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Hampton Dunn

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Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



"THE STATE SHACK" BOWS TO "EXECUTIVE RESIDENCE"

By HAMPTON DUNN

TALLAHASSEE --- Officialdom rides hard on tradition and precedent, here in Florida's state capital. Gov. Claude Kirk was chided for having a little calf penned behind the fancy Governor's Mansion. But this was nothing compared to the menagerie collected there by Gov. Sidney J. Catts: Pigs, a milk cow and chickens!

The present home for the First Family (Gov. Farris Bryant tried to have it called "Executive Residence", but that simply did not stick) is an elaborate structure, finished in 1957 during the term of Gov. LeRoy Collins (who stayed across the street at "The Grove," ancestral home of his wife's family and which was built by early Territorial Governor, Richard Keith Call, during the construction of the new mansion). It cost \$360,000 to build and furnish.

Which is a far cry from the \$25,000 which the State spent in 1905 to build the first Governor's Mansion on the same site. That beautiful old colonial-style home served many administrations, but run-down to the point that one of the last resident of the place, Gov. Fuller Warren referred to it as "The State Shack." The first occupant of the original Mansion was colorful Gov. Napoleon Bonaparte Broward.

The gubernatorial quarters were designed by Palm Beach architect Marion Sims Wyeth. Some of the ideas were snatched from "The Hermitage," the magnificent mansion of Andrew Jackson's home in Nashville, Tenn. Jackson was Florida's first military governor.

Original Chippendale and Queen Anne pieces, an elegant chandelier, and silver service from the U.S.S. Florida are conversation pieces in the Mansion. A heated swimming pool is popular.

