Louisiana's
New Showplace

Designed to be a permanent representation of the old South, the new governor’s mansion in Baton Rouge is a four-level structure of Louisiana Greek Revival architecture, prominent in the state after 1830. Focal point of the building is the reception area on the main floor with doors to the left leading into the state drawing room. Beyond the columns is the spiral staircase and the family living room. For more on Louisiana's "million-dollar mansion," see story inside.
The Cover: The exterior photo of Louisiana's new gubernatorial mansion in Baton Rouge was made by G. E. Arnold, photographer who only recently joined the staff of DIXIE Roto Magazine. The interior view was made by Arnold and Baton Rouge photographer Dave Gleson.

Arnold's photographic career has followed an unusual pattern. But that's another story, one to be found on Pages 8 and 9, along with other examples of Arnold's artistry with a camera.

Turn to Page 14 for the governor's mansion story, which is illustrated by still more of Arnold's pictures, both black-and-white and full-color.

Picture out of Our Past

Clifford O. Choplin, a native of New Orleans who now resides at 232 Arthur, Shreveport, La., submitted this photo of the boy graduates of McDonogh No. 7 in 1894.

Choplin is the center boy in the middle row. Here are identifications as he supplied them: First row (from left): Adolph Ehrenfeld, Jacques Moss, Sam Hottinger, Elmo Rundle and Fernand H. Choplin; center row, Caswell P. Ellis Jr., Samuel Jackson, Clifford O. Choplin, Powers McKeever and Walter Cook Keenan; rear, Chabby Keplinger, a boy whose last name was Seguin, Mayer Eastman and Seymour Keenan.

McDonogh No. 7 was and is situated at Chestnut and Milam, uptown. It is housed in its original building, which was completed in 1877. In fact, only two school buildings now in use by the Orleans Parish School Board—those of Benjamin Franklin Senior High School and McDonogh No. 1—antedate that of McDonogh No. 7. They were constructed in 1864.

There were girls at McDonogh No. 7 back in 1894, too, but the school was operated on a sex-segregated basis. Actually, according to a handbook currently in use, there were two schools, McDonogh No. 7 Boys and McDonogh No. 7 Girls. Miss Hannah O. White was boys' principal. She later became principal of the entire institution when the two schools were consolidated, and she held that position until 1920.

Of course, the building has undergone periodic renovation and improvement. Here's the way the school handbook describes some of same:

"The main entrances were so small that only two children could get out at the same time. Large and suitable exits have been made which not only add to the safety of the children but to the appearance of the building.

"There were large sliding doors between all of the rooms on the first floor, which required four men from the maintenance department to move. The blackboards were very narrow and very high from the floor, making it necessary for children to stand on benches to reach them. The sliding doors were taken out and modern blackboards installed. Back of these doors was a Wonderful Haven for mice which ventured out on occasions, making quite a stir in the rooms.

"The basement was open to the weather on all sides, and the winter winds and rains swept relentlessly through. The rooms were heated by stoves which required constant attention. In the early 1900s, the basements were enclosed and steam heat installed..."

Sounds as though the "good old days" at McDonogh No. 7 might have been a mite uncomfortable but very interesting.
New Showplace

By Elizabeth Bennett

The governor also wanted, and got, ornamental mirrors for the state dining room and private offices for himself and a secretary.

The new building was designed to facilitate both efficiency in the conduct of state business and convenience for the state's first family. The state dining room and state reception room on the main floor are near the main entrance to the mansion; the family living room, dining room, kitchen, etc., are in the rear and can be closed off for complete privacy.

On the second floor are bedrooms for family and guests. The guest wing, called the Presidential Suite, contains three bedrooms, three baths and a sitting room, and is to the left of the spiral staircase. To the right of the staircase are the family quarters: the governor's bedroom (in which Davis placed the rocking chair he received as a gift from President Kennedy), the first lady's bedroom, plus two others, all with adjoining baths. The second floor also contains the offices for governor and secretary.

Third-floor elements include a family recreation room, three supplementary guest bedrooms, an

Decorater Ralph Jordan, shown here in the guest sitting room in the Presidential Suite, says its furnishings came from old mansion

The state drawing room, with chandelier from Paris, measures 25' by 45'; documentary rug, valances for the windows will be added

Furnished in modern decor, the office of Gov. Davis is on the second floor; this, and an adjoining office for an aid, were specific recommendations of the chief executive

State dining room, across reception area from drawing room, containing portraits of Gov. and Mrs. Davis, can seat 25 people

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Hoping to see its interior, two passers-by stand at entrance of governor's mansion

**Louisiana's**

Nested between three lakes in the heart of Baton Rouge, east of the Capitol and west of the State Highway Building, lies an "ultramodern plantation house"—Louisiana's recently completed gubernatorial mansion.

Inside the four-level, Greek-Revival structure are such luxuries as Chippendale furnishings from England, crystal chandeliers from Paris, rugs woven in the Orient and marble inlays from Italy.

"The governor and his wife," explains architect William C. Gilmer of Shreveport, "thought the mansion should be a permanent representation of the old South. That's the reason for the antebellum exterior. Mrs. Davis particularly liked the Oak Alley plantation house. We patterned the mansion after it and decided on Doric columns for three sides of the building."

When preliminary plans were presented to Gov. Jimmie H. and Mrs. Davis in 1961, each had one