

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

IDAHO GOVERNOR'S MANSION

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The large frame two-story bungalow style house at 1805 North Twenty-first Street in Boise was purchased by the state in 1947 at a cost of \$25,000. Prior to 1947, Idaho's governors had to provide their own residences. The first governor to occupy the official governor's mansion was Governor C. A. Robins in 1947.

The house was built in 1914 for real estate man and land developer Walter E. Pierce from a design by the prominent local architectural firm of Wayland and Fennell. Pierce lived in the house until 1919, when he sold it.

Beginning in 1967, the house has been described as being inadequate for a governor's residence because it lacks useful public spaces. In 1987, the Idaho Legislature gave its approval for Governor Cecil Andrus to remain in his own private residence.

In 1990 the state sold the house, and it is now a private residence. At the present time no site has been chosen and no plans have been drawn for a new official residence.