

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 20 FY 86/87
DATE July 24, 1987

AN ORDER ACCEPTING
A GIFT TO THE STATE AND
CREATING THE
BLAINE HOUSE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

Whereas, the policy of this State is to preserve and develop the aesthetic and historical integrity of the Blaine House, as provided in 5 M.R.S.A. § 321; and

Whereas, the Blaine House, a National Historic Landmark which is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is open to the public during visiting hours in order to display the public rooms and the historical and cultural artifacts therein; and

Whereas, while the Blaine House is the Governor's official residence during the term of office of the Governor, the Blaine House building, grounds and the historical artifacts within the building belong to the People of the State of Maine;

Now, therefore, I, JOHN R. MCKERNAN, JR., Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby, pursuant to my authority under 2 M.R.S.A. § 5, accept as a gift to the People of the State of Maine and to all future Governors of this State the work of renovation of the Blaine House building, interior and grounds to be given as a gift to the State through the efforts of the Blaine House Restoration Fund, Inc.

The Blaine House Restoration Fund, Inc. (BHRF), is organized as a charitable, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation, established for the purpose of raising funds from the public and expending such funds in order to renovate the building, interior and grounds of the Blaine House historical site.

I do also hereby establish the BLAINE HOUSE RESTORATION COMMITTEE which will oversee the renovation project of the Blaine House managed by the BHRF. The duties and function of the Blaine House Restoration Committee shall be as follows:

Purpose

The purpose of the Committee shall be to ensure that all work performed under the direction and with the funding of the BHRF shall preserve and develop the aesthetic and historical integrity of the Blaine House and shall be done in accordance with pertinent provisions of The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. §470 et seq., and regulations made pursuant thereto.

The restoration project shall represent a joint effort by the private sector and state government under which the State of Maine shall continue to provide funds for the ongoing maintenance and operation of the executive mansion, while foundations, corporations, and private citizens will contribute to its renovation, preservation and presentation as an historic site and as the official residence of the Governor.

Membership

The Committee shall be composed of 7 members, to be appointed by the Governor and to serve at his pleasure, who shall consist of the following persons:

1. Commissioner of the Department of Administration;
2. Director, Maine State Museum;
3. Director, Maine Historic Preservation Commission;
4. Director, Maine Arts Commission;
5. Assistant Director, Maine State Museum;
6. Blaine House Social Secretary; and
7. The Governor's Chief of Staff.

Officers

The Commissioner of the Department of Administration shall be Chairman, and the Director of the Maine State Museum Vice-Chairman, of the Restoration Committee.

Functions and Duties of the Restoration Committee

The Blaine House Restoration Committee shall:

1. Develop a long-term restoration and maintenance plan for the efficient operation of the Blaine House as the State's foremost ceremonial building, as a reception center for guests, and as the Governor's official residence;
2. Assess the problems of the physical plant of the Blaine House building and grounds and direct the BHRF to address any such problems as needed;

3. Review and approve the work of the BHRF to ensure that renovation activities being managed and funded by the BHRF maintain or improve the aesthetic and historical integrity of the Blaine House so as to reflect its history and the artistic heritage of Maine;
4. Review the budgets proposed by the BHRF for furnishings and alterations of each room of the Blaine House before the BHRF commits to the purchase of such items and services;
5. Approve the acceptance of any tangible items or property donated by members of the public as a gift to the State for use in the Blaine House before such acceptance by the BHRF;
6. Ensure that all renovation work is performed in accordance with "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects," 36 CFR §68, and guidelines made pursuant thereto;
7. Establish design and preservation standards to ensure that future improvements to the Blaine House building and grounds are historically and architecturally consistent;
8. Report on the progress of the renovation to the Governor on a timely basis;
9. Review and approve any promotional efforts and materials produced by the BHRF for purposes of fund-raising prior to the commencement of such activities or the dissemination of such materials to the public; and
10. Determine if there is a need to update the informational brochure, "The Blaine House: A Brief History and Guide," published by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission in 1983 and recently revised, in order to include information about the restoration or to produce other informational material which will make the history of the Blaine House more accessible to the general public and guests. If such a need is found, any new literature or material shall be paid for out of funds supplied by the BHRF.

Meetings

Meetings shall take place upon the call of the Chairman.

Use of the Name "Blaine House"

The BHRF is authorized to use the words "Blaine House" in the name of its organization and in any written materials produced by the BHRF and also any depiction of Blaine House and its surrounding grounds in any promotional activities or materials which the BHRF prepares for the purpose of soliciting private donations from the general public, as performed in accordance with State law.

Compensation

Members of the Blaine House Restoration Committee shall serve without compensation.

Funding

All funding for the decorative work and for any nonessential construction, and major funding for the reconstructive work of the restoration project, shall be supplied by private donations from members of the general public who so choose to contribute to the Blaine House Restoration Fund, Inc.

This Executive Order shall be in effect as of July 24, 1987.



JOHN R. MCKERNAN, JR.
Governor