OLD STATE OFFICE BUILDING — This building served as the official seat of state government for governors from Alfred Wiltz (1880) to Huey Long (1932). A committee is searching for documentation, especially pictures of rooms and grounds, to be used in restoring it as accurately as possible.

Restoration Underway For Old State Building

The search is underway for photographs and documentation to aid authentic restoration of the governor’s office in the Old State House.

Members of the Governor's Room Committee met Tuesday with Dr. J. Larry Crain, assistant secretary for Office of State Parks, to discuss restoring the former governor's office and reception room. A National Historic Landmark, the Old State House was recently transferred to the state parks office under governmental reorganization.

Governors from Alfred Wiltz (1880) to Huey P. Long (1932) used the building as the official seat of state government operations. More recently the building has housed the Jay Broussard Art Gallery, the historical preservation office and various veteran offices.

The committee, made up of volunteer citizens including descendants of governors who used the office, is searching for documentation, especially pictures of the rooms and grounds. The group hopes to restore the areas to their original use and decoration at the turn of the century.

Members of the public, particularly families of former state officials and legislators from 1880 through 1932, are the prime candidates for help, said Crain.

The committee, explained Crain, is urging that the building be maintained as a museum, H. Parrot Baco, curator of the LSU Anglo-American Art Museum, is advising the group on restoration possibilities. The Office of State Parks will use a professional historical consultant with experience in restoration and museology on the project.

Baton Rouge members of the committee are Mrs. Steve Alford Jr., Mrs. Lewis Bann, Mrs. Heidel Brown, Mr. John Fisher, John Jordan, Mrs. Stuard Johnson, Mrs. J. Burton LeBlanc, Mr. Jules LeBlanc, Lester LeBlanc, Mrs. John LeCompte, Mrs. Hattie Long, Mrs. Howard Samuel, Mrs. Mary Eliza Sanders, Mrs. Sandra Thompson, A. Hays Town and Mrs. J.A. Tucker.

Also serving on the committee are the Honorable Jackson B. Davis of Shreveport, Mrs. William Flores and Mrs. D.J. Palmier of Lafayette, Mrs. John P. Manard of New Orleans, Mrs. Jane Sherrouse of Monroe, Mrs. Robert H. Bolton of Alexandria, Mrs. Richard S. Genre and Mrs. P. Chavvin Wilkins of Port Allen, Mrs. Fairfax Foster Sutter of Franklin, and Dr. J. Larry Crain of Ponchatoula.

Persons with helpful information are asked to contact the Governor's Room Committee, Old State House, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801, attention Mrs. Ruth LeCompte, Chairman.