fire/Security	Delta Fire System, Jasper Pace	972-4500
	Honeywell, Chris Wohlhueter/Ted Burnett	978-7100
Building Oversight	Executive Residence Commission (Recommends to Legislature)	
	Neil Richardson, chair	
	Jacalyn Leavitt - First Lady	
	Colleen Bangerter, former First Lady	
	Norma Matheson, former First Lady	
	Wayne Bingham, DFCM	
	Bonnie Stevens, Arts Council	
	Wilson Martin, History	
	Mike Stransky	
	Bert Vieta	
	Executive Residence Foundation (fund raising)	
	Mary Kay Lazarus, chair	
	Building Management	State of Utah, Division of Facilities Construction and Management (DFCM), Wendy Groen
Division of Risk Management Carl Crosby, Claims Adjuster		538-9560
State Fire Marshall's Office, Scott Adams		284-6350
Insurance Company	GAB Robins, Michael Shearer	255-0506
	Wayne Sowers, Regional Adjuster, Phoenix	(602) 248-4267



UTAH GOVERNOR'S MANSION REOPENING

July 29, 1996

Contacts: Spence Kinard, Utah Travel Council, 538-1710
Wilson Martin, History, 533-3552
Susan Holt, History 533-3556

THE KEARNS FAMILY & KEARNS MANSION

Thomas Kearns was born in Canada, but his family emigrated to Nebraska when he was a child. At the age of 17, he left the family farm to seek his fortune out West. He reached Park City in 1883 and worked his way up from mucker--the lowest paying job in the mine--to owner of the Silver King Mine which made him a millionaire. Thomas Kearns married Jennie Judge, became an influential businessman in Salt Lake City, was part owner of the Salt Lake Tribune and, eventually, was elected a U.S. Senator.

The Kearns' spared no expense in building their elaborate new home. They shopped for furnishings in Europe and employed many European craftsmen. When the mansion was completed in 1902 at a cost of \$350,000, the Kearns' opened their home to 800 people for two evenings of parties. Guests marveled at elaborate fresh flower and palm decorations, and they danced to the music of a live orchestra.

The Kearns Mansion was designed by Carl M. Neuhausen in the French Chateausque style, which was popular between 1880-1910. The home is constructed of oolitic limestone quarried in Mantí, Sanpete County.

The Kearns' entertained often and lavishly, frequently hosting political and religious dignitaries. In 1903, the house was draped in bunting when President Theodore Roosevelt, a friend of the Kearns', came to visit.

Thomas Kearns died unexpectedly in an automobile accident in Salt Lake on October 18, 1918. In the mid-1920s, Mrs. Kearns hired a New York decorator to remodel the French Parlor and Turkish Parlor into one large drawing room. Jennie continued to live in the home until 1937, when she deeded the home to the state of Utah.

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STATE OWNERSHIP - 1937 to Present

In February, 1937, Jennie Kearns donated the Kearns Mansion to the state on the condition that it serve as the Governor's Residence. The Utah Legislature appropriated \$28,000 toward furnace renovation and the purchase of new furnishings.

In 1938, Utah artist and decorator Florence Ware was hired to oversee the refurbishing of the interior. Florence purchased original artwork by prominent Utah artists as well as new furniture, kitchen appliances, oriental rugs and ivory-colored drapes. Florence's father, architect Walter E. Ware, supervised structural modifications, electrical upgrades and the overhaul of the mansion's heating and plumbing systems.

From the late '30's until the late 50's, several Utah governors and their families occupied the mansion--Henry and Minnie Blood, Herbert and Florence Maw, J. Bracken and Margaret Lee. During Lee's second term, the Utah Legislature turned management of the Mansion over to the Utah State Historical Society, which moved in on January 7, 1957. Unfortunately, the Historical Society had limited funds for maintenance, and the building fell into disrepair. The basement bowling alley was used to house the society's many books. (There is no longer a bowling alley in the mansion.)

In 1977, Governor Scott Matheson proposed restoring the Kearns Mansion to its previous status as the Utah Governor's Mansion. In January of that year, the Utah Legislature authorized the sale of the Fairfax Road Governor's Mansion in the Federal Heights area of Salt Lake City, and the reconversion of the Kearns Mansion. The Historical Society moved to the Crane building (and later to the Rio Grande railway station).

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An Executive Mansion Fine Arts Policy Commission was created to recommend official mansion plans to the legislature. William Nelson of Environmental Associates drew up a Kearns Mansion master plan in collaboration with the Utah chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers. Different designers decorated different rooms. Furnishings were bought through private and corporate funding at, or below, cost. Except for some carpeting and kitchen equipment, no state money went toward improvements in the late 70's.

Governor Scott and Mrs. Norma Matheson moved into the mansion in 1980, Governor Norman and Mrs. Colleen Bangerter in 1984 and Governor Michael O. and Mrs. Jacalyn S. Leavitt in 1992.

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FIRE, SMOKE and REPAIRS

On December 15, 1993, fire swept through the stately Utah Governor's Mansion. The cause: faulty wiring on the Christmas tree in the Grand Hall. Smoke traveled quickly from the hall to the nearby stairwell, which channeled heat and smoke up through the house and out the roof nearly destroying the dome over the staircase.

Fortunately, the governor's family (Governor Leavitt was not in the mansion at the time of the fire) and staff were able to alert the fire department and escape without injury. The Salt Lake City fire department responded immediately and took special precautions to protect irreplaceable elements of the building. They placed dams across doorways to prevent water from spreading into rooms which did not have to be exposed to the fire-fighting process.

Shortly after the fire was extinguished, representatives of the State Fire Marshal's Office, the Division of Facilities Construction and Management, and the Division of State History met to assess the damage. Utah Disaster Kleenup was called in to vacuum up water, dry out the mansion and start topical cleaning of all surfaces. A temporary heat source was placed in the building to prevent damp wood from freezing and cracking. These initial actions marked the beginning of an arduous effort to ensure the preservation and restoration of this national treasure.

Enough of the mansion's original materials remained to warrant a comprehensive restoration. What was lost in the fire was replicated to the highest possible standards, while original materials were cleaned and refinished. Delicate original plasterwork was retained in place after the plaster walls and woodwork were removed for cleaning.

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Martin Churchill Associates, Inc. of Arlington, Virginia was brought in to supervise smoke and odor removal. The firm determined that virtually all interior wall surfaces would have to be removed and interior wall cavities cleaned. Sponge and grit-blasting were used to clean the interior surfaces of caustic tar, smoke and soot damage. Ozone generators were used to complete the combustion process and eliminate odors before the walls were replastered.

The most extensive exterior smoke damage occurred on the south second level porch. Poultices, soft water washes and chemical washes were tried and were mostly ineffective cleaning tools. Finally, a soft sand-blasting technique was successful. The process left no visible damage to the stone and was used only in small areas.

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WOODCARVING & PLASTERWORK

Woodcarving and plasterwork were unique architectural features of the Utah Governor's Mansion. The original white oak carvings were of extraordinary quality. They were crafted in Europe at the turn-of-the-century, most likely by German or Austrian artisans. The fire destroyed most of these carvings, with the worst damage occurring in the Grand Hall where the Christmas tree stood.

The burned carvings were sent to Agrell and Thorpe, Ltd., a Sausalito, California wood carving shop. According to master carver Ian Agrell, the replication of the Utah Governor's Mansion carvings constituted the largest wood carving project undertaken anywhere in the world in the past ten years.

Agrell and Thorpe's 12 craftspeople spent close to 20,000 hours recreating the mansion's original carvings. Early on they discovered that modern tools could not improve on designs devised 100 years ago. They carefully examined the burned pieces, then copied the construction of each original carving exactly. The new carvings are nearly indistinguishable from the old. The firm also replicated stone carvings on columns on the upstairs south porch.

As part of the mansion restoration, all interior surfaces had to be removed in order to clean soot and repair smoke damage. The unique ceiling plasterwork, however, was cleaned in place since it was determined that it could not be replicated. The exception was in the parlor where new plaster ceiling details had to be recreated based on historic photographs by Dick Cook and others working with Berger, Inc., of Salt Lake City.

All of the interior walls had to be removed and rebuilt using the same metal lath and plaster techniques of the early 1900s.

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PAINING

The return of Victorian colors to the walls of the Utah Governor's Mansion is one of the most striking aspects of the restoration. During the Victorian era, brilliant colors were "in," while white and neutral colors were avoided because they showed soot easily and yellowed over time.

Historic evidence provided the basis for the selection of paint colors during the restoration. In some cases, patches of old paint were found and could be matched. Written descriptions of rooms provided further hints about original colors. Even historic photographs, although in black and white, permitted designers to judge the "weight" of the color by comparing painted areas to wood finishes. Where there was little evidence, experts selected an appropriate color from the Victorian palette. All of the colors used in the restoration are colors which were popular during the early 20th Century.

Embellishing painted surfaces with decorative elements -- particularly stencils and glazes -- was central to Victorian aesthetics. Following the fire, most of the stencils had to be reproduced from historic photos. Each color in a pattern required the creation of one or more separate stencils, which were applied with the same techniques used 100 years ago. Glazes were used to brighten painted surfaces like the ballroom ceiling and have been used again to help emphasize the sculptural details in three-dimensional elements, like those in the dome.

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The DOME - An Important Architectural Component

Since its construction in 1902, the dome over the Utah Governor's Mansion stairwell has been an important architectural focal point in the home. Unfortunately, the 1993 fire severely damaged and almost destroyed this golden dome. Replicating it required the skills of many craftspeople. A crucial first step in the process was to remove the fragile remaining sections without permitting them to crumble. This was done by draping sheets of plastic over the back of the panels and injecting urethane foam to bind the burned pieces together.

The Baltimore firm of Hayles & Howe supplied the expertise to cast a replica of the original dome. They created molds based on historic photographs and drawings of the charred pieces, then made plaster casts of sections of the dome from these molds.

After the new dome was assembled, craftspeople from Evergreene Painting Studios in New York City gave it a brilliant golden hue. Like the original dome, the new one is leafed with Dutch metal, a composite of 85% bronze and 15% zinc. The craftspeople smoothed off rough spots on the surface, primed it with shellac and applied two coats of eggshell enamel. They covered the dome with gold "size" -- the glue to which the metal leaf sticks. With a brush, they pressed thin sheets of Dutch metal into the gold size, then applied a coat of varnish and a glaze to make the details of the dome visible from below. The result is a brilliant gold-colored restored dome centered over the balcony of the second and third floors.

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SEISMIC & HVAC UPGRADES

The necessity of removing virtually all the building's interior surfaces after the 1993 fire provided an opportunity to upgrade the building's structural, mechanical, and electrical systems.

Like most historic buildings, the mansion was not built to withstand the back-and-forth motion of an earthquake. Ken Willmore, principal in Tanner Willmore Smith of Bountiful, created a computer model of the mansion in order to assess its structural weaknesses. The analysis revealed several surprises:

- The walls were unreinforced masonry.
- The roof, walls and floors were not connected to each other *or* to exterior masonry.

The building was in poor seismic condition. In order to reduce earthquake risk, structural elements had to be strengthened and "connected."

A horizontal truss system was constructed to extend the floors in preparation for their attachment to the exterior walls. Then the truss was epoxy-bolted to the exterior limestone and tested at twenty pounds per square inch to determine strength. Since the first floor was weak, thick steel straps were bolted to brackets which were epoxied into the granite foundation.

Exterior walls were anchored to the brick at each level so the building would move in unison. The roof structure was strengthened and secured to the walls. As a result of these upgrades, the building will withstand earthquake tremors more safely than before the fire.

New electrical and mechanical systems were constructed, including new heating, air conditioning and plumbing. New communications systems incorporating fiber-optics were also installed. Fire Protection Consultants, Inc. designed a fire suppression system that was installed by Delta Fire Systems; both are Salt Lake City firms.

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ROOM by ROOM

GRAND HALL

This entranceway where the Christmas tree stood was the most severely damaged. It also was the most lavishly decorated area. Most of the wood paneling, casings, and carvings in this area had to be replaced.

An original stencil design was found behind the casing of a door. It was used as a pattern to recreate the stencils on the walls. The floors are decorated with the same type of oriental carpets used by the Kearns'. The central table is original. The beautiful chair is an antique, supposedly from Prime Minister Gladstone's house in England. Several members of the Salt Lake Needlepoint Guild did the "tree of life" pattern on the chair. They also did the needlepoint work on the benches near the front doors.

The main doors are oak with lead-crystal glass panels. Above the Grand Hall is a new, oval stained glass skylight. Previously, the space was open to the second and third floors.

LIBRARY

The wall color in the library in 1904 was described as "old parchment." The recreated color enhances the oak paneling and bookcases. The Edwardian style sofa is similar to the original sofa. The antique Saruk Persian rug (smaller one) is an original Kearns rug which has been restored.

STATE DINING ROOM

The formal dining room remains the outstanding showpiece of the home. The wood wainscot in the room is Central American mahogany. The walls above the wainscot were originally upholstered with a French tapestry. A mural, hand-painted by Bruce Robertson for the mansion depicting the abundance of the Utah harvest, now hangs on the wall. The ceiling has been totally replaced, regilded with Dutch metal and stencils.

The dining table and chairs, original Kearns family furniture, have been repaired and refinished. The table extends to seat twenty-two people. The dining chairs have needlepoint seat covers handcrafted by the the Salt Lake Needlepoint Guild. The sego lily, Utah's state flower, is incorporated into the design of the host and hostess chair.

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PARLOR

Originally this room was two parlors--the Moorish and the Louis XVI. In the 1930s, they were combined to make one large room. The inlaid hardwood floors were restored to their original finish. The design of the original carpet inspired the new handmade area rugs. The drapery treatment is turn-of-the-century design of reproduced French rococo lampas silk and lace panels. The table is a late 19th century Italian rococo style giltwood and porcelain Mounte de Guerido, popular in high-style French parlors. The oil painting of the girl with a cupid is by French artist Guillaume Seignac, purchased by the Kearns' in France and original to the parlor. The portrait of Jennie Kearns was painted by Utah artist Lewis Ramsey.

INFORMAL DINING ROOM

A piece of the original wall color was found on the canvas behind the mirror and duplicated. The focal points of this room include the built-in breakfront of quarter-sawn oak, the fireplace, and the original plaster relief on the ceiling that has a Wedgewood appearance. The settee and four chairs are from the state history collection. Members of the Salt Lake Needlepoint Guild produced the needlework in this room. The oriental carpet is approximately 50 years old but new to the mansion.

MAIN KITCHEN

The main floor kitchen is original to the house. The original Georgian marble is on the walls but has been removed from the ceiling and used in upstairs restrooms. The light fixture is new, a historic reproduction. The tile floor was new in 1978.

BUTLER'S PANTRY

The large oak cabinets were stripped of several layers of paint and refinished in 1978, and a new top put on the oak table. The tile floor is original. The radiator contains a working warming oven. The vault in this room is one of three vaults in the home where silver, documents, and others valuables were kept.

EAST BEDROOM

Birdseye maple in this room has been totally refinished. The furniture is turn-of-the century French revival style mixed with pieces from the state history collection, the 1936 collection, and the 1978 collection. One of the original Kearns carpets is in this room.

MASTER BEDROOM

The carpet is an original design depicting the sego lily. The chandeliers and sconces were found in the state history collection and were original to the mansion.

BALLROOM

The ballroom was forty percent destroyed in the fire. The stenciling you see now is new but appropriate for the turn of the century. The art work is by Utah artists from the state of Utah collection. The rugs are antiques.



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MANSION MEMORIES

(As told by Dorothy G. Rasmussen, former tour coordinator)

On the front of the mantle in the Grand Hall is a carving of Neptune. There was a little niche under his beard. Jennie Kearns would hide Easter eggs around the mansion for children, and there was always a small egg in Neptune's mouth. After telling that story once to a group of school children, I found a wad of bubble gum there.

On the front of the Carriage House (behind the mansion) there is a carving of a horse head. The ears are missing because the young Kearns boys used the carving as a target for their slingshots.

Governor Herbert Maw had a large family. Whenever any of the younger children were missing, they usually found them in the vault in the Butler's Pantry where leftover treats were kept.

Governor J. Bracken Lee's daughters said they loved living in the mansion because they could rollerskate in the Ballroom (third floor), and the wheel marks were there to prove it.

Governor Matheson's youngest son liked the second floor balcony best because that is where he kept his rabbit pen. The second floor opening over looking the Grand Hall was also a good place to fly paper airplanes.

One day a lady came to the mansion and said she used to be the cook when Governor Maw lived there. When she was led back to the kitchen she saw a lady taking cookies out of the oven and said to her, "Do they treat you good here, dearie?" Norma Matheson turned around and said, "Yes, I am treated very well, thank you."

Ann Bangerter, daughter of Governor Bangerter, said her fondest memory is of her dad waking up all twelve grandchildren on Christmas morning and dancing with them around the Christmas tree.

As the Bangerters were about to leave, they told a granddaughter that they would be moving to South Jordan. The little girl asked, "Are you going to move your castle out there, too?"

Governor Leavitt's youngest son, Westin, would often come downstairs after his nap to help with the tours (he was three at the time).

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Once when Governor Leavitt and his family were doing a live television program ("Utah Matters Live with Governor Leavitt" on KJZZ-TV, Dec. 13, 1993 just two days before the fire), Westin wandered out of the room and said to an aid, "I want to go upstairs and watch TV -- and not THAT program!"

The original mansion had one of the first showers in Utah. Mrs. Matheson wanted it kept when the mansion was remodeled in the late 70's because it was a relic. It had spray heads at the top, the bottom and all the way up. Mrs. Matheson called it "a human car wash." Governor J. Bracken Lee once complained that "the damn thing about drowned me." The shower is now part of the Utah State History collection.

Many visitors from all over have come to the mansion over the years. Russian KGB agents living in Utah to monitor U.S. defense weapons toured the building, relatives of the Kearns came to see their ancestor's home, a couple of professors from Berlin told us about the symbolism in the carvings, and a Scotsman once explained the mercury in the weights of the old grandfather clock. Perhaps the most "distant" visitor was a lady who said she was from nowhere on this planet who had come to give instructions to the governor.

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