

GOVERNOR'S HOUSING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2012
4:30 p.m.

This meeting of the Governor's Housing Committee was called to order in the Capitol Building, Hearing Room WW55, Boise, ID.

Committee Members Present: Representative Phylis King
Senator Chuck Winder
Senator Les Bock
Director Teresa Luna, Department of Administration

Absent: Representative Max Black

Others Present: Department of Administration, Ric Johnston, Facility Services Manager, Jennifer Pike, Management Assistant, Margaret Odedo, Management Assistant
Timberline High School Volunteers, Carl Breidenbach, Kourtnei Ball, Megan Cariglio.

CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Winder at 4:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – *Chairman Winder*

Motion: Senator Bock moved to approve the minutes as corrected from the July 3, 2012 meeting. Seconded by Representative King. With no further discussion the motion passed.

Chairman Winder reviewed the next agenda item, "History and Operation of the Governor's Residence" indicating that public testimony would be taken after staff has made the presentation.

Ric Johnston, Facility Services Manager, Division of Public Works presented a PowerPoint Presentation (*See attached*).

Committee Question and Answer

Q. Senator Bock: Did the original 1995 statute perpetually appropriate the monies in the Governor's Residence Fund to the Department of Administration? Did contractors receive compensation for the executive residence designs considered by previous governor's residence committees; specifically designs in 1977, 1988 and 1994? (Hummel) What would prevent the Committee from just deeding the house back to the Simplot's?

A. Mr. Johnston stated that staff will need to get back to the committee on these questions.

Q. Representative King: When was the house built, how big is it, what portion is usable. A. Mr. Johnston responded that the house was built around 1980 with property consisting of 37 acres. The home is about 7,100 square feet with two bedrooms and a large great room. Additionally, there are two attached garages representing 1,500 square feet. *Q. Representative King then asked for clarification of the basement usage.* A. Mr. Johnston stated that the basement area is for the heating and cooling and is part of the 7,100 square feet. He estimated that the basement is about 400 square feet.

Q, Chairman Winder: It appears that through different means that \$1,000,000 was established and then another \$300,000 when Governor Batt's residence was sold? A. Mr. Johnston responded when the Batt residence sold the revenue was put into the fund. Again the fund was first established for about \$1,000,000 in 1990 with the money received plus revenue from the sale of the Batt's home, growing it to approximately *\$1,555,000. *Q. Chairman Winder asked was that the maximum that the funding reached.* A. Mr. Johnston responded, I don't have any answer to that question, but at one time the fund was growing even when the stipend was being paid out. *Q. Chairman Winder asked what the current balance is.* A. Ms. Luna stated that the current balance is just under *\$800,000.

Q. Representative King: To be complete, there are two funds with the Governor's residence at about a \$1,000,000 and a private fund. How much is left in the private fund? A. Ms. Luna responded that there are two funds. The private fund we used to renovate the house was about *\$542,000 and now there is about *\$250,000 left. (*Financial Changes Per Representative King)

Q. Chairman Winder: Clarification of current cost to maintain the current residence, and who is actually paying those costs? Is the entire budget approved paid through the state, how much is actually expended every year and does the Simplot family pay a portion? A. Mr. Johnston responded the budget is approved by the committee and pays for the state's portion for the maintenance of the property. The state budgets for \$80,000 for ground maintenance which is only 47% of the total amount. The Simplot Company pays the remaining costs difference. The state pays the total cost of electric for the home.

Chairman Winder then explained that the Committee will begin to take public testimony and since there is not a large crowd he would allow up to five minutes for comments. Representative King thanked students from Timberline High School for volunteering to help.

The following individuals provided public testimony: Michael Kostanecki, John Hecht, John Gannon, Ryan Johnson, Barbara Kemp, and Robert Fries

Additional written testimony was provided to the committee. (*See attached*). Chairman Winder thanked the individuals for testifying and asked the committee if any other business needed to be discussed.

Motion: Senator Bock motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Representative King. With no further discussion the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Margaret Odedo, Management Assistant
Department of Administration

Attachment

The Idaho House™

a.k.a The Governor's House, serves as the official residence of the Governor of Idaho.

The following presentation was prepared by the Department of Administration, at the request of the Governor's Housing Committee, to provide information regarding: the history of the governor's residence in Idaho, the status of the current residence, legal restrictions on the Simplot property, and options for a governor's residence moving forward.

The Governor's Housing Committee

is charged with the oversight of the governor's residence
and the Governor's Residence Fund

The committee members as of August 1, 2012 are:

Senator Chuck Winder, Chairman

Senator Les Bock

Representative Max Black

Representative Phylis King

Teresa Luna, Director, Department of Administration

The Governor's Housing Committee and Governor's Residence Fund
were created by Idaho Code 67-455 in 1995.

(Full text of statute on slide 17)

Where does the money come from?

There are 2 funds associated with the Idaho House/Governor's House.

1. The Governor's Residence Fund that was created by I.C. 67-455 and managed by the Department of Administration.
 - Consists of funds from the sale of previous governor's residences and a one-time appropriation from the Permanent Building Fund (PBF) in 1990 of \$778,800.
2. The Idaho House Special Project Fund managed by the Idaho Community Foundation
 - Established in 2004 through private fundraising efforts for the purpose of building, buying, or maintaining a governor's residence.

History 1947 – 1972

Prior to 1947, Idaho's governors had provided their own residences.

In 1947, the State purchased the residence at 1805 21st Street in Boise for \$25,000 to serve as a governor's residence. The house was renamed as Idaho's official Governor's Mansion and remained so for over 40 years. Governor C.A. Robins lived in the house from **1947 to 1950**. (Governor Cecil Andrus also moved in to the house beginning in **1971**.)

In 1967, Access to the 20.98 acres of land on Horizon Drive is via Lot 10, Block D of Horizon View subdivision, willed to the State by Mr. & Mrs. R. Nolte. (The deed was completed in 1969).

Also in 1967, a field survey was conducted and a topographical map was prepared for the 20.98 acres of land on Horizon Drive by Barton, Stoddard, Milholin & Higgins, Inc or Boise, ID.

In 1969, the State, through a quitclaim deed from the City of Boise, acquired a 20.98 acre piece of land, located in the Horizon View subdivision, near the Boise foothills, as a site for the building of a future governor's residence. This transfer required that the land had to be used by 1981 or would revert back to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

In 1972, a Governor's Mansion Committee approached Dropping, Kelley, Hosford and LaMarche of Boise, ID (now Hummel, LaMarche & Hunsucker Architects) to draw up plans for a governor's residence on the property located in the Horizon View subdivision, near the Boise foothills, above the Veteran's Administration Hospital.

History 1977 - 1987

In 1977, HB 275 (1977 session laws at 903) was enacted to provide for disposition of the current executive residence upon completion of a new residence and to provide for acceptance of gifts and endowments for the executive residence. The bill also created an advisory committee to advise on the construction and furnishing of the executive residence. The bill provided for the creation of a dedicated fund called the Governor's Residence Account, and the money to be "perpetually appropriated and set apart for the purposes for which the moneys are received..." Further, spending from such account could only be authorized by the Permanent Building Fund Advisory Council (PBFAC) and the Division of Public Works (DPW).

In July 1981, the State of Idaho quitclaimed the 20.98 acre parcel of general fund land, acquired from the City of Boise in 1969, to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in exchange for an alternate 15.01 acre parcel of federal land, also in the Horizon View subdivision, under the authority of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. The patent for this 15.01 acre parcel indicates that the state must have the consent of the Secretary of the Interior, or his delegate, if it attempts to transfer title to or control over the lands to another, or the lands are devoted to a use other than a public park or governor's residence. This property is located on Horizon View Drive and has been referred to as the Ft. Boise property as the parcel lies within the Military Reserve Park which is owned and managed by the City.

In 1987, SB1012 passed Feb. 24, 1987 – amending Title 67-808c to say that the Governor may occupy the Governor's Residence instead of the Governor shall occupy the Governor's Residence.

History 1988 - 1990

In January 1988, Hummel, Lamarche & Hunsucker Architects P.A. drafted a proposal for a Governor's Residence – A Lasting Legacy Project For The Idaho Centennial that would consist of an approximately 12,900 s.f. residence with the intention to build at the Horizon Drive/Ft. Boise property.

In May 1989, a Fund-Raising Campaign Feasibility Study was conducted by Arnold Schaid, Director of the Inaugural Ball Committee. The study determined that to build the approximately 12,000 s.f. home and entertainment facility at the Horizon Drive/Ft. Boise property could cost as much as \$2.7 million.

In 1990, the house on 21st Street was sold. The proceeds from the sale of the house (\$221,200), plus a \$778,800 appropriation from the Permanent Building Fund (PBF), established a balance of \$1 million in the Governor's Residence Account for the acquisition or construction of a Governor's residence.

History 1993 - 1995

In 1993, HB 442, Section 8, appropriated \$150,000 from the Governor's Residence Account for the purposes of "planning and designing an Executive Residence." In addition, the Executive Residence Committee was charged with the duty of reviewing the current site (Horizon Dr.) and investigating if any other site or structure would suffice as a Governor's residence.

In September 1993, the Division of Public Works (DPW) developed program requirements for a State of Idaho Governor's Residence that would consist of an 8,000 s.f. residence, garage and reception hall to be built on the Horizon Dr./Ft. Boise property.

In April 1994, a schematic design for The Executive Residence for the State of Idaho at the Horizon Drive/Ft. Boise property was prepared by Darryl Charles McMillen, P.A., Beck & Baird Landscape Architecture, and Baumgart Construction, Inc. The 5,187 s.f. home was estimated to cost \$953,047 to build. After lengthy discussions, the Permanent Building Fund Advisory Council (PBFAC) asked that the design team look at alternate access routes to the project site. The main objections being that Horizon Drive was too steep, too narrow, and traffic due to the executive residence would be detrimental to the existing neighborhood. Eventually the PBFAC voted against approval of these preliminary designs.

In 1995, Governor Phil Batt took office and purchased a home for himself at 2776 South Armada Place in Boise.

History 1995 – 2000

During the 1995 Legislative session, SB1234 was adopted as Idaho Code 67-455:

- It created the current Governor's Housing Committee
- It transferred the money from the Governor's Residence Account, and perpetually appropriated, to the Department of Administration all moneys in or added to the Governor's Residence Fund.
- Stipulated that funds are to be used for a governor's housing allowance, and the acquisition, construction, remodel, furnishing, equipping or maintenance of a governor's residence.

Later in 1995, Governor Batt's approximately 2,700 s.f. home was purchased by the State for about \$246,000.

In July 1999, at the end of Governor Batt's term, the State sold the house at 2776 South Armada Place in Boise for \$262,500 and receipted the funds back into the Governor's Residence Fund. The balance of the Governor's Residence Fund including sale proceeds was \$1,397,913.

In 2000, then Governor Dirk Kempthorne began to receive a monthly housing stipend. (See slide ? for stipend details).

History 2004 - 2005

In December 2004, J.R. Simplot & Ester Simplot donated their home, located at 4000 Simplot Lane, Boise, ID, and the top 37.749 acres of the beautiful hill the house sits atop of, to the State of Idaho for use as the governor's residence. The 7,370 s.f. house, plus 1,151 s.f. garages, and 37.749 acres, was valued at \$2,110,000. One major stipulation that came with their generous gift was that the 30' x 50' flag behind the house continue to be flown.

In 2005, the Governor's Housing Committee established a philanthropic gift fund at the Idaho Community Foundation as the Governor's Housing Committee Fund.

- Moneys were intended to be used for the remodel, reconfiguration, or furnishing of The Idaho House.
- Fundraising efforts were initiated under the direction of Bill Glynn, CEO of Intermountain Gas, and Steve Hanks, CEO of Washington Group
- \$100,000 was initially authorized by the Committee for a design/build contract to develop a preliminary remodel design and conduct preconstruction services--\$91,644 of that amount was spent.
- \$45,000 was approved for expenditure of fundraising efforts--\$20,456 of that amount was spent.

History 2005, cont.

Later in 2005, the State took ownership of the house and upper part of the surrounding property donated by Mr. & Mrs. Simplot.

- The grounds are maintained in a cooperative effort with the Simplot Co. at a 46.97%/53.03% split, as the State only owns the top 37.749 acres (approx. 47% of the total property), and the Simplot Co. retains ownership of the remainder of the original property.

In 2005, Kreizenbeck Constructors, Inc were contracted to develop a preliminary design to expand and remodel the home located at 4000 Simplot Lane. The Committee approved \$100,000 for preliminary design work and preconstruction services. Based on the designs drawn up, the design provided by Kreizenbeck Constructors, Inc was budgeted to cost \$1.9 million.

In December 2005, the Governor's Housing Committee trademarked "The Idaho House".

History 2006 - 2009

In 2006, the Governor's Housing Committee Fund was changed from a philanthropic gift fund to a special project fund.

- As of **December 2006**, \$542,000 was raised, with a balance of \$397,000 after obligations for design fees and marketing costs

In 2008, the Department of Administration began an effort to refurbish and furnish the house donated by the Simplot family, The Idaho House/Governor's House

- All furnishings were purchased with the donated funds maintained by the Idaho Community Foundation.
- Approximately \$310,000 of the donated funds were expended to refurbish/remodel and furnish the house.

In March 2009, the Idaho House/Governor's House was declared completed and ready for use by the Department of Administration.

- At that time, the Governor ceased to receive the monthly housing stipend

History of the Governor's Housing Stipend

In mid 2000, prior to Governor Dirk Kempthorne taking office, the Governor's Housing Committee approved a monthly housing stipend of \$4,000 per year.

- In FY2001, the stipend increased 3% to \$4,120.
 - In FY2002, the stipend increased another 3% to \$4,245.
 - The stipend level remained unchanged until November 2004.
 - In November 2004, the Committee approved increasing the stipend to \$4,500.
 - The Committee reaffirmed that amount for FY2006, FY2007, FY2008 & FY2009
 - In March 2009, when the Simplot house was declared complete, the Governor ceased to receive the stipend.
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Current Costs of Maintaining the Residence

The primary expenses for the current governor's residence include:

- Overhead for services provided by the Department of Administration
- Grounds Maintenance
- Electricity
- Communication expenses (Directv, Wireless Internet, Telephone Landline)

FY2013 Approved Budget for the Governor's Residence Fund:

Overhead	\$8,500
Communications	\$3,400
Grounds Maintenance	\$80,000
Repair & Maintenance	\$15,000
Janitorial	\$12,000
Flags	\$5,100
Electricity	\$40,000
Natural Gas	\$1,400
Trash	\$700
Water	\$1,000
Sewer	\$300
Security	\$10,000
Total Approved Budget	\$177,400

Past 3 Fiscal Year's Approved Budgets:

FY2012 = \$175,600

FY2011 = \$171,110

FY2010 = \$158,045 – Residence Fund
\$ 72,520* – One-Time Costs
\$ 50,520 – ICF Remodel Funds

*Two of the one-time project requests for surveillance and automated sprinkler controls, totaling \$47,520, were not pursued.

Now that we know the history & costs, what's next?

For more than 50 years, the various housing committees have on and off again looked at options for building or purchasing an suitable governor's residence. While several plans have been drawn up, no structure has ever been approved for construction. The current Governor's Housing Committee has continued to explore the options for the current residence located at 4000 Simplot Lane, the property on Horizon Dr./Ft. Boise, and even the possibility of having no official governor's residence.

The questions that arise in each conversation about these options are:

Q: What is the purpose of having a governor's residence?

A: To meet the social demands and living needs of Idaho's governors.

Q: Does Idaho need a governor's residence?

A: There are opinions both ways. Idaho's governor may not always be from the Boise area, and may need a residence in the area. If there is no official residence, then where should the governor meet his social and entertaining demands? Even more questions arise as we continue down this path.

Q: What are the legal restrictions imposed on the Simplot gift and the Horizon Dr./Ft. Boise properties?

A: There are strict legal restrictions on both properties. See the following slide for more detail.

Legal Restrictions for the Idaho House

Idaho House/4000 Simplot Ln.

The Donation Bargain and Sale Deed stipulates that the house be used as a governor's residence and that the flag continue to be flown, lit during the evening, and displayed in a clean condition in good repair.

If the State pursues options to dispose of the property, the Simplot family* “reserves the right of first refusal to purchase the Donated Property and any improvements now or hereafter situated thereon on the same terms and conditions of any bona fide offer from a third party to purchase said property for a non-public purpose.” The Simplot family would have sixty (60) days from the date they receive a copy of the bona fide third party offer to notify the State in writing of their decision to either purchase or not purchase the property . If the Simplot family chooses to purchase the property back from the state, the purchase price would be that of the bona fide third party offer **less** \$2,110,000 (the appraised value of the Donated Property and all improvements situated thereon as of the date of the Donation Bargain and Sale Deed.) If the Simplot family chooses not to buy back the property, they would have to execute and deliver to the state a Quitclaim Deed releasing their first right of refusal, which would then be recorded in the records of Ada County, Idaho.

*For the purposes of this explanation, the “Simplot Family” is defined as “any or all of the children to J.R. Simplot or their children, or to any entity in which the [J.R. Simplot Co.] , the children of J.R. Simplot or their children have 100% ownership or beneficial interest”, as defined in the Donation Bargain and Sale Deed.

Issues to consider with selling the property IF the Simplot family chooses not to buy back the property:

- Access to the house requires right-of-way through the lower part of the property that is owned by the Simplot Co.. There is no other access to the house.
- The maintenance of the property is performed by a Simplot Co. employee through a cooperate agreement in which the State currently pays 47% of the total annual maintenance costs, averaging about \$100,000 per year expense to the State.

Legal Restrictions for Horizon Dr./Ft. Boise Property

Horizon Drive/Ft. Boise Property

The federal government, in the deed to the State, placed the following restrictions:

The land must be used for a public park or a governor's residence, unless there is specific consent by the US Secretary of the Interior to use the land for other purposes. If the land is not used for a public park or governor's residence (or consent is not obtained to use it for other purposes), the land will revert back to the US government.

If the State were to attempt to even deed a small portion of the land to another entity, ownership of the entire property would revert to the federal government.

Issues to consider with this piece of property:

- the property is completely undeveloped

TITLE 67 STATE GOVERNMENT AND STATE AFFAIRS
CHAPTER 4 LEGISLATURE

67-455. Governor's housing committee -- Governor's residence fund. (1) There is hereby created the governor's housing committee consisting of five (5) appointed members. The following public officials shall each appoint one (1) member to serve on the committee: the president pro tempore of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the minority leader of the senate and the minority leader of the house of representatives and the director of the department of administration. Members of the committee shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing public official or his successor.

(2) There is hereby created the governor's residence fund. All moneys in or added to the governor's residence fund and any dividend or interest earnings thereon are hereby perpetually appropriated to the department of administration and set apart for the purposes of providing a governor's housing allowance and the acquisition, construction, remodel, furnishing, equipping or maintenance of a governor's residence and the same shall be available for such purposes immediately upon being credited to the account, upon authorization for expenditure being given by the governor's housing committee. Upon the direction of the committee, the department shall use moneys in the account for any purpose related to a governor's housing allowance or the acquisition, construction, remodel, furnishing, equipping or maintenance of a governor's residence. The net proceeds from any sale or rental of a governor's residence, or any property related thereto, and of any cash or cash-equivalent donation made to the committee, shall be returned to the governor's residence fund.

Attachment

ADM Governors House

From: Cheryl Horton <ecomernet@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:20 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Simplot House - potential revenue

Governors House Committee

The newspaper said in an article on October 6 that there would be another month for comment, which I assumed would include November. I have many personal projects and only got to check your website today, and it says October 23 was the deadline.

I hope you will read my suggestion anyway. I was hoping to give you concrete income figures, but your deadline doesn't give me time.

My proposal is to contract the Mansion out to an experienced chef/bed & breakfast/wedding planner/caterer person/couple. With such a person(s), the mansion could pay for itself. Our son & wife in the San Francisco area have such experience with their own thriving business (they would probably not be personally interested). I had planned on them providing me with financial figures/potential profits for you. That way, you could be knowledgeable in considering a search for and getting proposals from potential "proprietors" for Simplot who would be able to turn it into a sustainable/profitable venture. It is definitely doable. Of course, it would probably take a normal "new business" 2-year time to build such a profit, but it would be doable. In the meantime, it would be creating the income to become sustainable without out of pocket revenue.

Cheryl Horton
7272 Glenridge View
Boise, ID 83709
968-0789

ADM Governors House

From: Jo-Ann <penguins@centurylink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 7:43 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

Please stop throwing good Idaho Taxpayer money after bad.

Ditch the house and save the taxpayers for once!

Jo-Ann Jones
1310 E. Fall Ct.
Boise, ID 83706

ADM Governors House

From: pinkerton5@q.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 4:46 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Sell the Governors House

Hello again,

Though I testified at the public hearing, thought I'd better reiterate my comments. Please sell this place as soon as possible...to the highest bidder...so we can stop spending dollars needlessly. No more maintenance costs for a governor's mansion we don't use or need.

Stop the watering, return the hill to native vegetation, or terrace the hill and water an orchard...something useful! (Though I admit the ice blocking is a fun tradition, I can let that go in favor of more efficient land use).

Also, use the money we save for higher purposes, such as restoring services to the mentally ill or disabled, more social services training for police officers, or increasing programs or staff at existing state parks.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment!

Barbara Kemp
3314 Camrose Lane
Boise, Idaho 83706

ADM Governors House

From: Betz, Pamela <Pamela.Betz@skanska.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 1:03 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

To Whom it May Concern;

I am writing to you on behalf of my family. We own a home on Bogus Basin and spent six years raising our children there. Due to economic and health issues, we were forced to relocate. Our intention has always been to return to the home that we love across the street from the constant reminder that with hard work and perseverance, you can achieve great things.

Mr. Simplot did great things for the state of Idaho and it's residents. It's an amazing and selfless act of love that Mr. Simplot donated is spectacular home to the state and people that he loved so much!

The idea that governor's mansions are obsolete is downright ignorant. To date, there are only six states that do not have one.

With all due respect to Mr. Otter, the people of Idaho should not have to be a part of his "dirty laundry"; if he does not want to live there, so be it. Why can't it be used for entertaining, visiting dignitaries, off site meetings, etc? How much money does the state pay for those types of facilities to rent. In the down time, why wouldn't it be possible for it to produce revenue by being available for rent? It could be used for a multitude of events.

Please take all things into consideration when making this decision. This iconic home is the perfect home for a governor. The reality is, Mr. Otter will not be governor forever. All citizens of this country need a reminder of what made our great country what it is.....hard work, determination, perseverance and ultimately anything can be achieved! It would be a hugely disrespectful thing to do anything with that house than what Mr. Simplot intended.

Thank you for your time...

Pam Betz
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ADM Governors House

From: Mary Algedi-Cooper <a2algedi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 11:24 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

Ada County Planning and Zoning Committee and to whom it may concern:

From all accounts, the Governor's mansion is a large, expensive, unused residence. It takes approximately \$170,000/year to maintain - money that could be used in any number of more productive ways.

Either find a way to make it pay for itself as a venue, or sell it to provide funds for much needed programs before any more taxpayer money is wasted.

Sincerely,

Mary Reali

ADM Governors House

From: cfernsworth@juno.com
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2012 9:40 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: ideas

Here are my ideas for the Governor's house and land:

1. It is a great waste if taxpayers money to water and groom the entire hill. Retain the "sliding hill" part in grass if you must and plant the rest in the beautiful native plants that Idaho is fortunate to possess (or just let it go fallow)
2. Sell the residence to the highest bidder. It has such a great view that some entrepreneur could make it into a sought after destination for honeymoons, anniversaries, conferences, retreats, etc.
3. At any rate, this drain on the scarce taxpayer dollar must be turned over to some other entity by some means.

Sincerely

Claudia Fernsworth
8088 Pocono Lane
Boise ID 83714
853-1526

ADM Governors House

From: Ron Marquart <mnimages@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2012 9:15 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: governor's mansion

Simplot would never have approved of wasting so much taxpayer's money on the upkeep of his mansion. Sell it!!!

Cay and Ron Marquart
Boise

ADM Governors House

From: Kim Paddock <kimpaddock@ymail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2012 5:21 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

I don't understand why our government allows such a great deal of money to be spent on that white elephant of a house. Can't our elected officials save our resources for something that Idaho really needs like education? At a time when teachers are spending their own money out of pocket to buy materials for their classrooms this house is a disgrace and so are our elected officials. Sell the damn thing and make use of the money where it's needed most.

Thank you.
Kim Paddock A.S.D.

ADM Governors House

From: kent plaisted <ibkent@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 7:22 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

I think the house should be dismantled and sold, either in whole or in pieces. The entire estate should be turned into a city park, "Simplot Park", with the main draw being the view of our great city and a historical venue that would document the life, impact and contributions of J.R. Simplot. The park should be designed to be a draw for weddings and other public and private events at a cost. There should be a collection point for donations for keeping the park maintained and available to the people and visitors of Boise. Of course, the flag will continue to be flown, in keeping with the family wishes, as well as continue to be a traditional landmark of Boise.

Margaret Odedo

From: PHYLIS K KING <kingstudio@clearwire.net>
Sent: Friday, October 12, 2012 10:47 AM
To: Margaret Odedo
Subject: Fw: Contact Submission from website

Another comment about the Gov's mansion.
pk

----- Original Message -----

From: no-reply@king4idaho.com
To: kingstudio@clearwire.net
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 1:50 PM
Subject: Contact Submission from website

A new user has filled out the contact form on King4Idaho.com. Their information is below:

First Name: Dana

Last Name: Weatherby

Email Address: danalynnw@gmail.com

Comments: Rep. King, I read with interest your committee appointment to evaluate the viability of the Simplot/Governor's Mansion. An untested/underdeveloped idea I suggest is to offer the home as a sort of modified time share. Private businesses/organizations could 'buy in' to a certain period of use in exchange for their considerable 'purchase price'. When used, the business would be responsible only for cleanup expense. The buy-in would be intended to cover the cost of renovations, etc. And the number of time share buy-in opportunities would be limited with the hope that the supply and demand theory would hold true: less supply, more demand. For any period of time that is not "sold", the property could be rented out for special events, etc. I've never been on the property so don't really know how feasible this idea might be - but seems a shame for the state to continue to spend money on - what is currently - an undesirable and unusable piece of prime real estate. Just one idea. Good luck in November.

ADM Governors House

From: JANNA BEAUCLAIR <bprc21@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 1:12 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: The Governors House

Dear Governors House Committee:

My thoughts on this matter are:

You should keep this home for our State of Idaho Governor, it's a gift from the Simplot's, which have loved Idaho and have done so much for Idaho.

I feel the budget for the up keep, maintenance on the grounds, and home, should be in the Simplot's budget not the state's budget, and keep that money that is there in the State budget for the changes that every Governor will do to change the décor in the Governor's Mansion in their own way, to make it feel more like home for them. They always do.

Just like the President of United States does.

The Security should be in the Police Dept Budget not the Mansion's Budget, if not in the Police Dept Budget in the Simplot's Budget.

If **any** Governor wants to go for this position they need to go in 110%, live in the home for the Governor, not in Star or where their other home maybe. Yes, Mr. and Mrs. Otter has horses, but there is a fine stable area and riding area right there by the Mansion. The indoor arena, outside arena and areas behind the indoor arena to board your horses. There are 37+ acres. He needs to adjust to what is provided for him and his wife for the years that he is in office. I think there is another arena behind it to do roping, which Mr. Otter likes to do.

Moving for 30 years with my Husband that was in the Marine Corps. The Military tells you where to go and when to go and you just do it. You have to deal with the changes which is sometimes good and other times bad, but you do it or get out of the Military.

I remember growing up in Boise, living on North 14th and riding my bike to my cousin's house down Irene street and looking at the White House that was the Governor's Home, it was a very beautiful home and thought that was a special home for the State at that time. Now it would not be grand enough for the Governor to live there.

I also remember going up to the Highland Stables and rent horses to ride for awhile. When they started to change the stables, I bought a horse and kept her there and I rode my horse in that Indoor arena and it was very nice year round. They had shows up there, and did so much for the community at that stable.

There was on an occasion Mrs. Ester Simplot came in the in door arena while I was in there, with one of her horses and she was so nice, that is what stands out to me. I felt she could have told me to get out, I was just a teenager, but she didn't she is a real lady, and real horse person, loves Idaho, and her community. It's a shame that this is such a stressful issue.

The location of this home is excellent and stands out which we need to do for the Governor of the State of Idaho. That home is very impressive to me when it is shown on TV with the American Flag flying in the wind. Makes me proud that we honor our Governor in this way by having a grand home that they need to live in during his time in office.

Should also have the State flag flying, with the POW and a Bronco Flag.

That is my thoughts in this matter of the Governor's House on top of the Hill.

P.S. I've been out of work for three years, but can't receive unemployment, or do claims so the % is probably higher than you think. So check out my website below, which I'm trying to make a living on.

To me it's proactive for better health for me and I hope for you and your loved ones. With the research on this product I'm helping myself to be healthier now because later in life I don't want to be taking pills for every little thing.

Also Chiropractic is better for you than taking pills or surgery for the problems. Chiropractic can fix most of your health problems. It helped my health problems when I went to a Chiropractor instead of a doctor. I'd like to see Chiropractic covered in our Medical for the Military.

I have two horses of my own, and I appreciate that both Mr. & Mrs. Otter came to the Daniel Dopps Rodeo in years past. I hope you were alright after that fall two years ago. That was a strange night all around with the animals. Coming out of the shoots. I felt it was the sun shining so brightly the first part of the Rodeo, the animals and riders just couldn't see where they were going, that cause most of the accidents.

Thank you for all that you do for the State of Idaho. Concern Citizen of Idaho.

Happy Trails,

Janna Beauclair

www.jannatakesjuiceplus.com

ADM Governors House

From: JANNA BEAUCLAIR <bprc21@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 1:12 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: The Governors House

Dear Governors House Committee:

My thoughts on this matter are:

You should keep this home for our State of Idaho Governor, it's a gift from the Simplot's, which have loved Idaho and have done so much for Idaho.

I feel the budget for the up keep, maintenance on the grounds, and home, should be in the Simplot's budget not the state's budget, and keep that money that is there in the State budget for the changes that every Governor will do to change the décor in the Governor's Mansion in their own way, to make it feel more like home for them. They always do.
Just like the President of United States does.

The Security should be in the Police Dept Budget not the Mansion's Budget, if not in the Police Dept Budget in the Simplot's Budget.

If **any** Governor wants to go for this position they need to go in 110%, live in the home for the Governor, not in Star or where their other home maybe. Yes, Mr. and Mrs. Otter has horses, but there is a fine stable area and riding area right there by the Mansion. The indoor arena, outside arena and areas behind the indoor arena to board your horses. There are 37+ acres. He needs to adjust to what is provided for him and his wife for the years that he is in office. I think there is another arena behind it to do roping, which Mr. Otter likes to do.

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Should also have the State flag flying, with the POW and a Bronco Flag.

That is my thoughts in this matter of the Governor's House on top of the Hill.

P.S. I've been out of work for three years, but can't receive unemployment, or do claims so the % is probably higher than you think. So check out my website below, which I'm trying to make a living on. To me it's proactive for better health for me and I hope for you and your loved ones. With the research on this product I'm helping myself to be healthier now because later in life I don't want to be taking pills for every little thing.

Also Chiropractic is better for you than taking pills or surgery for the problems. Chiropractic can fix most of your health problems. It helped my health problems when I went to a Chiropractor instead of a doctor. I'd like to see Chiropractic covered in our Medical for the Military.

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Thank you for all that you do for the State of Idaho. Concern Citizen of Idaho.

Happy Trails,

Janna Beauclair
www.jannatakesjuiceplus.com

ADM Governors House

From: Brent Jennings <brentandbernie@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, October 08, 2012 8:20 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

Dear Governor's House Committee:

The State of Idaho will not mandate that the Governor must live in a designated house; therefore, it is time to release the Simplot mansion and Horizon properties and go back to pre-1947 and let the Governor choose to live where desired. A reasonable stipend would be in order, but the State of Idaho is no longer tied to owning the property and having to pay to manage it.

Thank you.

Brent Jennings

ADM Governors House

From: Haney, Peggy <phaney@photronics.com>
Sent: Monday, October 08, 2012 1:15 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

To Whom It May Concern,

I am adamantly against keeping the Simplot mansion as the Governor's home, or for any other reason. I believe \$177,000 is an exorbitant amount to pay for its upkeep, *and that is just for 2013!* Consider the cost savings over the next decade... As a taxpayer with an unemployed spouse, I am shocked and appalled at those who would consider this a necessary expenditure. Surely this money could be put to better use in these trying economic times.

Sincerely Yours,

Peggy Haney

ADM Governors House

From: skinnergang <skinnergang@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 06, 2012 5:50 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

Hello,

I was just curious to know if the stables, that are a part of Simplot's property, are also owned by the state. If so, I would think that would be one way to create some revenue for the property. I live in the Highlands, and I know several people with horses who are boarding everywhere from Kuna, to Eagle. There is currently one boarding facility on Cartwright rd. They charge \$400-\$500 per month for board. There are also many local trainers who I have no doubt would manage and take care of the property at no charge for the right to use it. Or possibly lease it based on occupancy. I'm not sure how many stalls it has, but it would be a legitimate source of income. I know I would love to go down the street and ride my horse with access to all of the local trails that are nearby! Or, maybe I could just board my two horses there if I agree to take care of everything? Just a thought:-) It seems like such a waste of a beautiful facility.

Sherry

ADM Governors House

From: Steve and Cheri Frey <flybears@q.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 06, 2012 10:03 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Proposal for Governor's House

Greetings:

It appears ideas are still being solicited for the disposition of the Idaho Governor's House (formerly Simplot house). I have spoken with others about an idea I have regarding the house, and grounds, and would like to share it with you.

Convert the house and the grounds into a State-owned vineyard. Terrace the hillsides with grape vines, and convert the house into a showpiece visitor's center, tasting room and Idaho/Treasure Valley interpretive center/observation site. The house itself looks like a vineyard chateau, as you view it from almost any angle. The hillsides are probably ideal for grape cultivation, and this has the side benefit of eliminating the costly upkeep of grass lawns around the hill...lawns that, this year, became unsightly. The lawns, for the most part, could be eliminated, or vastly reduced with the introduction of terraced vines.

There are more details that are components of this proposal, but I believe this use of the house and grounds would solve almost every problem and objection to the house. It would become a beautiful Treasure Valley showpiece; it would become a site the public could derive pleasure and benefit from; and, it would become a source of revenue for the State (after all, the State owns liquor dispensaries, does it not?).

Call it "Governor Hill Vineyard"; and then ask yourself if this might be a wholly unique solution to the State's dilemma.

Thanks for reading!

Regards,

Steve Frey

ADM Governors House

From: Charlene Bragg <cbragg@group-one.com>
Sent: Friday, October 05, 2012 8:06 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

So, the "Governor's Mansion" has been completely refurbished and is not being occupied? Has it been used or rented for any occasions? If the answer is "NO", it should be put up for sale to stop the continued waste of funds.

Charlene Bragg
8928 W. Donnybrook Dr.
Boise, ID 83709

ADM Governors House

From: Judy Heatwole <JHeatwole@csi.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 05, 2012 4:00 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

I understand you are seeking feedback on what to do with the governor's house. All too often people grant property and equipment to institutions thinking it will be of value when, in fact, ownership means maintenance and upkeep costs to be incurred. As that is the case here, I feel the home should be sold and financial gain be used for the best purpose possible. I would prefer it be spent on people and causes rather than more buildings with some individual's name on it.

Thank you.

Judy Heatwole, MTD
Human Resource Specialist



COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN IDAHO
315 Falls Ave, PO Box 1238
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
Ph: 208-732-6269

"Keep a green tree in your heart and perhaps a singing bird will come." – Chinese Proverb

ADM Governors House

From: spskstal <spskstal48@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 05, 2012 3:54 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

Advertise it worldwide for rent/lease. Celebrities loves to spend money to look like they have money.

Steve Stallard

No virus found in this message.

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Version: 2012.0.2221 / Virus Database: 2441/5310 - Release Date: 10/04/12

Jennifer Pike

From: Laura Callaway [idaho.girl@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 7:59 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's Mansion

I think the state needs to sell the Simplot property. How on earth can we validate spending \$177,000 to maintain vacant property when our schools can't afford text books for our children?

Your Scentsy Consultant,

Laura Callaway

Phone: 208-631-8009

Email: idaho.girl@hotmail.com

Order online at <https://lcallaway.scentsy.us>

If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.
Happy moments, praise God. Difficult moments, seek God.*
Quiet moments, worship God. Painful moments, trust God.*
Every moment, thank God.

Jennifer Pike

From: Tom Shinn [tom_shinn@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 2:37 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

I, for one, think that old J.R. pulled a fast one on the state.

He got a nice tax write-off for the donation and unloaded an expensive-to-maintain white elephant that he likely knew he would have trouble selling.

I see no reason for the state to keep, and continue paying for upkeep on the place, as pretty and emblematic as it is.

I have to wonder how much we're losing in property taxes on the place, along with the cost of upkeep.

Tom Shinn
Boise, ID

Jennifer Pike

From: stacy bowers [stacylbowers@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 2:25 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governors House comment

To Whom It May Concern-

I live right near this house and every time I run the foothills below this monstrosity and know we are paying to keep the lawn green and the flag flying, I have to contain my negativity. I do understand the legacy of JR Simplot, and even enjoy mingling with his extended family at social functions. I have nothing against the family or their accomplishments, but this is a moot point. Taxpayers are paying for lawn care and general maintenance of a property that is not being used. Mr. Otter doesn't want to live in it, due to past familial ties and I don't blame him. Frankly, no governor should live in a mansion that overlooks the town....i.e. his "subjects." This is not a monarchy.

Especially given the tough times facing Idahoans in this economy, every dollar that is wasted on this property could be used for education or public funding for programs of better uses. It's hard to believe there even needs to be a discussion about this. I think the general population is in agreement to give it back to the family, regardless of their reasoning behind it.

Stop wasting taxpayer dollars. Give it back to the family, or sell it and use the profits for education or a park or something we can all enjoy.

Thank you.

--

Stacy L Bowers
Silvercreek Realty Group
c| 208.869.0705
f| 208.319.8817
www.stacylbowers.com

"Deliberately seek the company of people who influence you to think and act on building the life you desire."
~ Napoleon Hill

Jennifer Pike

From: Mcroberts, Teresa L Mrs CIV NG ID ARNG [teresa.mcroberts1@us.army.mil]
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 1:40 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Cc: t_mcroberts@hotmail.com
Subject: Governor's House to a VA Center (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

My take on the Governor's Mansion is give to the VA and make into a recovery center and of course keeping the flag flying in honor of all those who have served.

Funding is always an issue so a few tidbits:

- A.) Have the committee establish philanthropic gift funding events
- B.) but include donations from community funds from other various organizations (small or large) ... and provide that the state will give X amount in matching funds for groups that raised donations
- C.) OR have large corporations match employee donations dollar to dollar the amount the employee donates to a nonprofit org established to raise money for the center
- D.) Grants

As we have read Rome was not built in a day and with organized planning, determined grant writing, and focused and outgoing fundraising committees this will work.

This center would be such a great opportunity to say THANK YOU to all those who have served, are serving and forever remembered...a center that we as Idahoans could be very proud to have.

P.S. I would be more than honored to serve on a committee for this purpose.

Teresa McRoberts
Legal Assistant to the JAG
208-272-5199

You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Classification: **UNCLASSIFIED**

Caveats: NONE

Jennifer Pike

From: Swanstrom, Barbara [swanstrob@slhs.org]
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 1:10 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

Dear Teresa,

As a registered voter and 30 year resident of Boise(my children are 4 th generation natives) I strongly support selling this house! To me the person who once resided there was the historical interest not the property itself. The money saved has better uses, say the salary for a few teachers, who, in the long run are way more important than keeping the Simplot lawn green!

Thanks for your time,
Barbara Swanstrom

mg.slrnc.org made the following annotations

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ADM Governors House

From: Miranda Seibold <jesusaves1710@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 11:10 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

I think it would be a great idea to make it a rehab facility... much needed in this area.

Margaret Odedo

From: Joyce Broadsword <joycebroadsword@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 11:18 AM
To: Margaret Odedo
Subject: Comment

I appreciate the Governor's housing committee taking comments from the public on this issue. My personal belief is that the mansion is a money pit and should be given back to the Simplot family for them to do with what they will. The general public is not willing to put the millions of dollars into the structure that it would take to make it usable. As a taxpayer, I would much rather see Idaho pursue other uses of my tax dollars than putting good money into renovating the Simplot/Governor's mansion.

Thank you.

Joyce Broadsword
590 Heath Lake Rd.
Sagle, ID 83860

ADM Governors House

From: Cj Hopingardner <bodecia83705@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 11:04 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Comments regarding Simplot Mansion

Good morning,

I would like to formerly register my comments regarding the Simplot mansion and the Governor's Housing Committee's meeting held yesterday afternoon on October 2nd. First, I was disappointed to find out about the meeting and public forum just hours before it was to start. I feel the notice for the meeting should have been more public, which I believe would have greatly increased the public's attendance at the meeting. Unfortunately, due to prior engagements, I was one of those disenfranchised and not able to attend in person. Thus this email.

I would like to say that I think the Simplot mansion is a drain on Idaho's finances and should be sold, given back to the Simplot family, or re-purposed as soon as possible. It is not a proper Governor's mansion, none of our Governors have opted to live in the house, it is being blocked from being used for any other purpose, and it continues to use resources that could be put to better use, especially in these tough economic times.

If the Simplot family is willing to take it back, immediately, as is, no strings attached, then I say sign the deed over as soon as possible. If the Simplot family does not want the property back, then have them sign a release immediately that says the State of Idaho can use or dispose of the house and property as it sees fit, including turning it into housing for displaced families, donating it to a non-profit organization, selling or auctioning the property, or tearing down the house and selling the land, with no minimum price or of first refusal clause.

Respectfully,

Caralea Hopingardner
2229 S. Latah St.
Boise, ID 83705

ADM Governors House

From: Jamie Reed <jme@ooz.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 11:03 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

What if the house is turned into a venue for the public to rent and use as special events?
That way it's collecting revenue to pay it's bills.

Jamie

ADM Governors House

From: Clark, Dena <Dena.Clark@simplot.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 10:49 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

I understand that a large portion of the upkeep on the property is the mountain of lawn. Why not replace most if not all of the grass with Idaho native grasses & flowers or low water use natives. Cuts down on mowing & water use. There are plenty to choose from & it would be a great showplace to show what can be done to conserve water & still have a beautiful landscape. This would be a long term project but might be a great way to involve the Idaho Native Plant Society or the Idaho Botanical garden. Bet there are grants out there that could be used to help offset the cost too.

Dena Clark

ADM Governors House

From: Bradford Peterson <bradford.peterson@mygait.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 10:23 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

How can we keep putting money into the Governor's House when we have real needs like roads and education?

Sell, Sell ! If we need a Governor's House, sell and buy a more affordable House.

Bradford Peterson

undefined

ADM Governors House

From: Layne <laynebell@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 10:19 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: My two cents...

Dear Committee --

Please do not sell the Governor's Mansion. I realize our current governor does not want to reside there, understandable considering family-related reasons.

But (hopefully) not all future governors will be from the Treasure Valley. Given state finances, \$200,000 annually is not unreasonable to maintain the residence. And I believe it is perfectly appropriate to have such a residence for Idaho's chief executive.

Surely these are not new arguments in favor of keeping the residence, but I ask you to take them seriously.

Kindest regards...

Layne Bell CPA, MSAT
laynebell@gmail.com
208-249-1375
Nampa, ID 83687

ADM Governors House

From: David and Angie Daniel <dadaniel1525@heritagewifi.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 9:49 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Get rid of the Simplot castle

Please get rid of the monstrous Simplot castle! It is a total waste of money and water. There is no way to justify the expenses associated with the mansion when Idaho can't properly fund schools and other essential services. It has no reasonable purpose for the state. It is ostentatious and impractical. The only reason J.R. gave it away is he knew no one would buy it. Keeping the grass green is a horrible waste of water and electricity.

Please give it back or tear it down (recycle what you can) and let the hill go back to sagebrush.

Sincerely,
David and Angie Daniel
Taxpayers and voters
Nampa, Idaho

ADM Governors House

From: Branden Durst <durstforidaho@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 9:30 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Online Comment

With regard to the governor's mansion I believe the following should be done:

- 1) Sell the Simplot property
- 2) Place any proceeds allowed to be retained by the State into a special account to be designated for the purchase of a new property.
- 3) Once Simplot property is sold, identify a new location to build a new governor's mansion that is within the downtown core and has the ability to house the governor and also be a formal meeting place to entertain guests.
- 4) Once new property is built, end the housing allowance.

Branden Durst
Boise, ID

ADM Governors House

From: Jessica Aguilar <jessicaaguilar@esiconstruction.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 9:13 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House - Public Comment

Hello,

I was not able to attend the Public Hearing yesterday but wanted to offer my statement:

My name is Jessica Aguilar Gier. I reside at 3321 Wagon Wheel Road, Boise ID 83702. I live in the lower Highlands below the Simplot Mansion. I would like to encourage the State to find a way to keep the House in its possession.

As a neighbor to the Mansion, I very much appreciate the Open Space and “park-like” setting in my Neighborhood. The US Flag at the home is an icon and beacon for the Community. I am able to see it every day from my back yard. I also think it is better weather indicator than some of the local weathermen. Ha, ha!!

If not already explored, I would like to suggest to the State that some type of “joint venture” should be encourage with the City of Boise. It is my impression that the Mansion would make an excellent event center such as the Boise Depot. Perhaps the City’s knowledge from operating the Depot could be shared with the State. Turning the Mansion into an Event Center can at least subsidize the expenses, if not break even.

I understand the maintenance costs; power, water, landscape, etc. are of major concern. Can the State turn the property in to a model of energy conservation? Can some of the grass be removed and replace with Xeriscaping? Can some of the lower, flat areas be converted to a community garden? Can we take advantage of new lighting and power technologies and incorporate LED , Solar and Wind? Has there been outreach to the private sector to offer their time and talent?

I am sure that the Committee has explored many options. I very much appreciate their time and energy on this matter.

Thank you for taking my information.

Jessica Aguilar Gier
3321 Wagon Wheel Road
Boise, ID 83702
908.9925

ADM Governors House

From: Steve Burgess <sburgess@syringawest.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 8:48 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

Just a thought....Keep the house and since it costs over \$80m per year to maintain the grounds, sell it off to developers to sub-divide and develop.

Best Regards,

Steve Burgess
Syringawest Commercial Interiors
208.968.0931

sburgess@syringawest.com
www.syringawest.com

Now featuring "Elite Crete" Concrete Overlays!

ADM Governors House

From: Ken Scaggs <kenscaggs@esiconstruction.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 8:25 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

Get rid of it, Simplot gave it to the state so they would not have to pay taxes on it and they could not sell it.

Ken Scaggs
ESI Construction
SCENTSY Distribution Center
Boise Idaho
(208) 860-7629

ADM Governors House

From: jennifer Holford <holford.jennifer.71@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 8:20 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

J R Simplot is an important part of Idaho History. The House is a Historical Landmark., and should be treated as such. His wishes should be honored., or if anything else perhaps new location for Ronald McDonald house?
Thank you
Jennifer Holford

ADM Governors House

From: R Smith <leo6c@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 8:16 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: My Vote

Sell it!

Taxpayers are paying for an empty house AND giving the Governor per diem not to live in it?
Californiacrazy!

Rosanne Smith
Moyie Springs, Idaho

ADM Governors House

From: Eidam, James Patrick (LaserJet Prod Ops) <james.eidam@hp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 8:13 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

Keeping this short, as I can imagine you will be sorting through mountains of email.

Governor's housing allowance = \$58,000

Governor's mansion projected up-keep (FY 13) = \$177,000

Total out of pocket expense - \$235, 000

This does not mention property tax evasion, home value depreciation, future renovations, etc...

Since the donation, the mansion has not been lived in. it seems wasteful to keep spending money on something that no one has used and cannot be enjoyed by the people that are flipping the bill. If we want to celebrate the Simplot family, let's set aside 3-5 years of this expenditure money and build a memorial that everyone can enjoy and celebrate. In my mind, this is much more symbolic than an empty house on a hill.

Thanks,

James Eidam
Manufacturing Program Manager
PMP
Hewlett-Packard Co.
☎ (208) 396-2181
✉ james.eidam@hp.com

ADM Governors House

From: Rebecca Irwin <kelladry@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 7:22 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's mansion

Hello,

I have been a resident of Boise since I was a year old, and I have always thought of the governor's mansion with fondness. I am opposed to its being torn down (though perhaps not to its being sold). Perhaps if the state were to turn it into a museum, or an event hosting location, it could begin to earn its keep. I'm not sure what the laws are regarding event locations owned by the city, but I know that, for example, the senior center is sometimes rented out to private parties for events. I would hate to see this landmark of Boise disappear or become run down.

Rebecca Irwin

ADM Governors House

From: Paul <paulhere@mindspring.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 7:12 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

I read the article in the Idaho Statesman discussing what to do with the old Simplot house. Simply sell it. It is absurdity to pay \$177,000 per year to maintain it. I wonder if Mr. Otter is getting a monthly allowance besides since he lives in his own place. Regardless, it is time to let it go and put the money to better uses.

Paul Martin
116 E Provident Drive
Boise 83706
phone: 336-0223

ADM Governors House

From: Annie Williams <anniegbpm@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 7:02 AM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's Mansion

Hi! I would like to weigh in on the Governor's Mansion. It obviously isn't working as a residence for the Govenor(s), but why not make it an Event Center. It could actually be a money maker; or, at least, help defray some of the costs. I live in the neighborhood. The flag is magnificent. The gift from Mr. Simplot is extraordinary. Think it should become something of use. I agree it is a waste of money to maintain and not use. Also, I think the hill should be in natural grasses and not mowed. That would cut back a lot.

I work with lots of people who come to Bosie for weddings. It would make a fabulous wedding venue and small convention hall.

--

Annie Williams
GREATER BOISE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, LLC
795 W. Tallulah Drive; Kuna, ID 83634
208-721-1400

Margaret Odedo

From: PHYLIS K KING <kingstudio@clearwire.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 8:09 PM
To: Chuck Winder 2; lesbock@lesbock.com; Max Black; Teresa Luna; Margaret Odedo
Subject: Fw: What should be done about Idaho's empty Gov. mansion?

See the email below for more testimony about the gov. mansion.

Representative Phylis K. King
Idaho House seat 18 B
Boise, Idaho
The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser people so full of doubts. Bertrand Russell

----- Original Message -----

From: Darlene Sprague
To: kingstudio@clearwire.net
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 6:19 PM
Subject: What should be done about Idaho's empty Gov. mansion?

To The Honorable Representative Phylis King:

A web-based comment was submitted by:

Name: Darlene Sprague

Address: 1802 W. Calcite Ct.

City/State/Zip: Meridian, ID 83642

Phone: (208) 888-1484 Ext.:

Email Address: emptynest@q.com

Concerning: What should be done about Idaho's empty Gov. mansion?

With the following comments:

Rep. King I just wrote a letter to Gov. Otter about this, the 'House on the Hill' did come to Idaho tax payers with tons of costly strings attached to it. What should be done to the Simplot House, my guest there is only three things to choose from; 1. sale it at a very low rate 2. tear it down 3. give it back to the Simplot family. This house has always been very costly-- & will continue to be unoccupied or occupied= heavy cost to Idaho Tax payers---it has been 8 years---and the committee can not make a decision about it---it's not that hard a decision to make in the eyes of Idaho Tax Payers, people in Idaho can not afford food on their tables and Idaho keeps a very very costly house on a hill for what reason????? Get rid of it--give it back--who cares what 'the high up people think'--if they want the Hill House, let them buy it for themselves--there---number 4. laugh.. thank you for your time Sincerely Yours Darlene Sprague

ADM Governors House

From: David Goodwin <dgoodwin@theambroseschool.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 11:21 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Governor's House

My two cents on the governor's house.

The problem is the State accepted it as "The Governor's Mansion." This just sounds bad. No one likes politicians that much, especially to grant an ostentatious mansion to him/her. But it's a landmark, a monumental fixture in the valley, and represents the legacy of a great man in Idaho history. So if sold, it's economically likely to be changed. People don't want it as the Governor's mansion, but they don't want it sold to a developer. Don't we wish we could have some of the old architecture torn down in the 50's and 60's in Boise along Grove street? Idahoans have a poor record of retaining their architectural heritage.

I think the solution is to have the state repurpose it as a museum open to the public (maybe on rare occasions to keep the cost down.) It could be: The State Agricultural Museum. The Idaho Wildlife Museum. The Timber, Mining, and Agricultural Museum of Idaho. The Idaho History Museum. or even a specialty museum of some type. Hey, the tiny little Bown house near Park Center makes it work. The point is, if it's no longer called "the governor's mansion", it will drift into a line item on the budget for Idaho Historical Preservation or some such thing. Like the train depot, it could be carefully purposed, available for events as it is being used now by the governor. It could retain state functions. It could even be rented for events like the Boise Train Depot. People tend to overlook \$177,000 spent on that kind of thing. The point is, as long as it's called "governor's mansion", there will be calls to sell it. When it becomes something else, it will be fine to spend \$177,000 on it every year.

As I said, My two cents.

David Goodwin,
Headmaster

THE AMBROSE SCHOOL
6100 N. Locust Grove Road
Meridian, ID 83646
Phone (208) 323 3888
Direct (208) 639-6433

www.TheAmbroseSchool.org
dgoodwin@TheAmbroseSchool.org

ADM Governors House

From: Karma Nalder <karmanalder@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 10:48 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: idea for Simplot mansion

My idea for what to do with the Simplot mansion is to keep it, but don't pay living expenses for any governor who chooses not to live there. A governor would not have to live there, but would not get living expenses for living in another home. It would defray some of the costs of the upkeep of the mansion.

Jeremy Nalder
10806 W Bridgetower Dr
Boise, ID 83709

ADM Governors House

From: griffithbs@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 10:24 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: what to do with the governors house

The maintenance of the home is \$177,000 per year. The current governor doesn't want to live in a free house. This is crazy!!!!

My family of 5 lives on \$55,000 a year without any state assistance. Three plus families of 5 could live off of the price it costs to just *maintain* the governors house. I say that if the governor chooses not to live there, he should pay for the maintenance.

This is a beautiful home left by a remarkable man. I mean no disrespect, but don't you think this is a little dumb? All of the money even spent talking about it could feed so so so many people.

ADM Governors House

From: Tim Tuttle <tmtuttle@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 10:23 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: Sell it

Let capitalism take its course. I've never been to the mansion other than driving by on Bogus Basin Road, but if there were a nice restaurant/bar up there, with the views of the city, I'd be a customer.

ADM Governors House

From: Donna Boe <donnaboe@cableone.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 8:51 PM
To: ADM Governors House
Subject: alternative to Simplot Mansion

I think the Simplot Mansion is inappropriate for a governor's residence.

It is very impressive looking, as fitting for Mr. Simplot. However, it is difficult to access and very, very expensive to maintain. It is also not very well arranged for entertaining. Rather than trying to sell it, it should be returned to the Simplot family

Donna Boe
226 South 16th
Pocatello, Idaho 83201

Margaret Odedo

From: Don & Mindy Plumlee <plumlee@cableone.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 11:24 AM
To: Margaret Odedo
Subject: Governor's House

As an active and involved community member, I was troubled to read the article in the Idaho Business Review about the future of the governor's mansion.

When my family moved here over 11 years ago, I was surprised that no official residence existed for the governor. I was moved when JR Simplot donated his home for that purpose...it is a special property that signifies much about the potential of our citizens in Idaho and is an important landmark of our State. Ongoing maintenance of the property is the most cost effective path in the long term, and the minimal dollars spent come from a permanent building fund that is specifically dedicated to that purpose. The state maintains other property in similar ways and when the donation was accepted, the intent was clear.

Making a short term decision with no regards to the future of the property, its use in state affairs or as housing for the Governor of Idaho seems to be a very narrow view of the responsibility for this home.

Mindy Plumlee
3823 E Shady Glen
Boise, ID

Margaret Odedo

From: Amy Groves <supercoolma@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 11:34 AM
To: Margaret Odedo
Subject: RE: Gov Letter

Being a Idaho native for forty four years. I'm troubled to hear there is a chance, we will no longer have the opportunity to hold official State functions at the Governor house.

"JR Simplots homestead." I feel there is a lack of understanding why this is such a precious gift to our State. We "Idahoans" have the chance to share the history of Jr. Simplot

fortune with our community.

The State had no official Governors residence. Prior to the Simplot donation. It would be a shame not utilize this gracious gift as it was attended.

The direct cost of renovating, maintaining and insuring this magnificent landmark property is minimal. If the estate will be utilized for official local & state functions.

The history of our great state and the people who helped, and continue to build economic opportunities is truly highlighted by this unique property.

Sincerely,

Amy Groves
Star, Idaho

Margaret Odedo

From: Brandi Wolsborn <bwolsborn@bbbsidaho.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 1:39 PM
To: Margaret Odedo
Subject: Governor's house

As a family member of an elected official we have used the Governor's house for campaign events. Hosting such events at the Governor's house provides an experience all in itself. It allows people from all over to share the history of Idaho's most respected businessman J.R. Simplot, and the State of Idaho.

It would be shame to not make use of this historic piece of property to the citizens of Idaho, and to those visiting Idaho.

The State had no official Governor's residence prior to Simplot's generous donation. Let's continue to showcase the history of our great state and the people who have worked hard to achieve it.

Brandi J. Simpson-Wolsborn

ITS TIME TO END THE MANSION PROGRAM

"The 19th Century Governor's Mansion concept isn't working in the 21st Century and that is why Idaho's 25 year old Governors Mansion program has been unsuccessful.

The fact is that modern transportation systems allow a Governor to have more housing choices. Different family sizes make it difficult to have one Mansion that fits every Governor. And very importantly a spouse has joint management and control over the household. The State of Idaho should not dictate to a spouse and family where and under what roof they should live.

This is why we have struggled with the Governors Mansion program for 25 years. This is fundamentally why the modern Simplot Mansion has been empty. Quite simply, the idea of a Governors Mansion is obsolete.

Other states are facing the same dilemma. Those with unoccupied mansions include Colorado (Governor Hickenlooper); Michigan (Governor Snyder); Indiana (Governor Daniels); New Jersey (Governor Christie); New Hampshire (Governor Lynch); New York (Governor Cuomo); Ohio (Governor Kasich). Additionally, Arizona, California, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont don't have Governor's Mansions.

Governor's Mansions in Nevada and South Carolina have had serious problems recently because of marital issues.

It is simply unfair to require a Governor to live at a particular location, with furniture and the design picked out by someone else. Virtually no other executive or employe has this requirement as part of the job. Legislators receive an allowance.

Some mansions nationwide are preserved as century old historic treasures. That isn't the case in Idaho.

However, housing assistance has been a part of the Governors compensation package as long as anyone can remember. Therefore a modest allowance or assistance in the purchase of a home should continue as the present or future Governor desires. It should be the Governor and the family's choice, just as my home is my choice.

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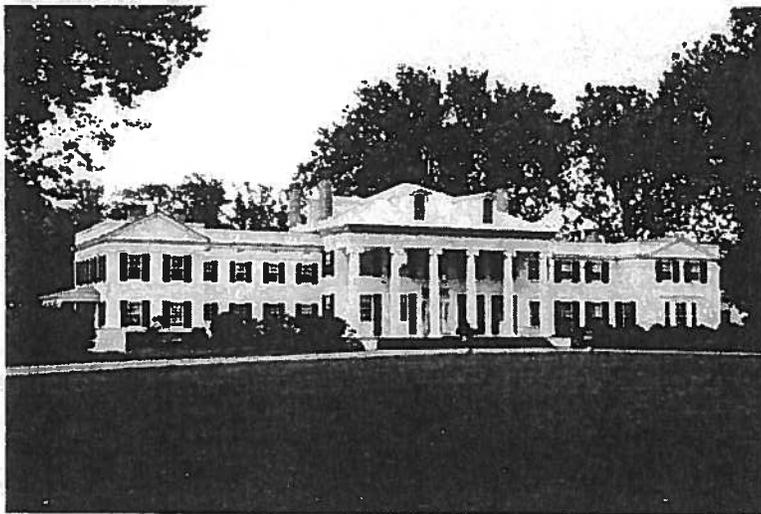
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Anybody Home? Governor's Mansions Around the U.S. Sit Empty

View All

New Jersey

By ALISON ROGERS | @RE_Rookie | January 20, 2012 | +



AP

Location: Princeton

Size: 11,700 square feet

Occupant: Empty

Built in 1835 — and old enough that originally the kitchen was in an outbuilding — this Greek revival mansion was added to by subsequent owners, and it now boasts such luxuries as a panelled library and a music room. Rather than move to the official governor's mansion of Drumthwacket, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has chosen to stay in his home in the leafy suburb of Mendham, citing an unwillingness to disrupt his children's education. The Neo-Eclectic house does have a number of pleasant features suitable for a state executive, including multiple fireplaces, a large open kitchen, and an outdoor pool set on extensive grounds.

Next: Wisconsin

Related Topics: *Chris Christie, Governor's Mansion, New Jersey, Princeton*

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6 / 9

Anybody Home? Governor's Mansions Around the U.S. Sit Empty

View All

Ohio

By ALISON ROGERS | @RE_Rookie | January 20, 2012 | +



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Location: Bexley (a suburb of Columbus, the state capital)

Size: N/A (25 rooms)

Occupant: Empty

Gov. John Kasich doesn't live in the Tudor mansion known for its gardens, choosing instead to stay in his house in Genoa Township, nearer to his children's schools — and farther from local income taxes, according to the website of the Genoa Township Business Association. Critics have argued that the cost of keeping the 25-room mansion functioning was \$438,720 in 2011.

Next: Idaho

Related Topics: Columbus, Governor's Mansion, John Kasich, Ohio

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Electing to Sleep Elsewhere



BOETTCHER MANSION The official residence of the governor of Colorado. Gov. John Hickenlooper has chosen not to live there. More Photos »

By JODI KANTOR
Published: April 11, 2012 492 Comments

ON many nights, as the sun sets over Denver, Reeves Brown finds himself alone amid the empty grandeur of the Boettcher Mansion, otherwise known as the official state residence of the governor of Colorado. Mr. Brown, who is in charge of local affairs for the state government, microwaves some soup for dinner, surrounded by a small museum's worth of tapestries and antique Italian furniture. Then he makes his way up to a modest third-floor bedroom, where he tries to fall asleep.

Meanwhile, the intended resident, Gov. John Hickenlooper, is snugly ensconced in his own private home a few miles away. Like an increasing number of elected officials, he has chosen not to live in the grand house that comes with his job.

Mr. Hickenlooper offered to let cabinet members who live hundreds of miles away use it as a kind of dormitory, but only a few of his subordinates were interested in living there. Mr. Brown and one of his colleagues accepted the offer to stay in the main house, while the lieutenant governor, Joe Garcia, bunks next door in the carriage house, which he has outfitted with furniture from Craigslist and Goodwill.

Asked to describe the experience of living alone in the 26,000-square-foot house, Mr. Brown said, "Have you ever seen the movie 'The Shining'?"

Welcome to the nation's highest-class public housing conundrum: what to do with executive mansions now that more elected officials are politely refusing to inhabit them.

Multimedia

Spurned Executive Mansions

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Readers' Comments

What should be done with executive mansions, particularly those that are not inhabited?

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New Governors Say No Thanks to Mansions

By Matthew Dolan, WSJ.com
Dec 30, 2010

Provided by: [THE WALL STREET JOURNAL](#)
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LANSING, Mich. - Available: five-bedroom, four-bath ranch-style home. Working wind turbine and rooftop solar panels. Original, midcentury bar hidden behind motorized living-room wall. No rent required.

Michigan Gov.-elect Rick Snyder isn't interested.

Slideshow: [In the Job, Not the Mansion](#)

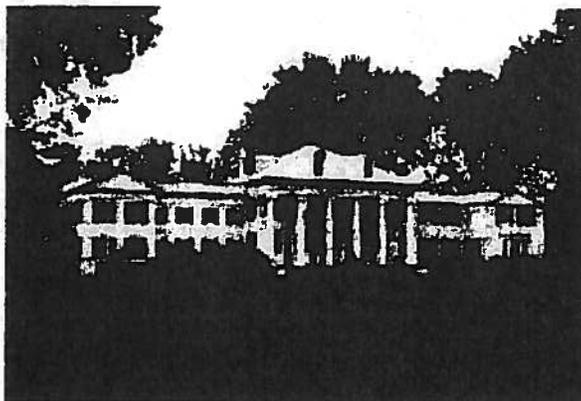
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GOVERNOR'S MANSIONS

The Republican venture capitalist elected on a platform to shake up state government recently announced that he wouldn't move into the governor's official 8,700-square-foot residence on four acres overlooking the Grand River. Instead, he'll stay in his own, 10,600-square-foot manse complete with indoor pool, movie theater and wine cellar.

In the Job, Not the Mansion

It's 70 miles away in Ann Arbor, but near his teenage daughter's school. As an added bonus, says Mr. Snyder, he won't need a full-time house staff, a potential savings for taxpayers. "I'm convinced that every dollar counts," he says.

Gubernatorial candidates spend months, if not years, campaigning to take the reins of state government. But more and more



N.J.'s "Drumthwacket" manor. Photo: Mel Evans/AP

Some of them cite a new age of austerity, coupled with the pressure to keep family life intact in their hometowns. Many say they're used to the commuting life and, with the help of cellphones and email, can operate the levers of government from anywhere. Some just don't want to pick up and move.

In Colorado, Gov.-elect John Hickenlooper is weighing whether to leave his home in kid-friendly Park Hill, just outside of downtown Denver, and move his family, including his 8-year-old son, Teddy, into nearby Boettcher Mansion.

"There are 16 kids on our block for our son to play with," says Mr. Hickenlooper, departing mayor of Denver, in an interview. He says the governor's residence sits in a more commercial district of the city.

He also says that his wife, a journalist and author, may prefer greater separation between the first family's public and private lives. "And I almost certainly do what my wife wants," he says. (A spokesman later said the couple intends to make the decision together.)

In Albany, Andrew Cuomo has waxed nostalgic about spending time at New York State's 40-room Queen Anne-style governor's mansion in the 1980s, when his father, former Gov. Mario Cuomo, once ruled with a domestic staff on a hill overlooking the Hudson River.

Forty-three states have an official governor's mansion, and most state chief executives still call them home. But living rent-free is falling out of favor with some governors -- and with voters.

But with his girlfriend and children already living near New York City, the younger Mr. Cuomo, who becomes governor in January, plans to keep a home base in suburban Westchester County.

New Jersey's stately Drumthwacket manor in Princeton has served as little more than a crash pad since Gov. Chris Christie came to office this year. He opted to keep his children in a school near his home in Mendham, more than 50 miles away, and uses the mansion, with its Italian gardens and a wood-paneled library, mostly for special dinners and official receptions. Once, the governor and his staff took shelter at Drumthwacket during a snowstorm.

In Idaho, the 7,370-square-foot governor's mansion on 38 acres in Boise donated by frozen-french-fry magnate J.R. Simplot lies unoccupied. Gov. Butch Otter, who was once married to Mr. Simplot's daughter, Gay, has refused to move in since taking office in 2007. A spokesman says the governor's own ranch in the town of Star is close by and better equipped to entertain guests like retired Gen. Colin Powell.

The Boise home's hilltop setting is nonetheless a favorite sledding spot for Idahoans, some of whom now call for selling the all-but-vacant estate.

Forty-five states have an official residence, and most governors still rest their heads there.

They also encounter their share of headaches. In 2005, South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford and his family fled the state's 19th-century Federal-style mansion for about two months because of mold contamination. The family later left its permanent mark on the home with some renovations, including

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the Jenny Sanford Wedding Garden, a tribute by the former first lady, who divorced the governor after he admitted to having an Argentinean mistress.

In New York, departing Gov. David Paterson was caught red-faced in 2009 by allegations that friends of his daughter were planning a party in a section of the mansion they dubbed, "FDR's Polio Poolhouse," while her parents were away. The governor called a posting on Facebook about the event a joke, but lamented how every private activity at the house falls under public scrutiny.

"You're walking around this place and it's hard to settle in," he said in an interview. "It's unlike home because you feel like you're on display."

But going without a mansion has its challenges, too. Jerry Brown sold the governor's residence when he was California's chief executive in the 1980s, leaving the current governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, to fly home to Los Angeles many nights on his own private jet. Now Mr. Brown is back in Sacramento as the governor-elect and recently rented a 1,450-square-foot midtown loft close to the Capitol.

In Michigan, the Lansing estate underwent a \$2.5 million renovation funded by private donations seven years ago to improve infrastructure and expand the separate family quarters. Taxpayers still pick up maintenance costs, which run about \$40,000 annually.

Departing two-term Gov. Jennifer Granholm and her husband raised three children in the mansion, from which she sometimes walked, jogged or biked to work about three miles away.

Mr. Snyder will become the first Michigan governor not to live in the executive residence since it was donated to the state in 1969. The house in Lansing, with rose and herb gardens and a small pond, will continue to be used for official meetings and events, and Mr. Snyder has said he could imagine staying there a night or two during the week if necessary. But his administration does foresee cutting back the house staff, which includes a full-time chef.

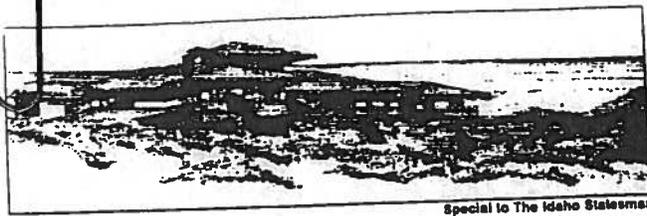
"I view it as a family decision that was reasonably straightforward," Mr. Snyder said in a Bluetooth-enabled telephone interview from his car. "There is going to be a lot of strain and stress, and we'd like as much of a normal family life as possible."

[Click here to see more photos of Governor's mansions](#)

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State panel rebuffs home for governor



Special to The Idaho Statesman

An artist's rendering shows the proposed governor's residence in the Boise Foothills.

Building Fund Council criticizes \$953,047 cost, Foothills location

The Associated Press

POCATELLO — The advisory panel that supervises state construction doesn't like the Boise site selected for a new governor's residence.

At a meeting in Pocatello on Monday, the Permanent Building Fund Council wouldn't accept the architects' plan for the new residence.

That drew a strong reaction from a key state legislator, Rep. Kathleen "Kitty" Gurnsey, R-Boise, who said it wasn't the council's decision whether to build a governor's house.

Gurnsey, co-chairwoman of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee, said that if there were objections to the plan, they should have been brought up far earlier.

Sun Valley architects Darryl McMillen and Mark Pynn described a low-profile, two-level, four-bedroom home sided with two colors. Initial plans call for construction of the residence only, with provision for a reception area, tennis courts and a swimming pool later. They were

paid \$20,000 to draw up the plans.

The state already owns the Boise Foothills site; construction and site improvements are predicted to cost \$953,047.

After McMillen and Pynn's presentation, one council member, Rep. Donna Jones, R-Payette, tried to get the council to accept the preliminary plans, but couldn't get a second for her motion.

Sen. Denny Davis, D-Coeur d'Alene, joined council members Leo Knudson and Chairman Robert Peyron in criticizing the cost and location. They said it might be more economical to increase the annual living allowance given to the governor, instead of building a new residence.

Idaho hasn't used a governor's home since Cecil Andrus was elected in 1986. Andrus chose to live in his own home rather than in the pre-World War II house the state had been using for governors since 1946. The old home in Boise's North End later was sold at auction.

After taking no action to accept the plans, the council met with members of the Executive Residence Committee, of which Gurnsey is cochairwoman.

"If this is something Mr. Davis believes in, he should have brought it up to the Legislature last year. He had two months," she said.

She also said the Building Fund Council was going outside its authority in casting judgment on the construction plan.

"In my opinion, this is not their prerogative, to decide whether or not the project is to be built," Gurnsey said. "They are an advisory committee to oversee the construction of projects — their job is not to make such a decision."

McMillen and Pynn defended the cost, which was estimated at \$130 per square foot. They said that was relatively low, considering the size and importance of the project.

"This could have been \$300 to \$400 per square foot, easily, but we're not trying to do the 'mansion' " McMillen said.

Davis said the governor's residence shouldn't be in an isolated, exclusive area with limited access.

"As a political decision, it's not appropriate to set the governor apart as much as this site does," Davis said, "so I don't think I can go for this particular plan."

Idaho Statesman 5/31/94

Mansion isn't needed

Candidates this year say they'll control state government growth. So what are they doing to stop Idaho's newest program — the million-dollar governor's mansion? Nothing.

The million-dollar mansion will sit on 15 acres of prime Foothills land which hasn't been appraised, but is probably worth \$300,000 or more. New state employees will be required, and you can bet that each new occupant will remodel it.

Our mobile society makes the mansion concept obsolete. Spendy California has abandoned it.

Gov. Cecil Andrus gets \$6,000 a year for housing, which should be increased. This approach is relatively inexpensive and allows new governors to select their homes.

Property taxes are up; Boise High School needs repairs; and older school roofs leak. These concerns are a higher priority than the \$1.3 million-plus to be spent on this new state program.

Idaho Statesman 6/4/94

Stop mansion project now

This ridiculous governor's mansion project should be stopped immediately. The mansion is to cost \$1 million; knowing the value of estimates, that will surely end up \$1.3 million.

At only 5 percent, the interest cost on the first million would be \$50,000 a year. Then we can predictably add to this at least two new state employees at \$50,000 a year each, including overhead.

Lost property taxes (to us taxpayers) plus other maintenance would surely average more than another \$5,000 a year. These real costs add up to a cost of \$155,000 a year, after spending the million to purchase it.

A better plan would be to increase the governor's housing allowance from \$5,000 a year to \$24,000 a year. Go for a posh neighborhood for \$2,000 more each month.

Heck, if he is greedy, go \$48,000 a year.

Paul E. Scofield, Boise

Idaho Statesman 6/17/94

Some points to consider

This letter is in opposition of the million-dollar governor's mansion and to make points that may have not been previously considered.

First, the area that this mansion is being built in is a high-risk fire area. Homes have been damaged and in fact destroyed by fire on Promontory Road, which is in the immediate area of the proposed mansion site. Has anyone checked with the Boise Fire Department about the ability to protect the million dollars we are spending on this house? Also, who will be paying for the high cost of fire insurance after the mansion is constructed? The taxpayers? The governor?

What about the cost of watering the immense lawn? Who will pay for this? Isn't there already a water shortage in the North End of Boise? I'll bet the residents of the North End would answer that question with resounding yes.

Lastly, who will be paying for the upkeep of the proposed tennis court, swimming pool and reception hall? It seems to me the million dollars for the mansion is just the beginning of things.

Susan and Jerry Gile, Boise

Legislative panel suggests purchasing Batt's residence

By Marty Trillhase
The Idaho Statesman

Less than five months after he purchased it, Gov. Phil Batt could have an offer to buy his Boise home — from the state itself.

A five-member committee voted Wednesday to end Idaho's decade-long standoff about a gubernatorial residence by offering to buy Batt's three-bedroom home. That may be less grandiose than the notion of a state mansion, but it's more traditional than the idea of purchasing a set of downtown condominiums for the governor.

Committee members likened their plan to the way corporate

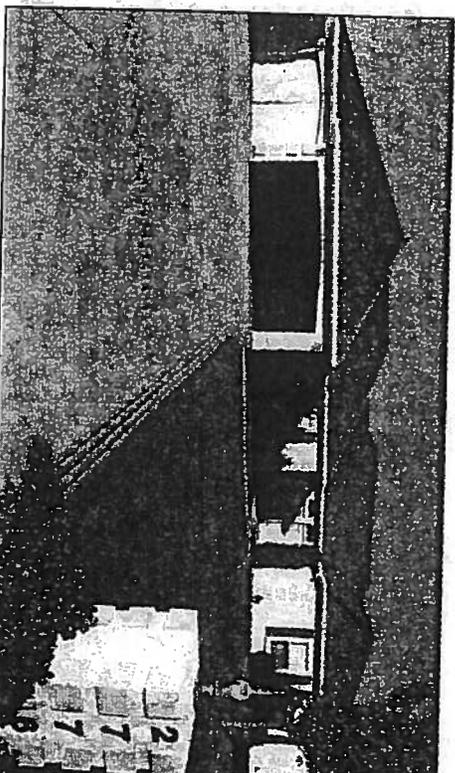
America provides housing for newly transferred executives. Each new governor could pick a modest home to be purchased and maintained by the state for the length of his term. Official functions would be held elsewhere.

"It would be simpler," said Housing Committee Chairwoman Rep. Donna Jones, R-Payette. "We already know the governor chose the house." Batt and his wife, Jacque, purchased the 2,700-square foot house at 2776 S. Armade Place last March for \$239,000. They took out a \$191,200, 15-year mortgage. Until then, the state's first couple spent their first months in office living at an apartment complex. Since it lacked laundry facilities, they

used a coin-op laundry.

But the issue of an official residence had been a thorny one. Batt, who campaigned against a mansion for the governor, drew fire when he seemed to warm to the idea during the legislative session and then washed his hands of it. He even refused state support for his living expenses.

Batt spokeswoman Amy Kleiner said the governor was weighing the offer. The committee is empowered to act without seeking approval from the full Legislature, although member Sen. David Kerrick, R-Caldwell, said the panel will seek feedback from lawmakers and the public. The state sold its historic



Gov. Phil Batt recently bought this Southeast Boise home.

Chris Butler/The Idaho Statesman

mansion in 1989 for \$215,000 after then-Gov. Cecil D. Andrus opted to remain in his own Boise home. The structure in Boise's North End had served as the official residence since 1947. Before then, Idaho's governors obtained housing on their own. A survey taken in 1990 found

Idaho one of six states that not own a governor's residence. The others were Arizona, California, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont.

The state has about \$1.2 million to spend on a governor's home which committee members want to keep in an endowment.

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A mansion for the governor

By Dan Poreky
The Idaho Statesman

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A 23-year-old proposal to build a \$2 million governor's mansion has been revived, but the two prospective tenants are keeping their distance.

"Almost any governor would have to say there are other things that are more needed," said former Gov. Robert Smylie. "It's a political no-no. It's the kind of thing that could be built into a issue of great consequence."
either Republican gubernatorial candidate Roger Fairchild

Andrus, Fairchild hold proposal at arm's distance

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vate funds to match \$1 million in state money to build a 12,900-square-foot house.

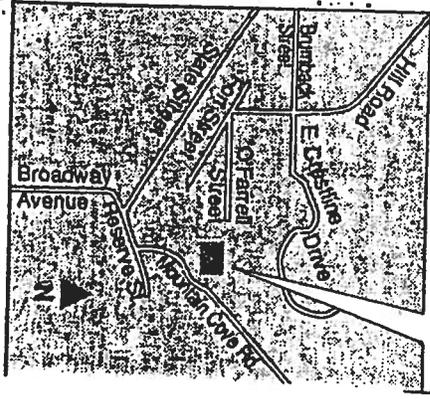
"I've been promoting this since 1967," said the eight-term Republican lawmaker. "And I think we're very close — if we don't mess it up ourselves."

Brassey admitted Andrus and Fairchild won't touch the issue, which could become a political lightning rod that zaps anyone supporting \$2 million digs.

"I don't care one way or another," Andrus said Wednesday. "I

See Mansion/Back page

Proposed governor's residence



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because he has a ranch. Larsha Kade who lives in his own house and not be embroiled in controversy or any other building projects. "I'm content to live in my own house and not be embroiled in controversy or any other building projects."

Brassey said he hopes the house, which would go on a state-owned 15-acre site in the Boise Foothills between Horizon Drive and Mountain Cove Road, will be built by 1992. "We'd like to raise a million dollars from the public — that'd be a dollar for every person in Idaho," said Brassey. He stresses the building's public uses, saying, "Don't call it a mansion. Call it a residence."

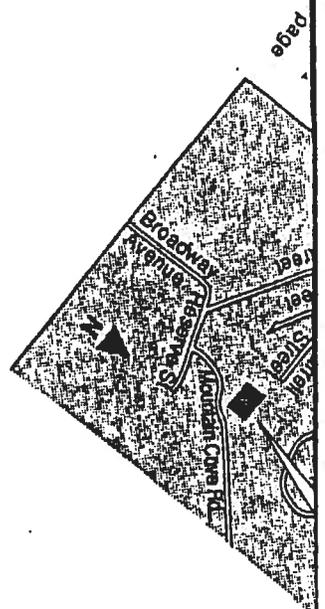
"We need a place where the governor can invite people who want to do business with Idaho, come and stay with him, where he can meet large groups." Rep. Kitty Gurnsey, R-Boise, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, which voted unanimously to appropriate state money for the project this year, said she supports the effort, but only if the private sources pay half the bill. "We need a good place for the governor to live," said Gurnsey. "We need a place for different groups to meet. But if the money doesn't get raised, nothing happens. He's got to raise a million dollars."

Idaho is one of just a few states without a governor's residence, Brassey said, and the state needs the 12,900-square-foot building envisioned by architect Anton Dropping in the late 1960s. Under Dropping's plan, 3,300 square feet would be dedicated to the residence, with 5,480 square feet earmarked for public rooms and 4,120 square feet for support facilities, according to Boise architect Charles Hummel. Hummel, who is volunteering to help with the project, estimates it will cost \$2 million. That's based on costs of \$125 per square foot and \$400,000 for site development, a road, landscaping and fees. It does not include furniture, which could cost about \$300,000.

After persistent lobbying by Brassey, the 1990 Legislature appropriated \$778,800 for the project, which was coupled with the \$215,000 the state got from the 1989 sale of the old, run-down governor's mansion on Irene Street. There was broad support with the House passing the bill 64-14 and the Senate 41-0. Andrus, who is seeking a fourth term, signed the bill, unlike his predecessor, John Evans, who when facing an election in 1978 vetoed a \$500,000 appropriation for a residence. But Smylie, who lived in the Irene Street mansion in Boise's North End from 1955 to 1967, said \$2 million is too much. He suggested building or buying a small residence, along with a separate building for official events. The four extra state bedrooms in Dropping's plan, in addition to the four bedrooms in the residence, are superfluous, Smylie said. "In 12 years, we never had overnight guest. We don't need to spend a huge amount on a place nobody wants to live because it becomes a public place," he said. "They need a little residence. You can't live in a place at the same time they're getting ready for a big bang of the Ladies of the Eastern Star." Smylie said there are more important priorities. "We've got kids going to school in emergency buildings at Roosevelt. So right at the foot of the hill we're trying to build a house."

But Brassey said a \$10,000 feasibility study, commissioned by Governor's Inaugural Ball Committee last year, showed many charitable contributors in Idaho are willing to help foot the bill. "Our study showed there was an awful lot of people who wanted to participate, but they wanted the Legislature to participate with them," said Brassey, thinking they'll have the house built by 1992.

Should Idaho have an official governor's mansion? TEL-US, 2A



Page