

# Governor's Mansion State Historic Park



## Our Mission

The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



*The 1877 Italianate mansion, built for the Gallatin family, housed thirteen governors' families between 1903 and 1967.*

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### **CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS**

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**[www.parks.ca.gov/governorsmansion](http://www.parks.ca.gov/governorsmansion)**

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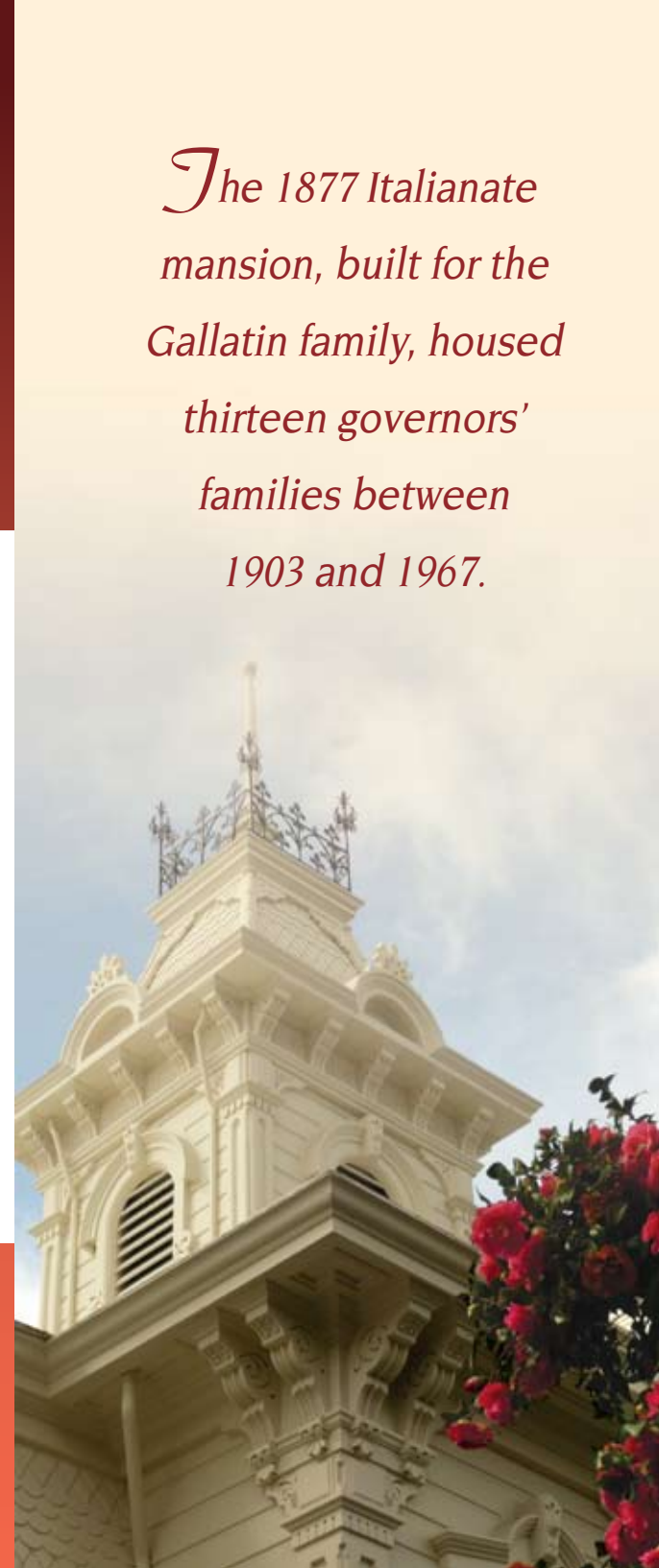


**Governor's Mansion  
State Historic Park**

**1526 H Street**

**Sacramento, CA 95814**

**(916) 323-3047**





**Since 1967**  
**the Governor's**  
**Mansion State**  
**Historic Park**

has welcomed visitors inside the home of the 13 governors and two private families who once lived here. Recently

a \$1 million preservation and maintenance project has transformed the mansion's exterior and the carriage house back to pristine condition for the first time in decades. Now you and your family can enjoy this historic treasure as it was meant to be.

**A HISTORY OF THE HOME**

Albert and Clemenza Gallatin's mansion was built in 1877 as a symbol of their wealth and status. Albert worked as a porter at Huntington Hopkins Hardware in 1861, married Clemenza in 1866 and was promoted to manager by 1867. The Second Empire Italianate house that they commissioned from architect Nathaniel Goodell secured their standing in the community. The Gallatins moved to San Francisco in 1887



*The Gallatin Mansion, ca. 1880*

and sold the home to friends Joseph and Louisa Steffens, parents of author Lincoln Steffens.

The State of California purchased the property from the Steffens family in 1903 to

serve as the first official home for California's governors and their families. Although by then considered old-fashioned, the executive residence was spacious and comfortable, was suitable for entertaining and was within walking distance of the Capitol.

In its official role, the Governor's Mansion was no longer just a residence; it operated as a reception space, a home office, a location for dinner parties and political gatherings, and a security and communications hub. As a family home it had to be warm and welcoming, efficient and organized, but most of all, a private refuge for a very public family. Added to all this, it had to be adaptable to changing circumstances from one administration to the next.

**A DIFFERENT KIND OF HOUSE MUSEUM**

Visitors today might think that the Governor's Mansion is just another Victorian-era house museum. While the interior space is largely original to 1877, the accumulation



*Governor Earl and Mrs. Nina Warren's family, ca. 1942*



*Governor Pat Brown hosts Senator John F. Kennedy, 1960*

*Architectural features and artifacts accentuate the mansion outside and inside.*







*The Gallatin library, now the music room*

of furnishings from 13 different first families indicates a more recent past. Subtle reminders in every room, like the 1950s Sylvania black and white television set in the informal parlor, show that contrasts abound in this four-story house.

Since anything purchased for the mansion with state money had to remain here, the mansion today holds an eclectic but agreeable mix of objects ranging from the exquisite to the mundane. This accumulated blend of styles and tastes, and the stories that go with them, make the historic Governor's Mansion a unique window into California history.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- The first governor's family to live here was George and Helen Pardee and their four daughters. Between 1903 and 1907, their household also included Helen's sister; an Irish governess; an African American woman and a Chinese man who were cooks; a Scandinavian and a Chinese man as gardeners; and a Chinese houseman.
- Thirteen different children lived in the mansion between 1903 and 1967, including Governor William and Mrs. Flora Stephens's five-year-old granddaughter Marjorie, whose father was killed during World War I.
- Governor and Mrs. Stephens were asleep when their home was bombed in 1917. The blast blew a small hole in the basement wall, but the culprit was never caught.
- The first automobile owned by a California governor's family was a red Locomobile owned by Governor Hiram and Mrs. Minnie Johnson in 1911.

- The largest family to live here also had the longest tenure, at ten years. Governor Earl and Mrs. Nina Warren had five children between the ages of eight and 16, and a grown son in the military, when they arrived in 1942.
- The Reagans had the shortest tenure in the mansion. Governor Ronald and Mrs. Nancy Reagan lived here for three months before moving out due to fire concerns.

#### **NOT QUITE A "VICTORIAN GARDEN"**

By 1880 the Gallatins had spent a considerable sum of money in landscaping their property. Their carriage house, now containing the park's newly remodeled Visitor Center/Museum Store, flanks the mansion. A long-gone gazebo once stood where the kidney-shaped swimming pool is now located. The pool was built for Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown by his friends in 1959; it is part of the historic changes to the preserved landscape. A vibrant assortment of flowers, trees and shrubs planted over the years thrive today. Specialty garden tours may be requested.



*President Teddy Roosevelt, a frequent guest of Hiram and Minnie Johnson, favored the "Duchesse de Brabant" rose that always adorned his lapel.*



*The master bedroom*



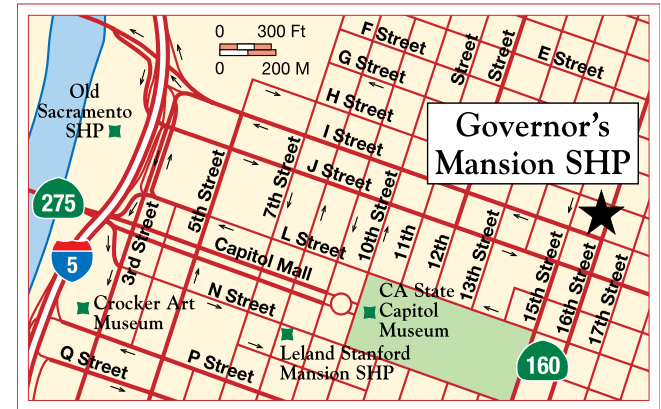
*The kitchen in 1950s style*



The informal parlor with 1950s television



The formal dining room



## ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

A wheelchair lift at the rear of the mansion takes visitors to the main floor. Paths leading to the lift are accessible. Upper floors are reachable only by stairs. The courtyard Visitor Center/Museum Store has a fully accessible restroom.

## NEARBY STATE PARKS

- Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park, 800 N Street, Sacramento (916) 324-0575
- California State Capitol Museum Capitol Mall and 10th Street, Sacramento (916) 324-0333
- California State Railroad Museum/ Old Sacramento State Historic Park Second and I Streets, Sacramento (916) 445-6645

This park receives support in part from a nonprofit organization. For more information contact:

The California State Historic Governor's Mansion Foundation  
1524 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 323-3047

