

# Mississippi History

# MDAH

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# NEWSLETTER

## \* Join MDAH for NEW \* Winter Holidays

As the Old Capitol is closed for restoration and the new Museum of Mississippi History is not yet built, the **trains of Possum Ridge and MDAH Christmas trees and toys** will be on display to the public in the **William F. Winter Archives and History Building**. Trains will run through the miniature town weekdays 9 a.m.–4:30

p.m. School groups may make reservations for weekdays, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., by calling 601-576-6920. Vintage toys and Christmas trees decorated in styles of different eras will be on display in the Winter Building lobby. The Winter Building is located in downtown Jackson at the corner of North and Amite.

## \*\*\*\*\* December Events

**December 1–20.** “A Special Visitor Comes to Possum Ridge.” This video, produced by the Museum of Mississippi History, is offered to students via **Mississippi Public Broadcasting and public access television**. For specific broadcast information, call 601-576-6920.

### Greenville

**Sunday, December 3, 3-5 p.m.,** at **Winterville Mounds, a Holiday Open House**. For more information call 662-334-4684.

### Gulfport

**December 1 and 2,** MDAH will co-host “**A Cultural Charrette: Conversations about Coast Community Life**” on the Jefferson Davis Campus of **Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College** in Gulfport. This innovative gathering will bring together organizations and individuals to discuss the unique culture of the Mississippi Gulf Coast—its rich history, architecture, cuisine, way of life, and ethnic diversity. Residents will have an opportunity to be part of reweaving the fabric that constitutes the heart and soul of the coastal area. This town hall

meeting will encourage collaborations among cultural entities and interested residents as recovery continues. For more information call 800-647-7542.

### Jackson

**Friday, December 1, 5-8 p.m.,** **Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour**. This popular annual event features traditional seasonal decorations at the **Manship House Museum, the Governor’s Mansion, and the State Capitol**. Free transportation from site to site provided courtesy the Greater Jackson Arts Council. For more information call 601-961-4724.

### Governor’s Mansion

**December 1 through 20, Christmas at the Governor’s Mansion.** The historic section of the  
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## Old Capitol Restoration



historic structure report and studying the problem using elaborate tests over a period of several years, Adams was able to advise MDAH and the Bureau of Building on

MDAH has begun preliminary work for a complete restoration of the Old Capitol, Mississippi’s statehouse from 1839 until 1903 and considered the state’s most historic building. It was restored 1959-61 and served as the state’s historical museum from 1961 until 2005, when it suffered serious damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

As the building had been deteriorating for many years, MDAH enlisted the guidance of preservation architect Robert Parker Adams of Jackson, who monitored a phenomenon of the building: its “wicking” of moisture from the ground up through its walls, a primary cause of its deterioration. After completing a

specific measures to address the problem.

One measure Adams recommended is the reapplication of stucco over the exterior brick to provide a waterproofing membrane. When the Old Capitol was completed in 1840, colored stucco was applied to the brick and scored to replicate Ashlar stone, or limestone, the favored material for governmental buildings like the United States Capitol and others in Washington, D.C. During the 1959-61 restoration, the stucco was left off as a last-minute compromise, with a proviso that it might be applied in the future. The current restoration calls for reapplication of the stucco so that the building will be

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*The Old Capitol, late 1930s, its exterior covered with stucco colored and scored to replicate limestone.*

## MDAH EVENTS, cont'd

Governor's Mansion features traditional holiday decorations of greenery and fruit. Free guided tours are offered Tuesday–Friday, 9:30–11 a.m., on the half-hour. Reservations must be made in advance for groups of ten or more. The Mansion is closed weekends and Mondays. It will also be closed for tours December 21–January 1 and may be closed at other times for official state functions. **To confirm its availability or for information, call 601-359-6421.**

### **Manship House Museum**

**December 1 through 21, Christmas at the Manship House Museum.** Daily tours feature Victorian-style decorations Tuesdays–Fridays, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Reservations required for groups of ten or more.

**Monday, December 11, 10–11 a.m. Victorian Christmas Crafts**

**for Adults.** Free of charge. Reservations required.

**Monday, December 11, 3:30–4:30 p.m., St. Nicholas Day Craft Workshop.** Children will learn about and make a Victorian Christmas craft. Free of charge, for ages five to twelve. Reservations required. **For information or reservations, call 601-961-4724.**

### **Washington**

#### **Historic Jefferson College**

**December 1–31, “Drawn to Whimsy: The World of Edgar Parker.”** Original children's book illustrations loaned by the Mississippi Museum of Art.

**December 9–29, Children's Victorian Christmas Celebration.** Christmas trees decorated by local and regional fifth-grade classes are on display in the site's historic buildings. Open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. and Sunday 1–5 p.m. **For more information call 601-442-2901.**



*On October 20 in New Orleans MDAH received a \$150,000 Preserve America Grant for Rebuilding Heritage Tourism Post-Hurricane Katrina (the largest Preserve America grant to date). (L-r) First Lady Laura Bush, honorary*

*chair; Preserve America; MDAH special projects officer Michelle Jones; Mississippi Heritage Trust director David Preziosi; and U.S. Dept. of Interior deputy secretary Lynn Scarlett.*

## Old Capitol Restoration, cont'd

restored to its original 1840 appearance.

Another feature of the original statehouse was a fence on the property's western boundary (now State Street). In the current restoration, a replica of the original six-foot-high iron “spear-point” fence will be created and installed. Like the original, it will feature six eagles atop the gate posts, and two lanterns. (Three original eagles in the MDAH collection will be used as models for the replicas.) A large three-part gate will be reconstructed in front of the building, and two smaller personnel gates will flank it. The

1960s restoration followed customs of that era, and shrubbery was planted close to the building, sixties-style. Today, the entire site is considered part of the restoration; therefore, MDAH will reproduce the original landscape and there will be no base planting—simply grass—so that the Old Capitol will look just as it did in 1840.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the restoration will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2007, at 2 p.m. in front of the Old Capitol. For more information on the restoration, please call 601-576-6850.

## Federal Grant Applications

The congressionally funded **Hurricane Relief Grant Program for Historic Preservation** is being administered by MDAH through its Gulf Coast Field Office, directed by Chelius Carter. Any private property owner, unit of state or local government, or nonprofit organization (except active religious organizations) is eligible. Properties receiving funding must possess architectural, historical, or cultural significance. **Deadlines for grant applications are January 5 and April 6.** Applicants may apply in each round. Properties in the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage

Area (all of Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, George, Pearl River, and Stone Counties) will receive preference in selection. Grants can be used to protect, stabilize, preserve, restore, or rehabilitate a property damaged by Katrina or Rita. Major reconstruction projects, such as recreating a destroyed building, are not eligible. Eligible properties may also apply for reimbursement of hurricane-related repairs already completed according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historical Properties. **For information, call Chelius Carter at 228-435-1180.**