



FEES

FREE ADMISSION, Donations Accepted
Self-Guided Tours
Kids' Activities
Group Tour Available Upon Request
307-777-7878

PLEASE REMEMBER

Please do not touch! Help us preserve our artifacts for future generations by not sitting on furniture or touching items as you tour the home. The mansion is full of many beautiful things. Most are very delicate and easily damaged by the oils and dust on your hands. By not handling the woodwork, wallcoverings and furnishings, you are helping us preserve these items for the future. Thank you!



6/18

WYOPARKS.ORG



Wyoming takes pride in the first residence provided for governors and their families. The home has been the setting for state dinners, first-family christenings, wedding receptions and birthday parties.



Historic Governors' Mansion State Historic Site is administered by the Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails; Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.



THINGS TO DO AND SEE

The Historic Governors' Mansion interprets the history of the Mansion, the First Families of Wyoming and Mansion staff from 1905-1976. Visitors can embark upon self-guided tours of the home and see both the public and private areas of the First Executive Mansion built in Wyoming. Enjoy audio tours, children's activities and interactive kiosks to guide you through the day-to-day life of the Mansion and its inhabitants.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A full calendar of events includes the Annual Egg Hunt and the popular Tinsel Through Time Holiday exhibit and activities.

HISTORY

Fourteen years after achieving statehood in 1890, the State of Wyoming built its first governor's mansion in 1904. The mansion was intended to be a home of the people, and was never enclosed by a fence or had on-site security. From 1905 to 1976, the mansion was the residence of 19 Wyoming first families. Governor Bryant B. Brooks and his large family were the first occupants. The mansion was also home to the first female governor in the United States, Nellie Tayloe Ross. Mrs. Ross was elected to fulfill the remainder of her husband's, Governor William B. Ross, term.

The last family to occupy the mansion was also Wyoming's first three-term governor, Ed Herschler, and his wife, Casey. The Mansion continues its second century as a valuable symbol of the state and its history.

LOCATION AND HOURS

The Historic Governors' Mansion is located at 300 E. 21st Street in Cheyenne, Wyoming, a block and a half from the Wyoming State Museum and five blocks from the State Capitol Building.

Summer Hours (June 1 – Sept. 30)

Monday - Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Winter Hours (Oct. 1 - May 31)

Wednesday - Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesdays by appointment

ALL HOURS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
PLEASE CALL FOR SEASONAL CLOSURE
DATES: OCT/NOV/JAN.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Carriage House at the Mansion can be reserved for special events year round. This historic space is perfect for small meetings, bridal and baby showers and outdoor weddings in the summer. For reservations, call the Mansion at 307-777-7878.

FIRST FLOOR

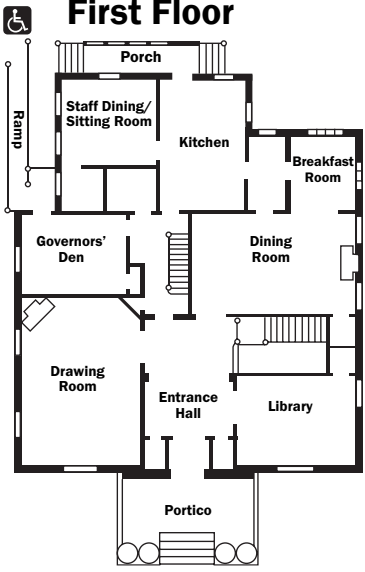
Entrance Hall: (Restored to 1905) The ceramic tile floor is original to the home. The three combination, brass ceiling fixtures are similar to the originals installed during construction. The gas arm was lit as a back-up system to provide light. During the past 100 years, numerous dignitaries and well-known public figures, including President Harry Truman, Vice President Richard Nixon, John D. Rockefeller and writer James Michener, were greeted and welcomed to the State of Wyoming in the entrance hall of the mansion.

Library: (Restored to 1905) A Library by Wyoming authors was established at the Mansion in 1967 by First Lady Bobbi Hathaway. The collection was moved to the new Governor’s Residence in 1976.

Drawing Room: (Restored to 1937) Governor John B. Kendrick in 1915 replaced the original fireplace with this beautiful oak paneled mantle and chimneypiece.

Dining Room: (Restored to 1937) The set, purchased in 1937 at the Chicago Furniture Mart, includes a sideboard, chest of drawers, and a cabinet-on-stand. The leather upholstery on the chairs is original. During World War II, Governor and Mrs. Hunt would often invite homesick soldiers stationed at F.E. Warren Air Force to dinner.

Governors’ Den: (Restored to the 1950s) This room was last redecorated during Milward Simpson’s term of office. Simpson wanted a room in the mansion to reflect Wyoming’s western heritage. Well-known Wyoming furniture maker, Tom Molesworth, made the furniture in Cody, Wyoming. Molesworth constructed the furniture from native pine and cedar. The upholstered armchairs show the Indian Paintbrush, the state flower, in punch



First Floor

The first floor plan shows a central Entrance Hall with a Portico leading outside. To the left is the Drawing Room, and to the right is the Library. Behind the Entrance Hall is the Dining Room, which leads to the Kitchen and Breakfast Room. A Staff Dining/Sitting Room is located near the Kitchen. A Governors' Den is situated to the left of the Drawing Room. A ramp is shown on the far left side of the plan.

embroidery. The table lamps have lambskin shades.

Kitchen: (Restored to 1937) The kitchen and pantry were extensively remodeled during Governor Miller’s administration and restored to its 1937 appearance with its stainless steel counter tops, center cabinet, and state of the art Magic Chef 6300-gas range. The floor is linoleum and the vintage sunflower globe light fixtures are typical of the 1930’s. Located above the doors of the mansion are transoms. The transoms were used to control and enhance ventilation between rooms.

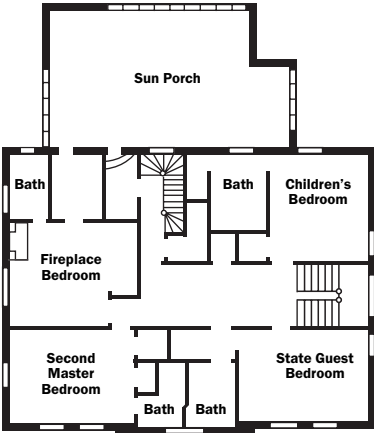
Breakfast Room: (Restored to 1937) This room was added in 1937 as a family dining room. The bark cloth curtains are vintage 1930s pattern.

SECOND FLOOR

Bedroom Hall: (Restored to 1905) The original stained glass window, installed when the house was built, is the only stained glass in the mansion. When the mansion was built in 1904, each of the six doorways entered into a bedroom. In 1937 this floor was renovated, the two middle bedrooms were eliminated and in their place bathrooms and several closets were added to the remaining four bedrooms. The photographs on the wall are the first ladies of the Territory and State of Wyoming. Governor Lester C. Hunt established the collection of first ladies during his time in office from 1943 to 1949.

Children’s Bedroom: (Restored to 1905) The first occupants of this room were Melissa and Lena Brooks, the two youngest of four daughters of Governor and Mrs. Brooks. When the Brooks family moved into the mansion, the children brought their pet pony from the V-Bar-V Ranch. Melissa and Lena chose this bedroom so that they could hear and talk to their pet pony stabled in the carriage house.

State Guest Bedroom: (Restored to 1940s) The use of bedrooms on the second floor changed with each



Second Floor

The second floor plan features a large Sun Porch at the front. The main floor area contains a Fireplace Bedroom, a Second Master Bedroom, a State Guest Bedroom, and a Children's Bedroom. There are three bathrooms and a central hall with stairs leading up and down.

particular first family. One bedroom, however, was always designated as the state guest bedroom. Many people have been overnight guests in the mansion, including Richard Nixon when he was Vice President.

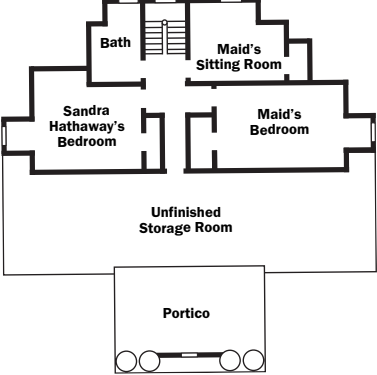
Post 1937 Master: (Restored to 1937) Following the 1937 renovation, two closets and a bathroom were added to this corner bedroom, and it became the master bedroom.

Original Master (Fireplace) Bedroom: (Restored to 1905) The architect of the mansion, Charles Murdock, intended this room to be the master bedroom and was the only bedroom with a fireplace, and full bathroom.

Sun Porch: (Restored to 1960 era) In 1955, Governor Milward Simpson created an open air-patio over the roof of the kitchen and staff dining room. The ceramic tile floor was laid and the retaining wall built. In 1959, during the term of John J. Hickey, the patio was enclosed with aluminum windows and corrugated fiberglass panels. During the administration of Stanley K. Hathaway, the room was refurbished with redwood paneling and Andersen windows. The Hathaways lived in the mansion for eight years, longer than any other first family. Mrs. Hathaway picked the set of Heywood-Wakefield wicker furniture to furnish the room.

THIRD FLOOR

Third Floor: (Restored to 1905 and 1967) The back staircase was used by the staff and children to access the third floor. The staircase is all original, including the landing that cuts one of the second floor windows in half, allowing natural light to come in on both sides of the landing. The third floor original design was a full bath, two bedrooms, one for the cook, one for the maid, and a maid’s sitting room. In 1939 during the Nels H. Smith Administration, a husband and wife were hired to cook and housekeep. An apartment was created in the basement of the mansion for them and all subsequent live in staff. The floor was then used as guest quarters and storage until 1971, when First Lady Bobby

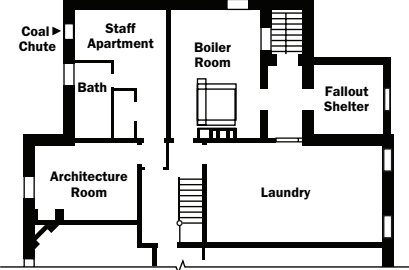


Third Floor

The third floor plan shows a central Bath and a Maid's Sitting Room. There are two bedrooms: Sandra Hathaway's Bedroom and a Maid's Bedroom. A large Unfinished Storage Room is located at the front, with a Portico leading outside.

Hathaway had the third floor refurbished for their two daughters, Susan and Sandra. The existing bathroom was remodeled, carpeting and wallpaper were added to the bedrooms. The Brooks and neighborhood children often used the attic room, located at the end of the hallway on the third floor, as a stage on which they would perform plays.

Basement



Basement

The basement plan includes a Coal Chute, Staff Apartment, Bath, Boiler Room, Fallout Shelter, Architecture Room, and Laundry. Stairs lead up to the first floor.

BASEMENT

Architecture Room: Construction began in the spring of 1904 and was completed that fall. The final cost of the two-and-one half story house with a full basement was \$33,253.29; this figure included the cost of the lot (\$3,000), the landscaping (\$2,036) and all the original furnishings. The house had central plumbing, hot water heat, and combination gas and electrical fixtures throughout. The front facade was enhanced by the portico supported by four Corinthian sandstone columns cut in sections and sculpted and installed on site.

Staff Apartment: Johneana Scribner and her husband Charles were the first occupants of the downstairs basement apartment during the Smith Administration (1939-1943). Johneana was the mansion’s full-time cook and her husband was a Union Pacific employee. He would, in a pinch, help Johneana and the First Lady carve turkeys and hams for events at the mansion.

Laundry Room: (Restored to 1905, 1930s and 1960s) Laundry was an important part of day to day life at the Mansion. With frequent luncheons, dinners and teas held at the Mansion, laundry was a necessary task.

Fallout Shelter: (Restored to 1959) Participating in a Home Preparedness Program in 1960, First Lady Win Hickey chose this room as the family Fallout Shelter during the Cold War. The program called for outfitting an existing room with supplies in case of natural or man-made disaster. The project was paid for from the family’s private funds and Mrs. Hickey received the first Civil Defense “Home Preparedness Award” for the city of Cheyenne.