

**Arkansas Governor's Mansion Commission**

TO: Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Senator Terry Rice, Co-Chair, Legislative Council
Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair, Legislative Council

FROM: Charlene Reed, Chairman, Governor's Mansion Commission
Mary Ashleigh Harper, Governor's Mansion Administrator

SUBJ: Annual Governor's Mansion Report

DATE: Submitted November 1, 2023 (June 1, 2022-June 30, 2023)

Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated 22-3-805, the Governor's Mansion Commission submits this 2023 Annual Report for the fiscal year 7-01-2022 to 6-30-2023.

Historic Mansion

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, First Gentleman Bryan Sanders, and their three children Scarlett, Huck and George and their Golden Retriever, Traveler, began calling 1800 Center Street home in May 2023. In the past year, the Arkansas Governor's Mansion has been honored to open its doors to thousands of guests and looks forward to welcoming many more. During the year, the Governor's Mansion strives to complete ongoing repairs and improvements to maintain quality and standards that have always been offered.

Capital Projects

The Governor's Mansion was awarded a grant by the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) in May, 2022 in the amount of \$339,300 with funding available July 1, 2022. The award was for the replacement of the Mansion's aging and obsolete water source heat pumps (mechanical) and to upgrade the mechanical controls software. The Division of Building Authority (DBA) acts as the grant contact and manages the grant funding and project management. The following was accomplished under the supervision of DBA in FY23:

- 1) Replacement of eight (8) water source heat pumps in the Private Residence (attic);
- 2) New mechanical control system installed for the Residence and Grand Hall;
- 3) Six (6) additional water source heat pumps have been ordered for the Grand Hall and will be delivered for installation in FY24, leaving only four (4) heat pumps for replacement.

Due to the long lead times for receiving mechanical equipment, the FY23 grant was extended for an additional 12 month period (through June 30, 2024). In addition, a second grant application was submitted and awarded by the ANCRC in May, 2023 for funds available in FY24. The funds from both grant awards will be used to complete the water source heat pump replacements in FY24.



First Family Private Living Quarters: A renovation of the private living quarters was completed in May 2023. The private living quarters consists of four bedrooms and three bathrooms. The fourth floor attic was converted to a living space. The renovation was fully paid for with funds raised by private funds the governor raised for the Governor's Mansion Association.

Maintenance/Repairs

Outdoor Ceiling Fans: Two outdoor ceiling fans were installed on the west colonnade by Fleming Electric to coordinate with the two existing outdoor ceiling fans on the east colonnade that were previously installed.

Mansion Basement: A new electric commercial washer and dryer were purchased due to drainage issues with existing pipes in the basement. The electric commercial washer and dryer were installed in February 2023. The existing gas washer and dryer were repurposed in the Carriage House.

Mansion Library Patio Leak: A copper downspout was installed aligning the exterior atrium wall of the library patio to help direct rain away from the brick wall to prevent a previous leakage into the interior atrium walls.

Window Treatment: The worn film on the exterior windows of the state dining room and state sitting room was removed and a protective UV film was added. The UV film helps conserve energy cost and protects furnishings.

Janet Huckabee Grand Hall: The Grand Hall continues to be one of the most popular venues in Arkansas for non-profit and award events. To maintain the level of excellence and expectation in producing excellent events, staff and crew cleaned, painted and repaired minor items such as cracks in walls and crown molding. The floor was refinished, and a broken glass pane was replaced by the vendor Glass Erectors.

Chimney Repair: Flues in the state dining room and sitting room chimneys were relined and repaired to meet code set by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and International Residence Code.

Security Railing: Exterior railing was added to the west second floor patio to prevent access to ventilation grates above the Grand Hall kitchen.

Property Assets

State Dining Room: A custom tablecloth was sewn and embroidered with the Arkansas State Seal by former mansion staffer, Carolyn Eastham.

Grand Hall Kitchen: A ChefTop Plus compact electric combi oven was installed in the Grand Hall kitchen.



Mansion Landscaping and Gardens

Outdoor Storage: A Tuff-Shed was purchased with Non-Government Money (NGM Funds) to provide additional outdoor storage.

Paved Drive -Asphalt Project Dept of Transportation: The Highway Department cut and removed asphalt to remove the roots, leveled the busted and protruding asphalt, then resurfaced flatly to match drive at no cost. A contractor was hired to seal the cracks and coat the entire asphalt surface. The Highway Department finished the project by restriping the parking spots at no cost.

Entry/Exit Gates: The west gate and east gate motors were replaced due to ongoing maintenance calls. Additional safety controls were added to each the west gate, east gate and north gate.

Pressure washing and scrubbing of the exterior brick walls and paths ensued. All gates and fountains have been meticulously cleaned.

Future Considerations:

The Grand Hall HVAC units will need replacing. 13 units are currently 21 years old.

The security system is aging and having consistent difficulty with multiple repair and service calls on a monthly basis.

Major leaks from the two Grand Hall patio balconies are leaking directly into the Grand Hall kitchen and the Grand Hall storage room. Water has damaged existing ceiling, sheetrock and flooring. We hope to explore grant options to solve the roofing issues and repair the current water damage.

Visitors

The Arkansas Governor's Mansion was honored to host several memorable events in the year of 2022-2023. We welcomed over 5,000 guests through the doors of the mansion.

As with any large complex that hosts large numbers of guests, the buildings and grounds of the Arkansas Governor's Mansion will have continuing needs. The staff and crew working at the property strive daily to keep the People's House in the best condition possible for everyone to enjoy.

Respectfully,

Mary Ashleigh Harper
Arkansas Governor's Mansion Administrator

Respectfully,

Charlene Reed
Arkansas Governor's Mansion Commission Chairman



Attachment

Purchases by Arkansas Governor's Mansion Association – FY 2023

Shayla Copas Lifestyle: Various decorative and furniture items

Wagner General Contractors, Inc.: Construction Labor and Materials

D. Stevens LLC: Christmas Decor

Louie's Unique Framing: Framing

New River Artisans, Inc.: Custom Staircase Runner

Hobby Lobby: Christmas Decor

Regency International Business Corp: Christmas Décor

Design Toscano: Christmas Decor

Mark Roberts: Seasonal Decor

Oriental Trading: Christmas Decor

Powder and Smoke: Decorative Items

Baldwin and Shell: Construction Labor and Materials

Finley Design Group: Various Decorative and Furniture Items

Sweet Home Furnishings: Drapery