

Falcon Rest Mansion & Gardens

Falcon Rest is a southern classic gem located in McMinnville, TN, less than an hour's drive from Fall Creek Falls State Park. This beautiful, 10,000 square foot Victorian mansion has been called "Tennessee's Biltmore" by PBS. Thousands of tourists visit each year to take in its history and splendor, but also have fun doing so. Fun is the theme for the daily guided mansion tours, as well as the entertaining shows that Falcon Rest offers for tour groups. The mansion is filled with an amazing collection of museum-quality Victorian antiques; however, the emphasis is on the interesting people who have lived there. Manufacturer Clay Faulkner built Falcon Rest in 1896 to entice his wife to move to the country (just 2-1/2 miles from downtown McMinnville) to be closer to his woolen mill across the road.

Falcon Rest's focus on fun is to display Mr. Faulkner's sense of humor, which was demonstrated in the way he advertised the mill's products: **Gorilla Jeans and Pants**. Faulkner's newspaper ads featured whimsical drawings of pants-wearing apes with slogans like "so strong even a gorilla couldn't tear them apart," and "gorilla grip; they'll never rip." His humor served him well and he became the richest man in this part of the country. This allowed him to build his beloved Mary a mansion that was the finest in the region. The Falcon Rest boasted three-brick-thick walls inside and out, closets, and all the "modern conveniences" – indoor plumbing, electric lights,



central steam heat, spring water for refrigeration and air conditioning, and even a telephone.

From the 1940s through the 60s, the building served as a hospital and nursing home before being boarded up and abandoned for years. Falcon Rest was re-opened to the public in 1993, after a 4-1/2 year restoration which won the National Trust's "Great American Home Award." The proprietors, George and Charlien McGlothlin, have devotedly restored this home. They love to share its history and beauty, as well as create a memorable experience for each visitor.

Charlien is the master chef and enjoys serving seasonal meals, while making her guests feel comfortable. George came back to his hometown of McMinnville to restore this glorious mansion and to enjoy what he loves doing most - buying for his Victorian gift store and sharing the many stories about the mansion. Today the mansion is presided over by a friendly ghost – perhaps the proud builder himself. Falcon Rest is open seven days a week from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM for tours, and visitors can find a unique selection of 1890s style treasures in the Victorian Gift Shop, which has been called "an attraction in itself." Falcon Rest's Victorian Carriage House dining room is also a popular setting for weddings and special events. For more information, visit online at www.FalconRest.com or call 931-668-4444.

Tour the Victorian mansion where history is fun ...

In 1896, Clay Faulkner promised his wife "the grandest mansion in Tennessee" if she'd move next to his Gorilla Pants factory. Today, Clay's 10,000 sq. ft. showplace has been called "Tennessee's Biltmore" by PBS, and some say his friendly ghost still watches over his home.

- * Fun-filled guided mansion tours
- * Delicious Tea Room lunches
- * Victorian Gift Shop, named the most unusual in a 14-county area
- * Group shows by reservation

Falcon Rest Mansion and Gardens

2645 Faulkner Springs Rd. | McMinnville, TN
931-668-4444 | www.falconrest.com

Open 9 to 5 Central time seven days a week year round.
Halfway between Chattanooga and Nashville,
just 40 minutes from Fall Creek Falls Park.