



Governor's Mansion
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

TO: Governor Mike Beebe
Senator Bill Sample, Co-Chair, Legislative Council
Representative John Edwards, Co-Chair, Legislative Council

FROM: Wayne Cranford, Chairman, Governor's Mansion Commission
Ron Maxwell, Administrator, Governor's Mansion

SUBJ: Annual Mansion Report

DATE: November 1, 2014

Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated 22-3-805, the 2014 Annual Report of the Governor's Mansion Commission on the general condition of the Mansion complex, grounds and appurtenant buildings is contained herein:

Historic Mansion

With the eighth and final year of the Beebe Administration coming to a close, we are happy to report that the 64 year old Governor's Mansion continues to be in excellent condition with only routine maintenance, cleaning and minor repair work taking place regularly. There were no major issues with the general operation of the house.

The only new addition to the structure this year was the placement of new copper rain guttering and downspouts across the front of the house and portico in August. The old gutters were improperly installed several years ago and caused some rotting to occur. It was decided that new fascia boards and flashing were necessary to more properly secure new gutters. It was also decided to use more historically accurate copper gutters to enhance the look of the front of the house. The copper gutters themselves were paid for by the non-profit Governor's Mansion Association at a cost of \$6,060. The carpentry work and installation were done by Lewis and Company Construction of Little Rock \$8,235 and was paid out of the Mansion operating account.

One minor item of note was the October replacement of the hot water heater that supplies the private quarters of the Mansion. It was purchased for \$465.47 using the Mansion Purchase Card (Visa).

Grand Hall / Atrium

After several cosmetic enhancements in the Grand Hall last year, the final necessary change this year has been replacing the staircase runner. After over 10 years of constant use, the present runner had become worn and stained in places. Working with Mansion Commissioner and interior designer Kaki Hockersmith of Little Rock, the decision was made to replace it in the spring with minor design changes and slightly darker colors. The design will still contain the last names of the Governors who have lived in the Mansion since it was opened. The new runner, which will be installed in late November, was made by Hokanson Rug Company of Dallas. The Mansion Association is paying the total cost at \$50,700.

The other major enhancement this year was the installation of window tinting in the atrium. The slanted glass ceiling panels and the glass walls on the west side of the atrium were fitted with window tint by D & D Sun Control of North Little Rock. This was done as part of the ongoing effort to make the Mansion more energy efficient. The \$16,669.94 cost of this project was paid for by the Mansion Association.

The Grand Hall kitchen and storage areas remain in excellent condition. Apart from regular maintenance and cleaning, there were no major issues.

Mansion Guest House / Governor's Office / Appurtenant Buildings

The Mansion Guest House, Governor's Office and Carriage House all received routine cleaning and maintenance this year. No major issues occurred or enhancements made.

Mansion Landscaping and Gardens

There were no major enhancements or maintenance issues with the Mansion gardens and grounds this year. After almost eight years of growth and maturity, the lawn spaces and gardens continue to add visual beauty to the Mansion grounds as do the fountains, sculptures and extensive outdoor lighting.

One addition to the maintenance and care of the gardens was the installation of two honey bee hives in the northeast lawn area. After proper training, the Mansion horticulturist monitors the hive growth and activity. The establishment of the honey bee colony should help with future pollination of the gardens and a good harvest of honey.

Miscellaneous

The Mansion again experienced electrical issues in late December, 2013. A power failure occurred as a result of issues with electrical cables tying into a new transformer. The issue was quickly resolved with professional help, but the Mansion Administrator, working with Arkansas Building Authority personnel is undertaking a complete top to bottom review of the entire electrical grid on the property in an effort to keep these problems from happening again.