



See the capital city's grand public buildings on the twelfth annual

# Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour

Friday, December 7, 2007 5-8 p.m.

**Mississippi's State Capitol** was completed in 1903. The massive Beaux Arts building sits on a 13-acre wooded lot in downtown Jackson. The capitol's exterior is of Georgia granite and Indiana limestone. The interior is richly appointed with black, white, grey, pink, and green marble, tile mosaics, decorative plaster, and stained glass. There are 750 exposed light bulbs in the rotunda. Sitting atop the dome 180 feet from the floor is a copper eagle clad in gold, eight feet tall and with a wingspan of fifteen feet. The state legislature meets in the capitol, and the governor, lieutenant governor, and other elected officials have offices here.

*For the holiday season the capitol sports festive exterior lights. The building's grand architecture is complemented with garlands, wreaths, bows, and ornaments. A giant native Leyland cypress stands in the rotunda, and smaller magnolia trees are displayed in the niches around the second-floor atrium.*

#### Schedule of Musical Entertainment

4:30-5—Suzuki String Musicians  
5-5:30—Jackson Academy Pre-School Choir  
5:30-6—Cade Chapel Baptist Church  
6-6:30—Northshore Elementary School  
6:30-7—Pearl Upper Elementary Choir  
7-7:30—Mustard Seed Bells of Faith Handbell Choir  
7:30-8—Hinds Community College Choir, Raymond Campus

**The Manship House** was built in 1857 by Charles Henry and Adaline Daley Manship. The house served as a showplace for Manship's profession of ornamental painting and features examples of faux marbling, graining, and period wallpaper. A rare example of Gothic Revival residential architecture, the carefully restored house is filled with furniture donated by the family, who occupied the house continuously from the time of its

construction until its acquisition by the state in 1975. The Manship House is open as a museum interpreting the daily life of this middle-class Victorian family.

*The Manship House is dressed for the holidays with decorations like those the Manship family used—fresh pine garlands, holly, and other native greenery. Authentic nineteenth-century tree ornaments include cornucopias, paper snakes, and gilded pine cones. The dining table is loaded with plum pudding, cakes, tarts, madelines, fresh fruits, and other dishes popular during the Victorian era.*

#### Schedule of Musical Entertainment

5-5:30—The Jim Woodrick Singers  
5:30-6—Kindred Spirits  
5:30-6—Mustard Seed Bells of Faith Handbell Choir  
6-6:30—Figgy Pudding Singers  
6:30-7—Piney Woods School Choir  
7-7:30—Kindred Spirits  
7:30-8—The Mississippi Girlchoir

**The Mississippi Governor's Mansion** dates to 1841. It is the second-oldest continuously occupied governor's residence in the United States. The Greek Revival masterpiece is richly furnished in the Empire style, with additional pieces in the French Restoration, Rococo Revival, Gothic Revival, and Renaissance Revival styles. In 1975 the Governor's Mansion was designated a National Historic Landmark. The governor maintains an official residence in the two-story family annex behind the historic section of the mansion.

*During the holidays the mansion features an ornately decorated Leyland cypress Christmas tree as well as traditional decorations of seasonal greenery and poinsettias throughout the house. For the Candlelight Tour there is live holiday piano music.*

*Free transportation for the Candlelight Tour is made possible by a grant from the Greater Jackson Arts Council.*

## Old Capitol Restoration to be Completed in 2009

The Old Capitol, for years the first stop on the Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour, is undergoing a restoration. It will reopen to the public in January 2009 and will rejoin the tour that year. Exhibits in the new Old Capitol Museum will interpret the

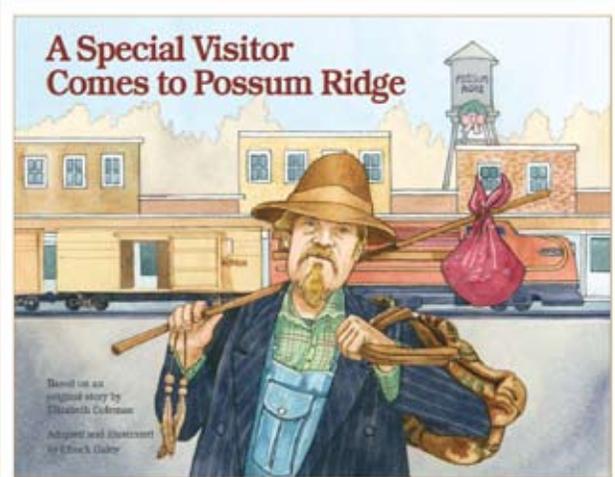


distinct history of the building that served as Mississippi's statehouse from 1839 to 1903, with a special focus on government in action.

To learn more, see the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Web site, [www.mdah.state.ms.us](http://www.mdah.state.ms.us).

## New Book Features Trains of Possum Ridge

The Department of Archives and History is pleased to announce the publication of *A Special Visitor Comes to Possum Ridge*. For more than a quarter century the model trains that ran through the town of Possum Ridge delighted Christmas visitors to the Old Capitol. Now children all across the state can enjoy the story of Possum Ridge and Lucky, a visitor who arrives one cold winter night, charms the townspeople, and changes their lives forever.



*A Special Visitor Comes to Possum Ridge* was written by Elizabeth Coleman and adapted and illustrated by Chuck Galey. Signed copies are available for \$15.95 in the Mississippi History Store (formerly the Old Capitol Shop), located in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, corner of North and Amite streets. For more information call 601-576-6921.

## Holiday Events from the Department of Archives and History

### Winter Holidays

Monday, December 3, through  
Friday, December 21

This popular annual event has moved from the Old Capitol to the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, corner of North and Amite streets, but still features the Possum Ridge trains, trees decorated to represent various periods of Mississippi history, and toys enjoyed by generations of Mississippi children. For more information call 601-576-6920.

The MDAH-produced video *A Special Visitor Comes to Possum Ridge* will air December 20 at 9 p.m., December 27 at 8 p.m., and December 29 at 1 a.m. on Mississippi Public

Broadcasting. *A Special Visitor* will also be streamed on the MPB Web site, [mpbonline.org](http://mpbonline.org).

### Christmas at the Governor's Mansion

Friday, November 30, through  
Thursday, December 20

Free guided tours of the Governor's Mansion are offered Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 to 11 a.m. on the half-hour. Reservations must be made in advance for groups of ten or more. The mansion will be closed for tours from Friday, December 21, through Tuesday, January 1, 2008, and may be closed at other times during the month for official state functions. For more information or reservations, call 601-359-6421.

### Christmas at the Manship House

Friday, December 7, through  
Friday, December 21

Daily tours feature Victorian-style decorations Tuesdays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reservations required for groups of ten or more, 601-961-4724.

### Manship House St. Nicholas Day Craft Workshop

Monday, December 10, 3:30 p.m.

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.