

North Carolina's governor's mansion

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

One of the nation's finest governor's mansions is located right here in North Carolina. Situated on a five-acre site in downtown Raleigh on Burke Square not far from the capitol, the North Carolina Executive Mansion is one of only a dozen executive homes built and continuously used for such a purpose in America.

Constructed during the period 1884-1891, the executive mansion currently contains 34,086 square feet and is built in the Queen Anne Cottage style. Much of the labor to build the home was provided by inmates from Central Prison. Most of the material used in the mansion is native to North Carolina.

Governor Mike Easley is the 27th North Carolina chief executive to call the place home.

Architects for the project included two of the most influential of their day—Samuel Sloan and A.G. Bauer of Philadelphia. Though Sloan died before the work was over, Bauer stayed on to make Raleigh his home.

The first governor to call the mansion home was Daniel G. Fowle. To officially open the estate, Fowle hosted a party on January 13, 1891 for two thousand guests. Some legislators called the house "Fowle's Folly." Final cost of the mansion was \$58,843.

The current executive mansion is the fourth building to be used for that purpose in North Carolina history. Well-known tourist attraction Tryon Palace in New Bern was the first such residence and was the seat of gov-

ernment until 1792.

The second Tar Heel governor's home was a two-story wooden house at the corner of Fayetteville and Hargett streets. It was used until 1816 when the third home, called the "Governor's Palace" was done. Over the course of 1816 until 1865, 20 North Carolina governors called this brick house home. It was also used by Union general William "Uncle Billy" Sherman as his headquarters during the closing days of the Civil War.

From 1865 until the present mansion was built, North Carolina's governors dwelled in rented houses or Raleigh hotels.

The executive mansion's grounds contain five gardens. Grown there are an assortment of herbs, vegetables and fruits which are often used by the governor's chef. Trees, shrubs and flowers are varieties native to our state.

The executive mansion's many rooms reflect an elegant yet refined style. The first floor consists of six public rooms joined by a central hallway. The home's second floor is where the governor and his family reside. On the third floor of the mansion and in the basement are rooms for storage, offices and laundry.

Central to the governor's residence is the Grand Hallway. The floor of the hall is carpeted with a magnificent red and crimson handmade rug stitched with the names and administration dates of all previous Tar Heel governors. Also worked into the rug's design are the North Carolina state symbols as well as the story of the mansion itself. Other features of the hallway are stately Corinthian columns, crystal chan-

deliers, 16-foot ceilings, and a heart pine staircase.

Front rooms on the first floor of the executive mansion are decorated as formal ladies' and gents' parlors. The room for the men also features a handmade rug with the state symbols. As for the ladies' parlor, it has a collection of 18th and 19th century furniture made in North Carolina and other areas of the southland.

One of the most important rooms in the executive mansion is the Grand Ballroom. Over the years, literally hundreds of important receptions, dinners, and meetings have taken place in this area. Decorating features include French mirrors, chandeliers from Sheffield, mahogany and gilded furnishings, and elegant draperies.

Restored in 1983, the Library has a relaxing atmosphere and has long been a favorite spot for our governors to catch up on

their reading. A large fireplace and fine North Carolina made furniture complete the ambience.

The formal Dining Room at the executive mansion is a study in elegance. Dominating the room is an 18-foot long table that seats 24 guests. The chande-

lier is a cut crystal creation from Austria. On display are lovely examples of chinaware, silver service, and crystal.

Bringing the Carolina sun into the governor's abode is the Morning Room. This room began as an open porch, was later screened, and is now fully

enclosed. Furnishings of wicker and brightly colored fabrics complete the cheery decor.

A showpiece of North Carolina taste and materials, the governor's mansion in Raleigh is a must see during any trip to our state capital.



Photo courtesy of NC Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development

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98 Honda Accord EX
Auto, Leather, Roof,
The Right Kind!
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99 Chrysler Sebring JX Convertible
Drop the Top,
Here Comes the Sun!
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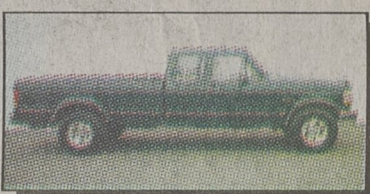
96 Ford Windstar GL
Rear Air Condition,
Mama's Limo
***10,311**



99 Ford F150 XLT
Regular Cab,
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Reduced *15,555



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95 Ford F250 Supercab XLT
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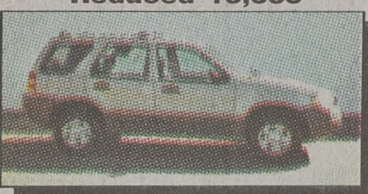
2000 Ford Focus ZX3
Sporty,
Fun!
***11,221**



99 Ford F250 XLT 4x4
Off Road, Powerstroke Diesel,
Towing Machine!
***24,447**



99 Ply. Voyager Expresso
Quad Seats, Rear Air, Alloys, All the
Buttons, Better Hurry!
***16,973**



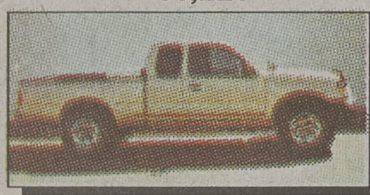
2001 Ford Escape
Auto, V6, CD,
Hottest SUV in USA!
***22,655**



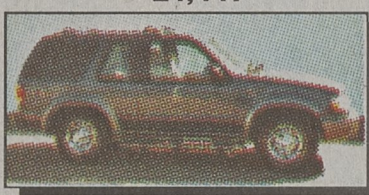
98 Ford F150 Lariat Supercab 4x4
3rd Door, Leather, Immaculate!
***20,911**



96 Lexus LS 400
Chrome Wheels,
Immaculate!
***28,167**



99 Toyota Tacoma SR5
Xtra Cab, 4x4,
Oh What a Feeling!
***17,977**



99 Ford Explorer Sport
Leather, Chrome, Roof,
Loaded!
***16,991**



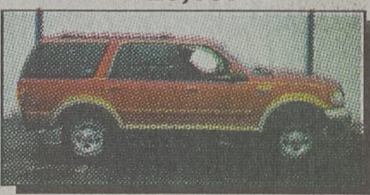
99 Chevy Lumina
Power Package, Wheels
A Steal At
***10,963**



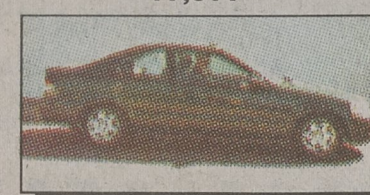
00 Ford Windstar LX
Rear Air, Power Package,
Program Special!
***19,171**



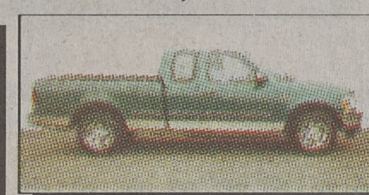
98 Ford F150 XLT Supercab
3rd Door, Alloys, #1 Truck in America!
***17,381**



98 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer
Loaded, Chrome wheels, Disc Changer, 3rd
Seat, Rear Air, Brand New Inside!
***23,977**



2000 Honda Civic EX
Roof,
Hates Gas!
***14,404**



97 F150 Supercab XLT
3rd Door, Captains Chairs, Nicest in
Gaston County
***16,977**



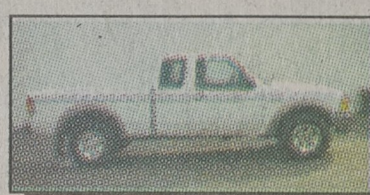
97 Toyota Tacoma 4x4
Local Trade,
Off Road Ready!
***14,363**



98 Ford Windstar GL
Rear Air, Local Trade,
Family Fun!
***14,987**



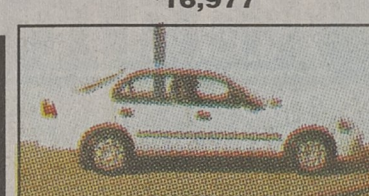
99 Ford F350 Supercab XLT 4x4
Powerstroke Diesel, Red & Ready!
***27,773**



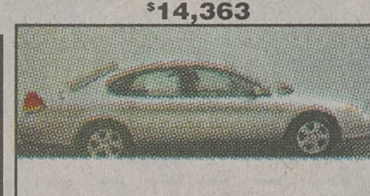
95 Ford Ranger STX Supercab 4x4
Auto, V6, Hard to Find!
***12,242**



97 Chevy Z-71 Xtra Cab
Leather, Conversion,
Like A Rock!
***18,993**



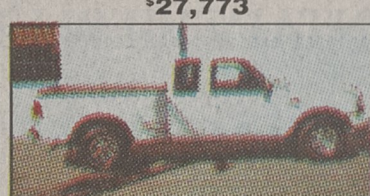
99 Honda Civic LX
Auto, 4 Door,
Hates Gas!
***13,977**



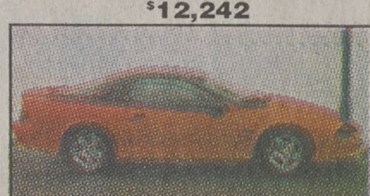
2000 Ford Taurus SE
Auto, Power Package, Power Seat,
Alloys, Large Selection,
Starting At *13,474



99 Ford F150 Lariat
Off Road, Supercab,
The Absolute Kind!
***24,977**



00 Ford Ranger XLT
Supercab, Sportside, Auto, V6,
Loaded, Loaded, Loaded!
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97 Chevy Z-28
T-Tops, Chrome Wheels,
Red & Ready!
***15,777**

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Affordable!
***6,250**

98 Ford Taurus SE
Rainbow
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94 Honda Passport
Auto,
A Steal @
***10,444**

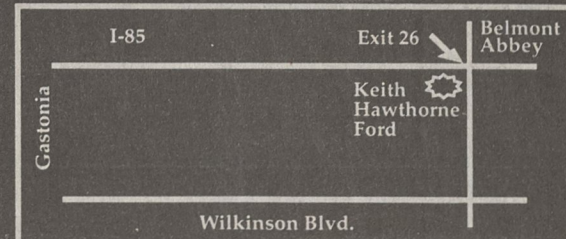
94 Pontiac Grand AM
V6, Leather,
Nice!
***5,551**

98 Ford Escort ZX2
Hates Gas!
***8,833**

99 Ford Escort
Single Digit Miles,
Better Hurry!
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