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Old governor's home remains in capital

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Dunn, Hampton, "Old governor's home remains in capital" (1960). *Hampton Dunn Phototouring Florida Collection*. 223.

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Photouring Alorida



By HAMPTON DUNN

OLD GOVERNOR'S HOME REMAINS IN CAPITAL

By HAMPTON DUNN

TALLAHASSEE --- Until 1907, Florida did not provide an executive mansion for its Governors, so they made their own arrangements for accommodations. Today, it is believed only one of these homes where Governors stayed during their administrations remain.

It is the building at 410 Calhoun Street, now called the White House Hotel, and it was here that Gov. William D. Bloxham lived through two terms as Governor, 1881-85 and 1897-1901. By the way, Bloxham was the only man who ever was elected to the Governorship a second time after serving out a full term.

Bloxham---probably the most popular politician in Florida history, according to Tallahassee editor Malcolm B. Johnson---bought the Calhoun Street place some 50 years after it was built in the late 1830's by David C. Wilson, founder of Florida's oldest department store.

It is also believed that Bloxham's successor after his first term, Gov. E. A. Perry of Pensacola (1885-89), occupied the so-called "Bloxham House" for part of his term while Bloxham lived in another part of the city.

It is known that Governor Bloxham most considerately offered the premises for use of the family of former Gov. Francis P. Fleming after the Fleming home had been destroyed in the 1901 fire that virtually wiped out Jacksonville. Apparently, the Flemings did not accept the invitation, however.

The Bloxham House is of a modified Georgian design.

