

## WEST VIRGINIA'S CAPITOL

## A Place For Everyone

Welcome to the West Virginia State Capitol Complex. Its rich history, beautiful landscape, majestic buildings and impressive statues are a tribute to the splendor and talent found throughout West Virginia. As you walk the grounds, explore the Capitol or tour the Culture Center and the Governor's Mansion, we hope that you will be as amazed by their magnificence as we are. We feel truly honored to live and work here, serving the people of this great state.

The Culture Center showcases our state's rich heritage with changing exhibits and displays highlighting West Virginia's finest artists, craftsmen and performers. Thousands of historical artifacts that trace our state's legacy from prehistory to modern times are featured in the West Virginia State Museum, which offers a wondrous and fascinating adventure for both young and old.

The Governor's Mansion has been home to 18 governors since 1925, and we appreciate being the latest stewards of what is and always will be home to West Virginians everywhere. We invite you to share in its beauty.

We also encourage you to take the time to visit the Veterans Memorial and other sculptures honoring our state's most influential and remarkable people. While on the Capitol grounds we invite you to take advantage of its peaceful setting – take some time to relax and enjoy our Capitol.

Our hope is that you will use this guide as a starting point for a memorable journey that will introduce you to the best of West Virginia, past, present and future.

*Earl Ray Tomblin*

Earl Ray Tomblin  
Governor, State of West Virginia

*Joanne Jaeger Tomblin*

Joanne Jaeger Tomblin  
First Lady, State of West Virginia



### HOW TO GET TO THE WEST VIRGINIA STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX

Located in Charleston  
Interstates 64, 77 and 79 all lead to Charleston.  
From I-64/77 take Exit 99/Greenbrier St.

#### COORDINATES:

38°20'10.66" N, 81°31'44.16" W



#### TO TOUR THE....

State Capitol and Governor's Mansion call  
(304) 558-4839

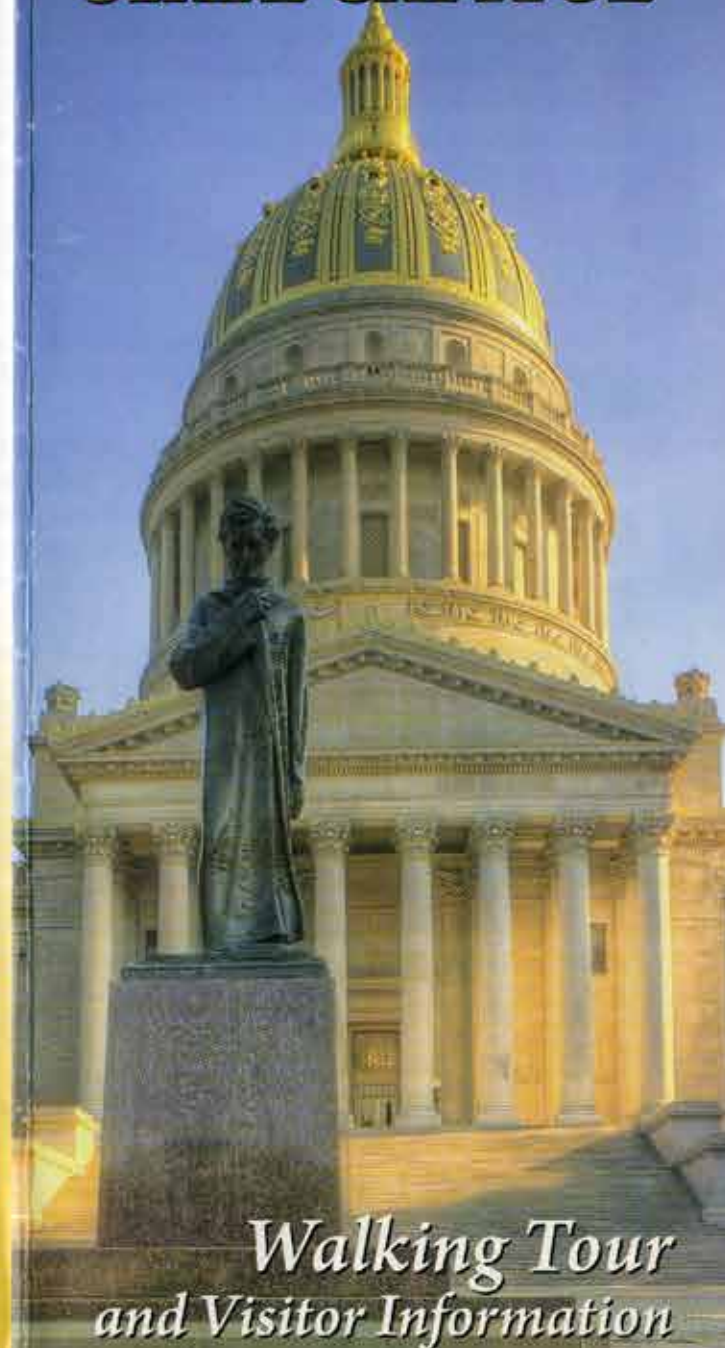
For the Culture Center call  
(304) 558-0162 ext. 185



For more information on traveling West Virginia call  
**1-800-CALL WVA**  
(1-800-225-5982)  
[www.callwva.com](http://www.callwva.com)

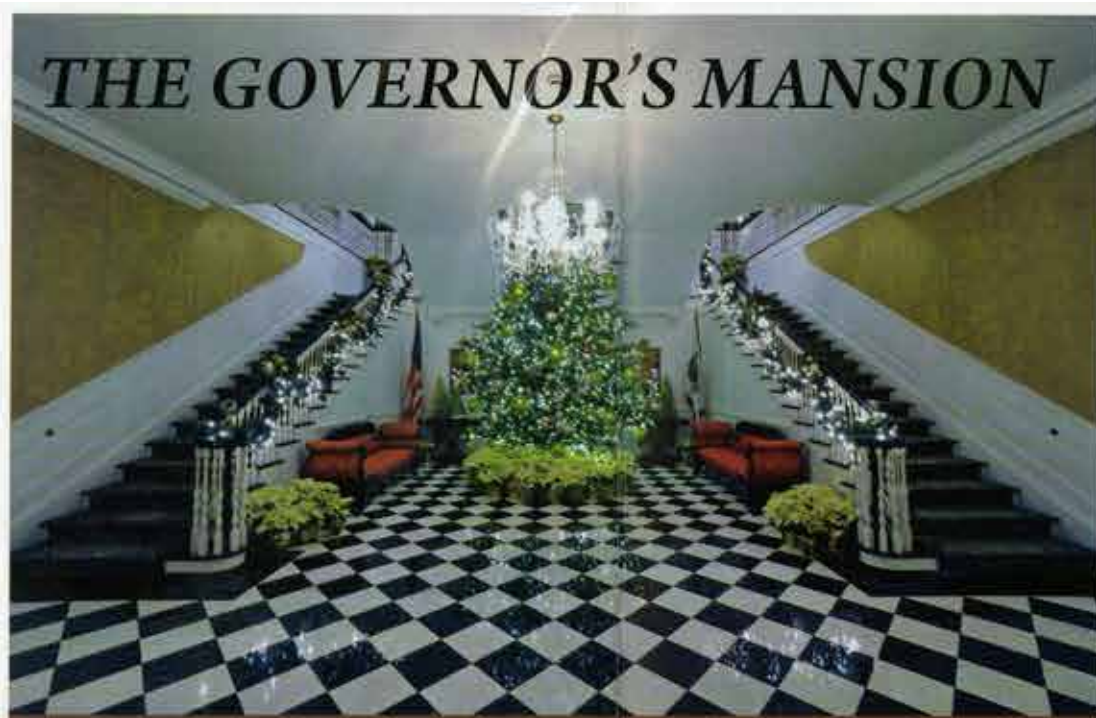
Produced by the  
West Virginia Division of Culture and History  
Photographs by Tyler Evert

## WEST VIRGINIA STATE CAPITOL



### Walking Tour and Visitor Information

## THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION



Across the expansive, tree-shaded grounds from the West Virginia Capitol is the beautiful 30-room executive mansion, home of the Governor and First Lady. The elegantly proportioned Georgian structure is set off by red Harvard brick and white Corinthian columns.

Designed by Charleston architect Walter F. Martens, the Governor's Mansion is a study in refined grace, beginning with its two-story portico supported by four Corinthian columns. To ensure the home would harmonize with the Capitol architecture, Martens consulted with the Capitol architect, Cass Gilbert, and discovered his design sketch was practically identical to one Gilbert had done. The mansion, along with the rest of the Capitol, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Ground was broken for the Governor's Mansion in 1924 and a year later the home was completed. Governor Ephraim Morgan was the first to occupy the mansion, one week before his term ended in 1925. The garage, service wing and garden were added in 1926, and 20 years later the slate-covered mansard roof was added to conform to the original plans.

Upon entering the mansion, which overlooks the Kanawha River, the dual Georgian staircases present a dramatic study in grace and symmetry enhanced by the black Belgium and white Tennessee marble floor. Solid, cut crystal finials on the newel posts add elegance to the mahogany staircases. The arched entry portal and restored chandelier are Georgian.

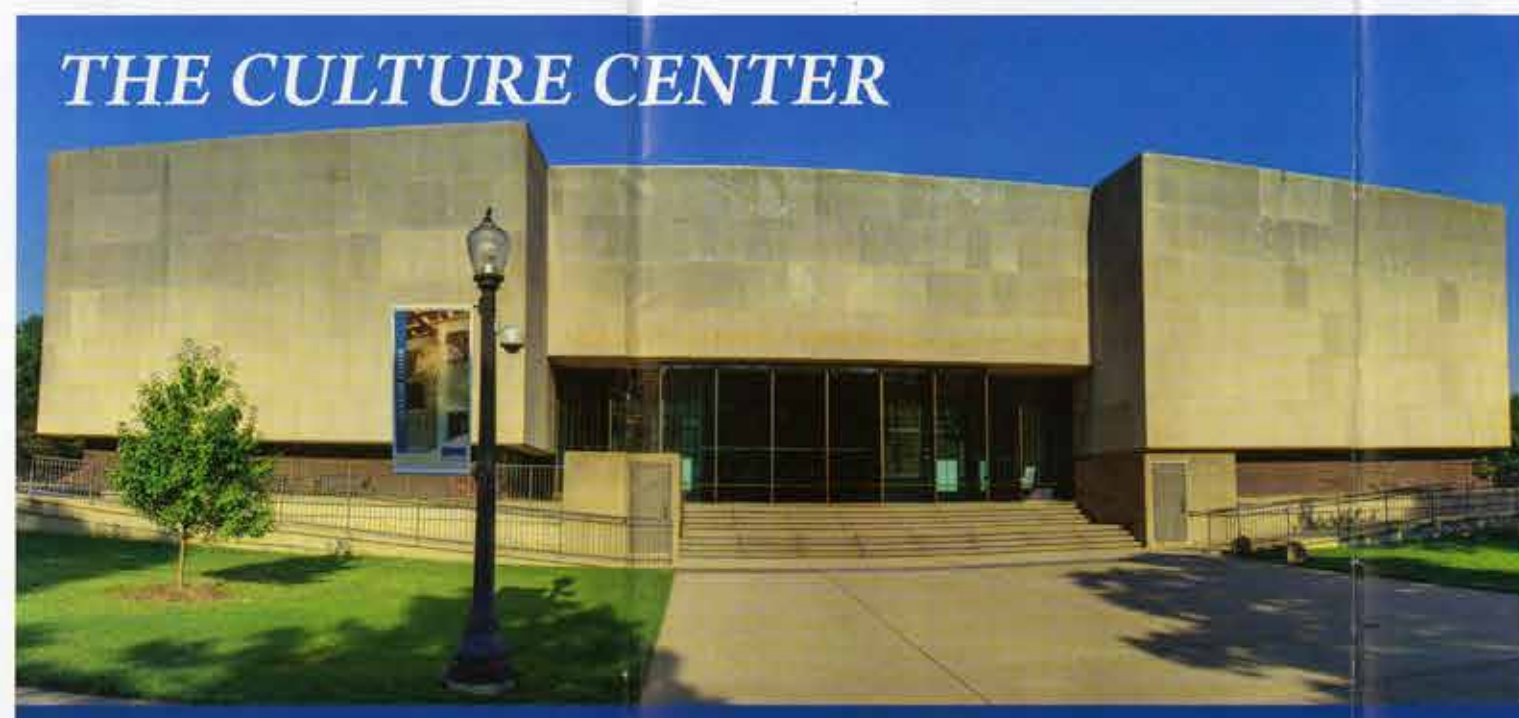
The ground floor of the mansion houses the state rooms, including the Ballroom, which features chandeliers that once hung in Scott's Drug Store on Capitol Street in Charleston and a classic white mantel from an old Irish castle; the State Dining Room that includes a circa 1820 banquet table with seating for 22 guests and a one-of-a-kind wall mural; the Drawing Room graced with chandeliers from the old Kanawha Hotel in Charleston and a lovely mantel that is a replica from the President's Cottage at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs; and the Library that displays the quality of West Virginia hardwood in the Georgian-style butternut paneling. The second floor of the Governor's Mansion serves as a private residence of the First Family.

The West Virginia Mansion Preservation Foundation Inc. is charged with maintaining and refurbishing the public rooms of the Governor's Mansion.



**Tours of the Governor's Mansion are available by calling (304) 558-4839.**

## THE CULTURE CENTER



The Culture Center, operated by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, opened in 1976 to showcase West Virginia's artistic, cultural and historical heritage. Visit the West Virginia State Museum and contemporary art and historical exhibitions, research your family history in the West Virginia State Archives and History Library, or join in one of the many exciting festivals and events held throughout the year.

The vibrant energy of West Virginia echoes throughout the Culture Center. Whether it is a master fiddler at the Vandalia Gathering folk festival, an awe-inspiring sculpture, the wide-eyed wonder of children connecting with their past or the passion of young dancers at the West Virginia Dance Festival, you will want to come back again and again.

With more than 6,000 artifacts and a thematic path that focuses on natural and human history, arts, music and lifestyles, the West Virginia State Museum offers a dynamic look at West Virginia yesterday and today. Visitors start in a prehistoric forest of 300 million B.C. and wind their way along a changing path that surrounds them with fascinating lands, people and culture. Step into an authentic log cabin. Be present as statesmen debate West Virginia's future. Hear the water dripping in a dark coal mine. Hop onto the red leather stools at a 1950s soda fountain. Watch vintage news films and modern videos that give perspective to our history. Meet the brave men and women who fought for our nation from

the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. The museum is open for self-guided tours and offers special educational programs for student groups that make reservations.

The Archives and History Library welcomes visitors to view documents and research historical and genealogical information. It offers free programs such as a genealogy club, lectures and workshops on personal research and historic events. You will be fascinated by the depth of information available here in the form of letters, diaries, papers, photographs, audiovisual materials, maps, architectural drawings and more.

#### Culture Center Hours

Monday through Saturday - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday - Noon to 5 p.m.

#### West Virginia State Museum Hours

Tuesday through Saturday - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday - noon to 5 p.m.

Monday - Closed, except for the first Monday of the month

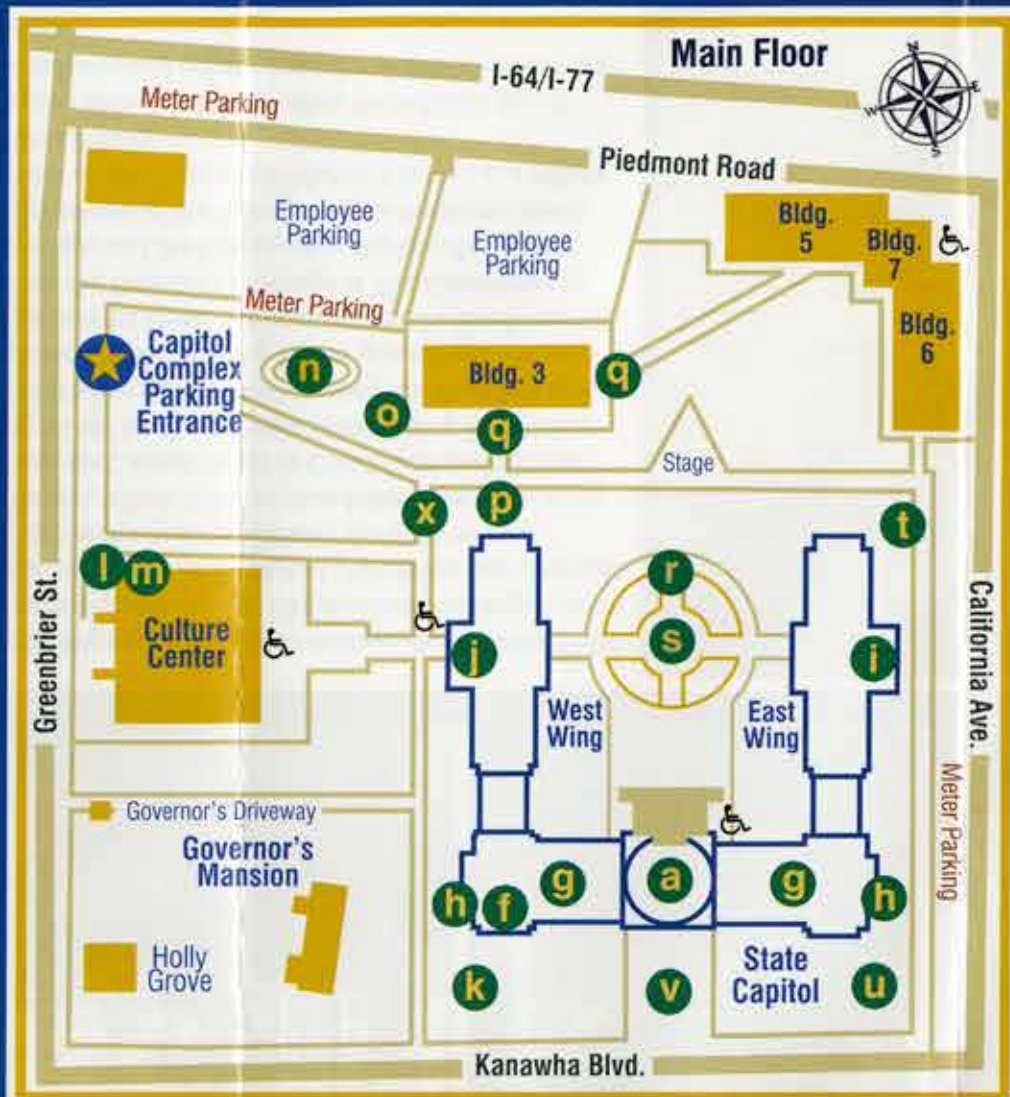
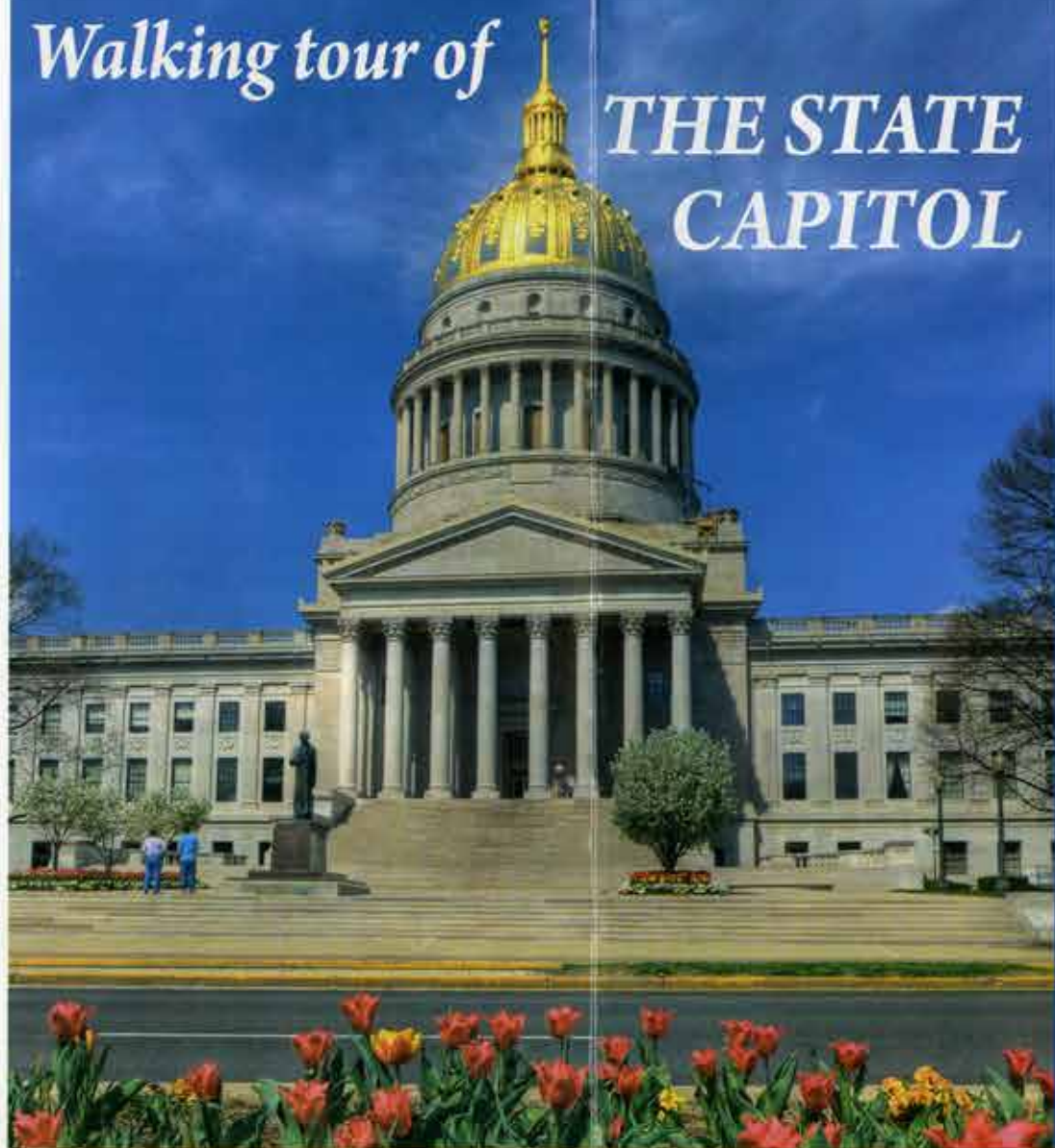
#### Archives and History Library Hours

Monday through Wednesday, Friday and Saturday - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Thursday - 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Sunday - Closed

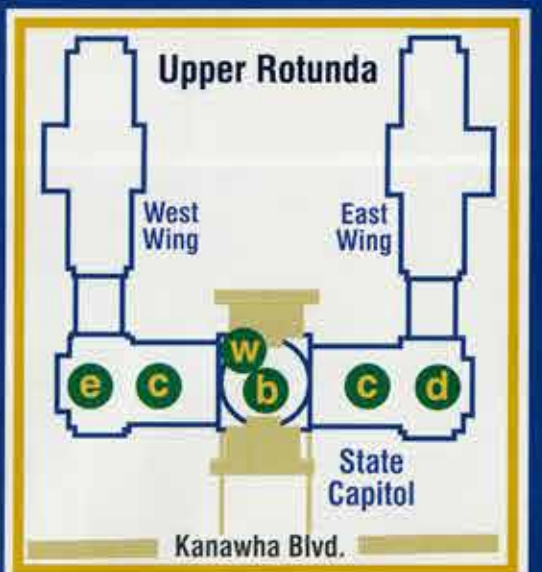




# Walking tour of THE STATE CAPITOL



Experience the history of the great State of West Virginia through the intricate architecture of its Capitol building, grounds, and statuary, and a walk through the Hall of Governors.



The present Capitol took eight years to complete at a cost of just under \$10 million. It was constructed in three stages. The west wing was built in 1924-25; the east wing was constructed in 1926-27; and the rotunda connecting the wings was completed in 1930-32. Governor William G. Conley dedicated the new Capitol on the state's 69<sup>th</sup> birthday, June 20, 1932.

## a ROTUNDA

Two thirds of the interior of the Capitol is marble – Imperial Danby, Italian Travertine and Tennessee. With 535,000 square feet of floor space, the building has 333 rooms in its main unit and two wings.

One of the most impressive views in the Capitol is from the first floor of the columned rotunda looking up toward a handsome chandelier hanging from the peak of the dome. The chandelier hangs on a 54-foot brass and bronze chain, suspended 180 feet from the floor. Made of 10,080 pieces of Czechoslovakian crystal, the 4,000-pound chandelier is eight feet in diameter and is illuminated by 96 light bulbs.

Before leaving the rotunda, take time to read the half-dozen plaques on the walls and look at the busts of Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, a native of western Virginia, and Cleveland M. Bailey, who served 16 years in the U.S. Congress and made major contributions to education and labor.

One of the wall plaques recounts the World War II record of the USS *West Virginia*, which the Japanese sank at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The ship was raised to fight again on May 30, 1942, and took part in numerous campaigns and engagements from 1944 until June 18, 1946, when it was decommissioned at the U.S. Naval Station in Seattle, Washington.

As you continue through the Capitol, notice that the flat wall panels and ceilings are painted and many of the wall niches are empty. Compare this to the ceiling murals in the corridors of the east wing. Architect Cass Gilbert's master plan included a decorative scheme for the interior, but much of the work was left unfinished. Gilbert's vision called for sculpture and mural decorations.

## b UPPER ROTUNDA

When you reach the upper rotunda, walk over to the well and look down on the lower rotunda, then upward to the chandelier for an unobstructed view of this exquisitely crafted work. Note the statue of Robert C. Byrd, who served 51 years in the U.S. Senate and six years in the U.S. House of Representatives, making him the longest-serving senator and longest-serving member of Congress in U.S. history. Byrd, who grew up in the coal-mining community of Stotesbury in Raleigh County, died on June 28, 2010, at the age of 92.

If you exit the Capitol through the doors on either side of the upper rotunda, you will see solid limestone columns supporting the Roman Corinthian portico. These columns weigh 86 tons each.

## c LEGISLATIVE FOYERS

The massive columns in the legislative foyers off the upper rotunda are of solid marble and weigh 34 tons each. Plaster coffers representing the native red oak, magnolia and sugar maple (the state tree) are set in the ceiling above these corridors. Similar coffers also decorate both legislative chambers.

Black and gold Belgian marble columns, capped by Italian alabaster urns, flank each corridor.

On the frieze, or row of five carved symbols just below the ceiling, an owl perched on a book in front of a man's profile represents art and education; the bull with ears of corn framing its face represents agriculture; the round shield, peace pipe and tomahawk represent Native American lore; the scales represent peace and justice; and the six-sided shield with pickaxes represents mining and industry.

## d HOUSE OF DELEGATES CHAMBER

At the east end is the "Lower House"



Although the two chambers are similarly arranged, architect Cass Gilbert designed some symbolic differences that allude to the rank of the lawmaking bodies. Two rows of coffers are in the arches above the Senate's public galleries; the House has only one row. The ceiling of the Senate is domed and the ceiling in the House is flat. Carved eagles in the Senate have spread wings while the wings of the eagles in the House are closed.

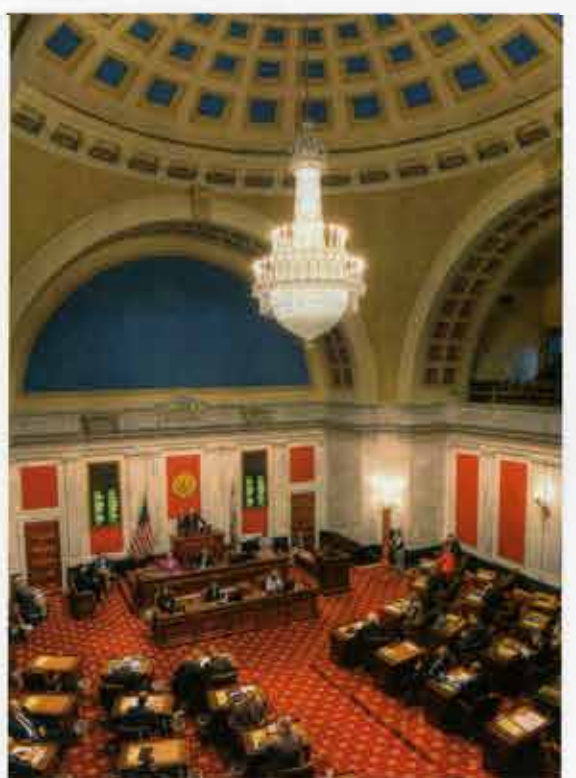
Both houses have three galleries where visitors may observe lawmakers at work. Identical chandeliers of crystal hang in both chambers. The 1,500-pound fixtures contain 10,000 pieces of crystal and about 3,000 pieces of glass beading.

Desks in the Senate and House are hand carved from black walnut. Each of the 34 senators and 100 delegates has his or her own desk. Above the dais in both chambers you will see a replica of the Great Seal of West Virginia, hand carved in cherry. In Latin the state's motto is *Montani Semper Liberi*, meaning "Mountaineers Are Always Free."

CLOSED WEEKENDS

## e SENATE CHAMBER

At the west end is the "Upper House"



## f GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION ROOM

CLOSED WEEKENDS

The Governor's Reception Room features a parquet floor laid in a herringbone pattern. The chandeliers and matching wall sconces are 18<sup>th</sup> century antiques.

Tradition dictates the portraits of West Virginia's previous two governors hang in this reception area.

## g HALL OF GOVERNORS

The Hall of Governors features portraits and biographical information on West Virginia's past chief executives.



## h WEST and EAST ENTRANCE

## i EAST WING j WEST WING

Above the west wing entrance are the heads (left to right) of Vesta, Roman goddess of hearth and family; Neptune, who controlled the rivers; and Ceres, goddess of agriculture.

The east wing entrance shows the heads (left to right) of Mercury, who presided over commerce; Vulcan, celestial artist and architect; and Minerva, goddess of wisdom.

The walls of the west wing are pink Tennessee marble. Look up at the beautiful painted ceiling. The panels of women carrying leafy branches and sheaves of wheat were painted on canvas in a studio and then applied to the ceiling. The designs surrounding the panels were painted in place. Similar artwork graces the ceiling of the east wing. Notice again the coffered ceiling representing native trees.

## EXTERIOR OF THE CAPITOL

The exterior of the Capitol is buff Indiana limestone. More than 700 train carloads of limestone and 4,640 tons of steel were used in its construction. A special spur rail line was laid on the grounds to ship needed materials to the construction site.

The magnificent 293-foot gold dome that tops the structure is five-feet higher than the dome of the U.S. Capitol.

The architect's original plans called for gilding the dome's ribs, tower, lantern, staff and eagle with gold leaf and painting the flat

panels between the ribs. From 1988 to 1991, the entire dome was gilded in 23 1/2 karat gold leaf applied to the copper and lead roof in tiny 3 3/8 inch squares.

The dome was restored to its original design, and a dedication was held on September 30, 2005.



The statuary around the beautifully landscaped grounds honors West Virginians for extraordinary contributions to the state and nation.

**k Soldiers and Sailors Monument** by sculptor Roy Stewart was commissioned by the state's Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Commission in 1927 as a memorial to the 32,000 West Virginians who fought for the Union during the Civil War.

**l Fallen Partner** is a memorial to West Virginia law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Commissioned by the West Virginia Fraternal Order of Police, it was dedicated in May 1990 and is the work of Sutton sculptor Bill Hopen.

**m Fallen Firefighter Memorial** by James E. Lykins and dedicated to firefighters who died in the line of duty was commissioned by the West Virginia Firemen's Association and was erected September 9, 1994.

**n West Virginia Veterans Memorial** records the names of more than 11,000 West Virginians who gave their lives in World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The memorial designed by P. Joseph Mullins was dedicated on November 11, 1995.

**o The West Virginia Female Veterans statue** designed by P. Joseph Mullins and dedicated to all female veterans was unveiled at a special ceremony on November 11, 2011.

**p Booker T. Washington**, a famous African-American educator, spent his early life in Malden near Charleston. Washington established the country's first vocational school for African Americans in Alabama in 1881. Sculptor Bill Hopen of Sutton created the likeness, which was erected here in 1985.

**q Spirit of West Virginia**, above the east entrance to the Department of Motor Vehicles building, is a ceramic plaque depicting the "Spirit of West Virginia" surrounded by symbols of the state's industry and natural resources. The south entrance displays the winged tire, symbol of the Department of Motor Vehicles. The sculptures were designed by Paul Jennewein.

**r The Liberty Bell** was presented to the state in commemoration of a 1950 U.S. savings bond drive. Identical to the original Liberty Bell in size and tone, the bell is one of 53 cast in France and given to the U.S. government.

**s The fountain in the Capitol Circle** was part of Cass Gilbert's original design. Before this portion of Washington Street was closed in 1988 to create a campus-like atmosphere, cars parked in the circle surrounding the fountain.

**t Mountaineer Soldier** carries a U.S. flag and a musket, representing the home guard who answered President Lincoln's call to arms in 1861. Sculptor Henry K. Bush-Brown created the statue, which was dedicated in 1912 on the grounds of the downtown Capitol and moved to the present day Capitol later.

**u "Stonewall" Jackson** was the first statue erected on the Capitol grounds. A Confederate general in the Civil War, Thomas Jonathan Jackson was born in Clarksburg and grew up at Jackson's Mill in Lewis County. The United Daughters of the Confederacy commissioned Moses Ezekiel to design the bronze statue to honor soldiers from western Virginia who fought for the Confederacy. The statue was dedicated in 1910 on the Capitol grounds, then located downtown.

**v Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight** was originally designed by Fred Torrey of Fairmont in the late 1930s. Based on Vachel Lindsay's poem of the same title, the sculpture depicts Lincoln contemplating the nation torn apart by civil war. Torrey died in 1967 and Charleston sculptor Bernie Wiepper was contracted to reproduce this nine and one-half foot statue from Torrey's original model.

**w The sculpture of Robert C. Byrd, U.S. Senator**, was erected in 1997 to commemorate Byrd's 50 years of public service. Sculpted by artist Bill Hopen of Sutton, the 10-foot bronze statue depicts Byrd holding a copy of the section of the U.S. Constitution that gives Congress the power to appropriate taxpayer money.

**x The Coal Miner Statue** pays tribute to West Virginia's coal heritage. The statue sculpted by Burl Jones depicts an underground miner. The six-sided pedestal includes a number of bas-relief plaques featuring different periods in the state's mining history and the various technologies used to extract coal.



For Capitol and Governor's Mansion tour information or reservations, call (304) 558-4839.