

The Ohio Governor's Mansion

The first official governor's mansion was located at 1234 East Broad St., Columbus, the current site of the Columbus Foundation. Governor James Cox was the first governor to occupy the mansion which originally was the home of Charles H. Lindenberg. Prior to 1920, each governor was responsible for finding suitable housing since no official residence existed. Governor Cox helped pass legislation to create an Executive Mansion Board in 1917. The board had already purchased land on Broad Street to build a mansion when the Lindenberg house became available. Lindenberg had been the president of the Lilley Regalia Company, one of the largest makers of decorative swords and other regalia. Architect, Franklin L. Packard, built the house in 1904 for Mr. Lindenberg in the George Revival Eclectic style.

When the last governor left the house in 1957 it went through many changes and states of disrepair. Initially, it was given to the Ohio Historical Society as a depository of state archives. In 1970 the Ohio Historical Society moved to its new location next to the fair grounds. After that the mansion housed offices and even sported a first-floor restaurant for a time. In 1987 the Wexner Foundation gave the mansion to the Columbus Foundation. The Columbus Foundation renovated the mansion and took possession in November, 1988.

The present day governor's mansion is located at 385 North Parkview and was a gift to the state from the heirs of Malcolm Jeffrey. It was built in 1925 by Robert G. Hanford in the Jacobethan Revival style. The original donation stipulated that the mansion belong to the state and be used as the governor's home for 24 years. It remains the residence of the governor.

Sources:

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