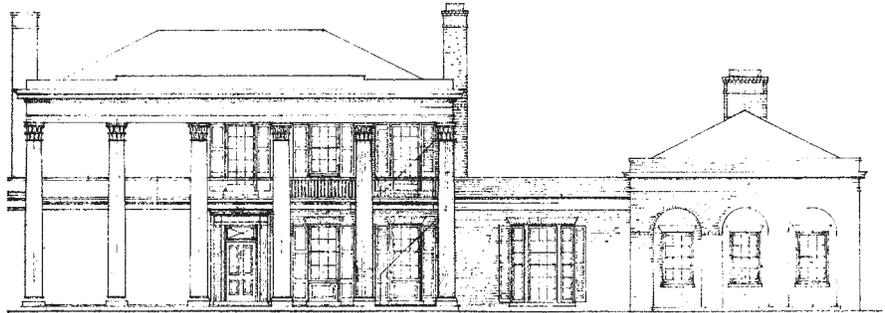


# ART & ARCHITECTURE OF THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION TEACHING POSTER



WYETH, KING & JOHNSON  
ARCHITECTS  
WYETH BUILDING, PALM BEACH, FL OR CA  
1954-1956

STUDY "D" EAST ELEVATION  
EXECUTIVE MANSION FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.

## INTRODUCTION

### Objectives: Students (Grades 3-5) will learn:

1. How the Governor's Mansion is both a repository (museum) of Florida history and a home (residence) for our Governor.
2. What does "Greek revival" in art & architecture mean?
3. How clarity and simplicity of design is used to show clarity and honesty in politics?
4. Use KWL (What do I know? What do I want to know? What did I learn?) to connect text to yourself and teach Florida history.

This teaching poster features the front façade of the current Florida Governor's Mansion, the second residence constructed at 700 North Adams Street in the state capital of Tallahassee. It is a typical example of Greek-Revival style in art and architecture. The current mansion was designed by Marion Sims Wyeth in 1955, and construction was completed by December 1956. The design was intentionally copied from the home of the 7<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Andrew Jackson. His home, the Hermitage, is located just outside of Nashville, Tennessee. The Greek revival style was very popular during Jackson's term in office (1825-1837). The United States had recently won its independence from England and King George III. After the Revolutionary War, and the following War of 1812 with

England, the citizens of the newly-independent nation considered Georgian and Federal art and architecture to be too British for their tastes. They chose instead to follow Thomas Jefferson's approach to architecture. His approach looked back to the times of Classical Greece and the birth of democracy for a "new" style of art, architecture, philosophy and government.

## LOOKING AND DISCUSSING

### Discussion Questions

1. What is "classical" art and architecture?  
(VA.A.1.2, VA.B.1.2, VA.C.1.2, VA.D.1.2)

The Greeks are considered the first true artists of European culture. Therefore, classical is often an abbreviation of the term "Classical Greek". The use of clean lines, square dimensions, triangular pediments, and open air colonnades are all attributed to their love of simplicity and honesty, order and balance. Likewise, an architect who incorporates a classical style into a building wishes to be associated with these same qualities both visually and philosophically. (The architecture of the White House and the Capitol in Washington D.C. for example, reflect political ideals within their design. At one time there was even a statue of George Washington dressed in a Greek toga to show his noble character and artists like Horatio Greenough

depicted an idealized George Washington as political propaganda.)

2. *How large is the mansion?* (MA.A.1.2, MA.A.4.2, MA.B.3.2, MA.C.1.2, VA.A.1.2, VA.C.1.2)

The mansion contains two distinct areas: the public areas that you may tour with your teacher and the private areas, where only the Governor and First Family live. There are six large rooms in the public area, the Entrance Hall, Dining Room, the Reception Room, the Guest Bedroom, the Florida Room and the new Florida Library. The private area consists of a kitchen, den, and family dining room, and four bedrooms and baths. There are also offices for the Governor and his wife, an exercise room, swimming pool, and cabana. The entire complex is protected 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and is surrounded by heavy gates. The total square footage of the Governor's Mansion is approximately 13,000 square feet, situated on 4.9 acres.

3. *What things on the façade of the mansion are typical of Greek revival?* (VA.A.1.2, VA.B.1.2, VA.C.1.2, VA.D.1.2)

The use of six stone columns along the front porch is reminiscent of the Parthenon and other Greek temples. The columns are fluted with Corinthian capitals at the top. Symmetry is also a typical component of the Greek style. The door is centered within the central portico. The portico is flanked by an identical number of matching windows and matching wings on either side. The front door itself is designed to resemble a temple door, with two doors that open in the middle.

4. *Why is this style used for the Governor's Mansion?* (SS.A.6.2, SS.C.1.2, VA.B.1.2, VA.C.1.2)

The citizens of the 1950 wanted to show their undivided support for the United States. After WWII there was a renewal of patriotism, much like the original Patriots of the Revolutionary War. The United States had just won her

place a head of world commerce and politics, along with the other major allies, France, Russia and England. To show support for our American Heritage in art, literature, and architecture the "classics" were once again in favor and called "neo-classical".

## HISTORY OF THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION

In the days before Florida had a Governor's Mansion, state officials rented living quarters or stayed with friends. However, in 1905, the legislature voted a \$25,000 award to purchase land, build and furnish a mansion for Florida's highest-ranking, elected official. John Henry Klutho served as architect for the original all wood, neo-classical structure (see insert). This mansion suffered in the hot, humid Florida weather and was considered unsuitable by Governor Fuller Warren and the legislature beginning in 1949. Amidst much public debate, a compromise was reached to reuse the site to build a newer, bigger home. By 1955, after the election of a new governor, Governor LeRoy Collins and his cabinet oversaw the creation of a new, "modern" mansion, and the old mansion was finally dismantled. During construction of the current residence, Governor Collins and his family moved back across the street into their family home, which is still known today as The Grove. The Grove has been in Mrs. Collins' family for several generations, having been constructed by her great grandfather, and one of Florida's early territorial governors, Richard Keith Call in the 1830s. The current mansion at 700 North Adams Street was designed by Palm Beach architect, Marion Sims Wyeth. The citizens, officials and the architect chose the Hermitage, the home of Andrew Jackson, Florida's first territorial governor, as a fitting example of Florida's distinct heritage.

## A TIME LINE FOR THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION

**1513**  
Juan Ponce De Leon discovers Florida on March 27, 1513 near Cape Canaveral, Florida. "La Florida" means "the flowery land."

**1565**  
First permanent settlement established in St. Augustine, Florida on September 8, 1565 by Pedro Menéndez de Avilés. Catillo de San Marcos serves as capital for the colony during both Spanish and English rule.

**1821**  
The Florida territories—including southern Alabama, Mississippi and parts of Louisiana, are transferred to the United States from Spain. Andrew Jackson, the commander of the 1812 and Creek Wars, serves as first governor of the East and West Florida territories. The capital is moved to Pensacola.

**1824**  
The East and West territories are combined into one with Tallahassee established as the capital of Florida. The meridian for all future surveys and maps is established just below the capitol building, near Cascade Park in Tallahassee.

**1845**  
Florida becomes the 27th state on March 3rd. William D. Mosely is elected as the state's first governor.

**1905**  
The legislature appropriates \$25,000 "for the acquisition of a site, and the erection, building and furnishing of a mansion thereon for the Governor of the State of Florida."

**1907**  
The first Governor with it 24 Ionic pediment is co. Henry John Klutho families live here destruction later.



The Old Mansion, built in 1906, demolished in 1955

The old site was cleared in July of 1955 and building commenced shortly thereafter. During construction a copper time capsule was buried in the entrance wall. It was two years before the Collins family could occupy the new house during his second term in office. It was first opened to the public for tours at his Inaugural Open House on January 8, 1957. The outside walkways and drive were design and paved by the City of Tampa using salvaged brick from the famous Cuban district of Ybor City. In 1956, James Cogar, first curator at Colonial Williamsburg, was chosen to design the interior of the new mansion. He chose a “classical renewal” style, utilizing 18<sup>th</sup> English, Irish and Scottish antiques which were in common in American Colonial interior design. His plan was to create: “a dignified interior, painted in a harmonious color scheme, furnished in good taste with pieces of character, and although an official residence give to it the feeling that is a gracious home of quiet beauty that would please but not overpower those that were entertained there.”

The mansion is sometimes called “the People’s House”, however, it is always considered the family home to our highest elected official. Contemporary governors may have private homes before becoming an elected official, but once elected, they move into the pleasant surroundings

afforded by the Governor’s Mansion. And a lovely home it is, occupying center stage in the heart of Tallahassee, only a few short blocks from the capitol building--a continuous reminder of the unique Florida history shares with our Spanish, English, French and Native American history.

## AESTHETICS AND SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

**Discussion Questions: (VA.A.1.2, VA.B.1.2, VA.D.1.2, VA.E.1.2, SS.A.1.2, SS.A.2.2, SS.A.3.2, SS.A.6.2)**

1. *What are the differences in the first mansion and the second mansion? Look at the photos and discuss what you see.*

First Mansion is white wood, one large square, with a wrap-around porch using 24 Ionic columns. There is a triangular temple pediment on the roof and a second story balcony over the pillared front door. The Second Mansion is brick, with a central two- story façade having symmetrical wings on each side of porch supported by six Corinthian columns. A second story balcony runs the entire length of the porch and the roof is a modified square entablature. The current mansion is approximately twice the size of the first mansion.

2. *What is the same about the two mansions? Look at the photos and discuss what you see.*

They are both neo-classical and Greek Revival in design, using white as the primary color. Both have a two-storied front with a pediment.

3. *What Florida image do you see in the Corinthian capitals of the current mansion? Describe the three capital orders: Doric, Ionic and Corinthian. Do the capitals resemble tobacco leaves or sago palm leaves?*

...or’s Mansion  
...c columns rising  
...floor temple  
...nstructed by  
...tho. Fifteen  
...re until its  
...most 50 years

1955

The first Mansion is dismantled. Governor and Mrs. Collins return to The Grove, the First Lady’s ancestral home (across the street) until new Mansion is built.

1956

The Florida legislature again appropriates funding for the second (current) Mansion. This time the cost will be \$250,000, construction will be of brick and it will be built to “last 300 years”. Marion Sims Wyeth is instructed to use the Hermitage, the Tennessee home of Andrew Jackson, as his model. He even has his red bricks made in Tennessee in the “Kingsport Hermitage Colonial” style.

1985

Mansion undergoes major renovation after almost thirty years. First addition to the Wyeth building includes a new Florida Room, which enclosed an exterior patio that originally opened north, off the State Reception Room.

2006

Mansion undergoes second addition to the Wyeth building with the creation of a new Florida Library and enlarged Florida Room Portico, west off the State Reception Room and Florida Room. Governor’s Mansion is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in its fiftieth year.

2007

Governor’s Mansion culminates 50th anniversary celebration on January 2nd, Inauguration Day of 44th Governor of the State of Florida. Inaugural Open House welcomes thousands of Florida citizens once again to “the People’s House” .

**Activities: (VA.A.1.2, VA.B.1.2, VA.D.1.2, VA.E.1.2, SS.A.1.2, SS.A.2.2, SS.A.3.2, SS.A.6.2)**

1. If you were designing a Greek revival home with Corinthian columns, what Florida images might you include? Design your own Corinthian capital using local symbols and images to celebrate your own town or county history.

2. Construct a time line of the period of history from the time when Florida became a territory of the United States until today showing the history of the Governor's Mansion.

3. Discuss why the Governor's Mansion deserves to be named to the National Register of Historic Places.

4. Plan a tour to the Governor's Mansion with your class by calling the Mansion Curator at (850) 922-4991, or take a virtual tour by logging on to [www.floridagovernorsmansion.com](http://www.floridagovernorsmansion.com).

**Extensions and Teacher Resources**

**Recommended Web sites:**

- <http://www.floridagovernorsmansion.com>
- <http://thehermitage.com>
- <http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/lessons/lessons.htm>
- <http://fcit.usf.edu>
- <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/pad/adventure/distillery.htm>
- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about/inside-white-house/interactive-tour>
- <http://www.nps.gov/nr/>
- <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/>
- <http://dos.myflorida.com/historical/about/division-faqs/national-register>

**List of Governors and First Ladies:**

This photograph was taken on November 2, 2005 when Governor and Mrs. Bush welcomed back former First Ladies to the Governor's Mansion. On this rare occasion, many



Standing, from left to right, in the State Dining Room: First Lady Columba Bush, Governor Bob Martinez, Governor Wayne Mixson, Governor Ruebun Askew. Seated, from left to right, First Lady Mary Call Collins, Governor Jeb Bush, First Lady Mary Jane Martinez, First Lady Margie Mixson, First Lady Donna Lou Askew.

of Florida's former governors and their families gathered to pay tribute to the outstanding women who resided here since 1957, and the Mansion Docents who served with them. The event was the official beginning of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Governor's Mansion. Guest author Ellen Uguccioni, architectural historian and preservationist, spoke at the event about the significance of preserving our national treasures. Her book, entitled *First Families in Residence: Life at the Florida Governor's Mansion*, will be published by the Florida Governor's Mansion Foundation, Inc. in November 2006 to coincide with this milestone in the Mansion's history. It will chronicle the events and personalities which have shaped the Mansion for the past fifty years, including interviews with Governor & Mrs. Bush and former governors and first ladies and their children.

**Terms of Service in current Governor's Mansion:**

1. Governor LeRoy Collins (January 4, 1955-January 3, 1961) with First Lady Mary Call Collins
2. Governor Farris Bryant (January 3, 1961-January 5, 1965) with First Lady Julia Bryant
3. Governor Haydon Burns (January 5, 1965-January 3, 1967) with First Lady Mildred Burns
4. Governor Claude Kirk (January 3, 1967-January 5, 1971) with First Lady Erika Kirk
5. Governor Reubin Askew (January 5, 1971-January 7, 1979) with First Lady Donna Lou Askew
6. Governor Bob Graham (January 2, 1979-January 3, 1987) with First Lady Adele Graham
7. Governor Wayne Mixson (January 3, 1987-January 6, 1987) with First Lady Margie Mixson
8. Governor Bob Martinez (January 6, 1987-January 8, 1991) with First Lady Mary Jane Martinez
9. Governor Lawton Chiles (January 8, 1991-December 12, 1998) with First Lady Rhea Chiles
10. Governor Buddy MacKay (December 12, 1998-January 5, 1999) with First Lady Anne MacKay
11. Governor Jeb Bush (January 5, 1999-January 2, 2007) with First Lady Columba Bush

In the year 2006, at the age of fifty, The Florida Governor's Mansion was officially nominated for designation on the National Register of Historic Places. Maintained by the National Park Service, US Department of Interior, the National Register of Historic Places is an official listing of historically significant sites and properties throughout the country. (<http://www.nps.gov/nr/>) designation will reflect the expanded importance given to the role of the governor and the official residence in post-WWII Florida., during which time the state grew in population to become the fourth largest state in the union.