The renovation of the Old Governor's Mansion on North Boulevard, built in 1930, will be revealed at an Oct. 28 gala.

A little part of Louisiana history has been reborn — again.

This month, after almost eight years of work, the Old Governor's Mansion on North Boulevard is reopening with a grand gala to mark the event.

It is the house that Huey Long built in 1930 for $150,000. The restoration cost $2.5 million, with another $1 million going to the gardens and landscaping, said Dorinda Hilbun, who is the Foundation for Historical Louisiana's mansion curator and registrar.

The state owns the building and funded the restoration and the foundation staff, which has offices on the first floor, is the day-to-day manager.

"It's been a marvelous cooperative endeavor," said Carolyn Bennett, executive director of the foundation.

Nine governors including Long called the mansion home between 1930 and 1962, and a little bit of each of them will live on in it.

In the East Room, a grand ballroom, there are two tapestry chairs that belonged to Gov. Earl K. Long. A linen chest from Gov. Richard Leche is in the dining room, along with a table for 14 from Gov. James A. Noe. Noe served as acting governor for a few months in 1936 after the death of Gov. O.K. Allen.

There's Gov. Jimmie Davis' saddle, bedroom set and gold record for "You Are My Sunshine" in the lavender bedroom upstairs. Davis was the last governor to live in the mansion, which was replaced as the official residence by the "new" mansion in 1962.

"The governors would bring their furniture with them and when they left, they took it," said Hilbun. "So what we have here is a kind of potpourri, which is really what it should be since this is a historical house." Many of the furnishings for the mansion were rounded up.

Gov. and Mrs. Mike Foster and the Foundation for Historical Louisiana will host a grand reopening gala for the newly refurbished Old Governor's Mansion from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Oct. 28.

The black-tie event will take place at the mansion, 502 North Blvd. Tickets are $100 per person and must be purchased by Oct. 22. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the foundation at 387-2464.

The mansion was built in 1930, and the theme for the gala will focus on that era with music and floral arrangements reminiscent of the time. Actor John McConnell will make a special appearance as Gov. Huey Long, who had the mansion built.

More than 20 local restaurants will provide food for the gala, and a silent auction also will be held. Period music will be provided by the Louisiana Repertory Jazz Ensemble.
The Art Deco style of the mansion's upstair's rooms is reflected in the vivid tiles used in the bathrooms. This one, which adjoins the Jimmie Davis bed, is lavender.

Starting Nov. 2, the newly restored Old Governor's Mansion will be open for tours.

You can just drop in or schedule a tour for a group by calling in advance," said Darinda Hibben, mansion curator.

The mansion will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays.

Cost for touring is $4 for adults, $3 for seniors and $2 for youngsters ages 5 to 12. Children under age 5 are admitted free. Group tours of 10 or more are $3 per person, and student tour groups are $1 per person.

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