



# TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

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Robert Scott  
Commissioner

March 31, 2009

To the Students and Educators of Texas:

It is an honor for the Texas Education Agency to partner with the Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund and other organizations in acknowledging the rich history of the Texas Governor's Mansion, the house that belongs to all Texans.

Just a few days after the Governor's Mansion was damaged by fire, fourth grade teacher Sally Hunter contacted the Texas Education Agency with an idea to engage Texas students in the restoration of the Governor's Mansion. It did not take long before Mrs. Hunter's *This House is Your House* unit became a reality.

*This House is Your House* incorporates primary sources that include quotes, census records, letters, photographs and newspaper excerpts to challenge students to understand the historic significance of the mansion and its connection to people of the past. Mrs. Hunter's family, the Waltons, lived in a boarding house close to the mansion. A letter from Lettie Walton to her sister shares her experience spending the day with Mrs. Sam Houston at the Governor's Mansion.

*This House Is Your House* has been developed to be used in classrooms across the State of Texas. This unit of study is aligned to the social studies Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and is designed to engage students in learning about the significance of the Governor's Mansion and the rich heritage of the State of Texas.

During March, Texas History Month, *This House is Your House* has been introduced and is available electronically to teachers and students across Texas for everyone to learn about the heritage of the Texas Governor's Mansion and the significance it has for all the citizens of Texas.

Sincerely,

Robert Scott  
Commissioner of Education