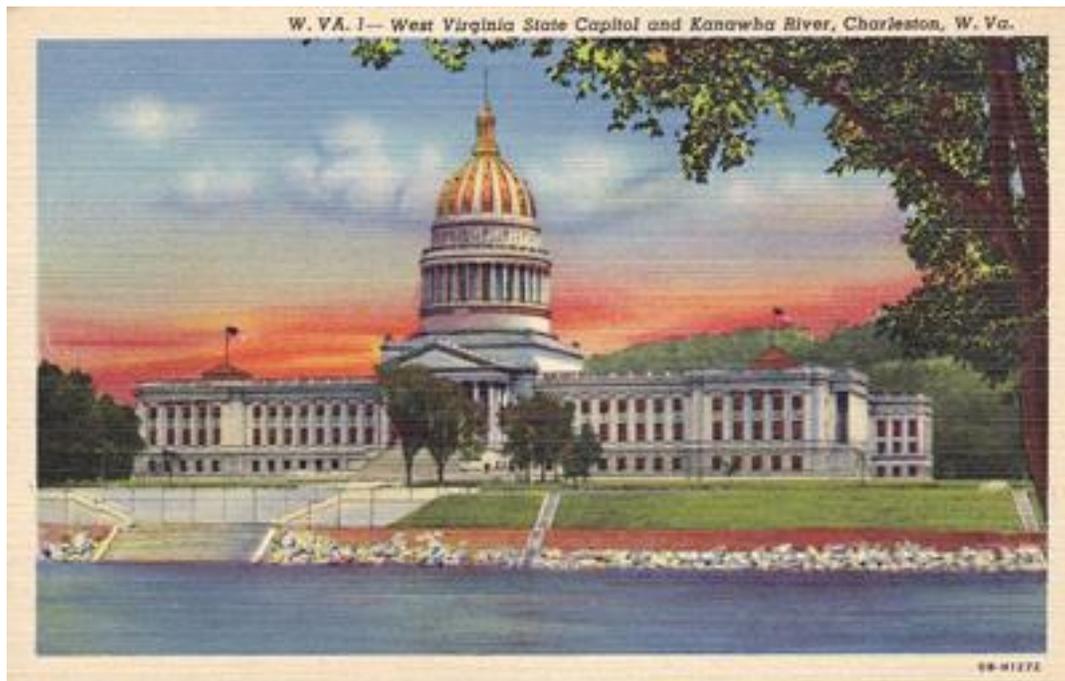
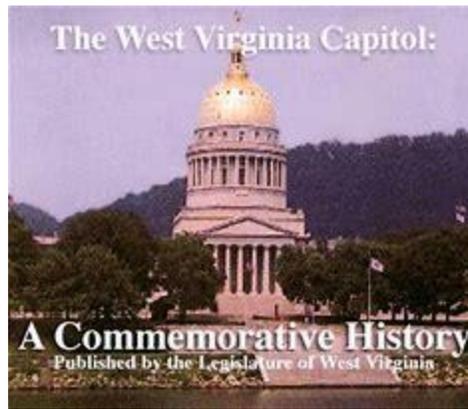


West Virginia Capitol Building





http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Educational/Capitol_History/cap.cfm

The Early Capitol Locations

Upon viewing the Capitol Complex in Charleston, one is left with little doubt that the seat of government in West Virginia is securely moored along the north bank of the Kanawha River. Yet, the capitol's location literally floated between the northern and south-central regions of the Mountain State during its spirited one hundred nineteen-year history. During the first twenty years of what could be considered a turbulent period of new statehood, West Virginia grew in population and watched her people gather and shift with the economic tides of industrialization. At the same time, power structures emerged in the developing cities, and the establishment of a permanent seat of government became the political chess piece of the era. The temporary seat of government was located at Wheeling, where statehood was deliberated and finally determined on June 20, 1863. Washington Hall, the site of numerous meetings and assemblies concerning the proposed 35th state, is now popularly known as "The Birthplace of West Virginia."



Linsly Institute Building in Wheeling; the first state capitol.

The first official Capitol Building, however, was the Linsly Institute building, erected in 1858. This site served as the capital of West Virginia for seven years, until the Legislature selected Charleston as the "permanent" seat. On March 28, 1870, state officials met at the levee

in Wheeling to board *The Mountain Boy*, a steamer laden with state records and other properties, to make the journey down the Ohio River and up the Great Kanawha to the new capital city.



Artist's rendering of the first Charleston capitol.

The first Charleston Capitol was built in 1869-70 by the State House Company, a corporation headed by Dr. John P. Hale, a prominent Charleston physician and historian. Located at Capitol and Lee Streets in downtown Charleston, it remained the State Capitol until the Legislature elected to return the seat of government to Wheeling in May of 1875. State officials again made the journey (May 21-May 23) on steamers: the *Emma Graham* to Parkersburg and from there to Wheeling on the Chesapeake. The citizens of Charleston filed an injunction to prevent the removal of state archives and records, but failed to halt the transfer to Wheeling. The properties of the growing state required two barges and the steamer *Iron Valley* for transport in September of 1875.



The second Wheeling Capitol

While awaiting the completion of a new capitol building in Wheeling, the facility housing the boy's school (established in 1814 by Wheeling lawyer Noah Linsly) was used a second time. The newly constructed facility was financed by the city of Wheeling, and when the seat of government was ultimately moved from there in 1885, the city found many uses for the stone structure both for municipal and county purposes. As the result of an election on a statewide basis, where the cities of Martinsburg, Clarksburg and Charleston received votes, in the fall of 1877 Governor Jacob issued a proclamation declaring that, after eight years, Charleston, having received the majority of the vote, was to be the permanent seat of government.



Artist's rendering of the second Charleston Capitol

When the time for removal from Wheeling came, May 1, 1885, the state personages and properties embarked once again on steamers, the Chesapeake and the Bell Prince with the barge Nick Crawley in tow. The second Charleston capitol, and the fourth building used as the official home of the government, was erected on

the same downtown site at a total cost of \$389,923.58, including the cost of the building and grounds of the first Charleston capitol which had been transferred to the state by the State House Company. This building occupied a block in the city between Washington and Lee and Capitol and Dickinson Streets, was of brick and stone construction, and with the addition of the Capitol Annex several years later at the corner of Hale and Lee Streets, adequately served the needs and business of state government.



Burning of the picturesque downtown Charleston capitol, January 1921

In the afternoon of January 3, 1921, plumes of smoke were seen rising from the top of the capitol and soon thousands of spectators, including Governor Cornwell who emerged from a

side door, witnessed the complete destruction of the picturesque vine-clad building with a clock tower. Many important records were saved for posterity because the State Law Library, the State Historical Library, the Archives and the State Museum were all housed in the Capitol Annex. Spectators viewing the burning were also treated to a rare display of fireworks, as thousands of rounds of ammunition, confiscated as a result of recent unrest in the coalfields, exploded and fueled the raging flames. Almost immediately plans were being formulated to rebuild a new capitol, the likes of which few people would imagine.

A temporary office building was speedily erected in forty-two working days after January 14, 1921, at a cost of \$225,000, of wood and wallboard construction at the Daniel Boone Hotel site. That same year a State Capitol Commission was created during an extraordinary session of the Legislature when seven members were selected to choose an architect and find a 'suitable location for a complex of buildings of impressive structure which would serve the needs of state government in a practical sense for a long time to come'. The "Pasteboard Capitol" and other Charleston buildings would serve as temporary offices and houses for the state courts and Legislature for several years to come as the steps were carefully and decisively taken for the construction of a permanent and enduring monument to West Virginia's statehood.

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History of the Capitol

<https://generalservices.wv.gov/history-of-the-capitol/pages/default.aspx>

Before the Capitol was located in its current location in Charleston, several West Virginia cities had served as capitol for the State of West Virginia. The first capitol was located in Wheeling from 1863-1870 in the Linsly Institute Building. It was moved to downtown Charleston from 1870-1875. The state's capitol then moved back to Wheeling, where it remained from 1875-1885, partially in the Linsly Building and later in an original structure constructed by the city of Wheeling. The capitol returned to Charleston in 1885, where it remains in present day. The capitol was located in downtown Charleston from 1885-1921, then moved to the "Pasteboard Capitol" from 1921 to March of 1927.



The present Capitol took eight years to complete at a cost of just under \$10 million. Cass Gilbert, a New York native, was appointed chief architect of the building in 1921. The state purchased 65 pieces of property between California Avenue and Duffy Street for the building's foundation. George A. Fuller Company was awarded the general construction, and a steam shovel was moved on site and a groundbreaking service was held on January 7, 1924.



It was constructed in three stages: the West Wing was built in 1924-25, and East Wing was constructed in 1926-27. The rotunda connecting the wings was completed in 1932. Governor William G. Conley dedicated the new Capitol on the state's 69th birthday, June 20, 1932. The total cost of construction of the Capitol was \$9,491,180.03.

The Capitol holds 530,000 square feet of floor space and 333 rooms in its main unit and two wings. It encompasses more than 14 acres of floor space. Two thirds of the interior consists of marble. The walls are made of Imperial Danby, and the floors are a combination of white Vermont marble and dark Italian travertine. The Rotunda features a chandelier hanging from a 54 foot brass and bronze chain. The 4,000-pound chandelier is eight feet in diameter, made of 10,080 pieces of Czechoslovakian crystal, and illuminated by 96 light bulbs.

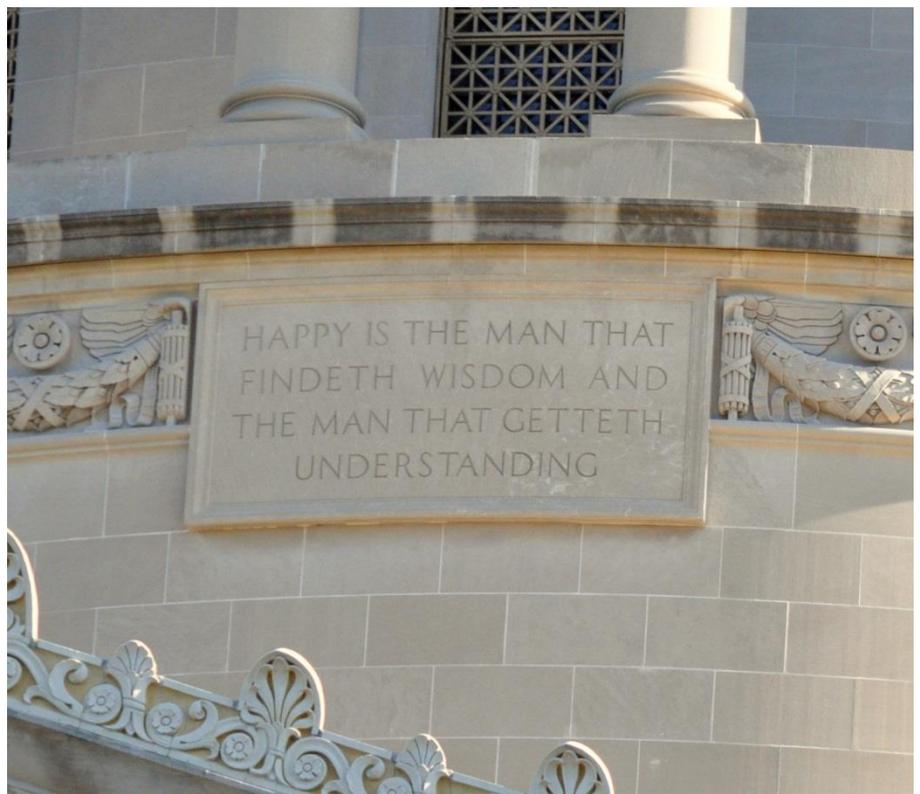


The exterior of the Capitol is made out of buff Indiana limestone. More than 700 train carloads of limestone and 4,640 tons of steel were used in its construction.

Two biblical inscriptions are carved in stone tablets on the north and south bases of the Capitol dome.

On the north side: "Wisdom is the principle thing. Therefore, get wisdom. And with all of thy getting, get understanding."

On the south side: "Happy is the man that findth wisdom and getteth understanding."





“Capitol Faces”

Twelve carved mythological figures look out from the keystone position over the arched entrances into the Capitol Building. Note the details that distinguish these figures from each other. The artist also designed the bronze doors at the United States Supreme Court Building in Washington, DC, in collaboration with his son John Donnelly, Jr. (John Donnelly, Sr. 1924 - 1930)

Roman names in bold type - Greek in italics

West Entrance of the Main Building



Vesta (*Hestia*)

Goddess of the hearth, guardian of family life; her temple's fires were kindled by rays of the sun and maintained by Vestal Virgins

Neptune (*Poseidon*)

Reigning god of the oceans and rivers; bearer of the trident; creator of horses and patron of horse races

Ceres (*Demeter*)

Goddess of agriculture; daughter of Saturn and Rhea; bestower of grains and knowledge of agriculture upon mankind; mother of Proserpine; most revered of all Goddesses

West Entrance to East Wing



Hera (*Juno*)

Wife and sister of Jupiter; queen of the gods; goddess of marriage and children; the calends (firsts) of the months were sacred to her as were the ides sacred to Jupiter

(*Prometheus*)

Titan who taught mankind the use of fire against the will of Zeus; punished by being chained to a rock where a vulture ate away at his liver; symbol of suffering and strength resisting wrong

(*Perseus*)

Son of Zeus and slayer of Medusa; married Andromeda after rescuing her from a sea monster; they are joined for eternity in the constellation Cassiopeia

East Entrance of the Main Building



Mercury (*Hermes*)

Messenger of Jupiter; god of commerce; gymnastics; endeavors requiring skill and dexterity; inventor of the lyre

Vulcan (*Hephaestus*)

The celestial artist; son of Jupiter and Juno; husband of Venus; forger of thunderbolts; architect; smith; armorer; chariot-builder

Minerva (*Pallas Athene*)

Goddess of wisdom; daughter of Jupiter; the divinity associated with the useful and ornamental arts

East Entrance to West Wing



Fortuna

The goddess of fortune or chance, holder of a double rudder that steered the courses of man's destiny

Jupiter (Zeus)

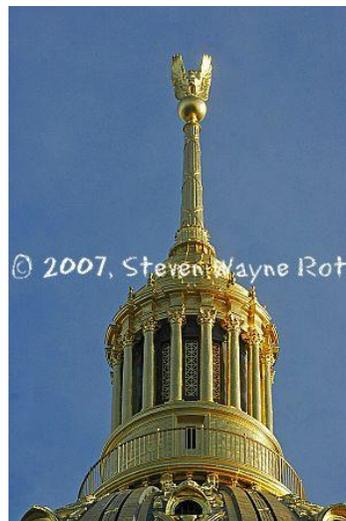
Ancient god of the heavens; most prominent of the Olympic deities; king of gods and men; bearer of the magic shield Aegis; eagles bore his thunderbolts

Hercules

Son of Jupiter and the mortal Alcoma; persecuted by his father's jealous queen (Hera); completed twelve labors to escape her wrath and was considered the champion of the earth

The Dome, Lantern, Staff, and Eagle

The 293-foot gold dome atop the capitol is five feet higher than the dome of the United States Capitol. The dome is covered in copper, and covered with gold leaf. The dome was originally gilded by Mack, Jenney and Tyler Company in 1931. The dome was restored to the original plans of Cass Gilbert in 2005, which included the reconstruction of the eagle at the top of a 25-foot bronze spire built on a 34 and a half-foot lantern.



<http://www.stevenrotsch.com/West%20Virginia%20State%20Capitol%20HTML/index.htm>

<https://wisemancorp.com/portfolio-items/restorations-renovations-to-the-wv-capitol-dome/>

On October 14, 2005, a full year ahead of schedule, the new gilding on the capitol dome was unveiled. The dome now has gold-framed panels with gilt bas-relief as originally intended by the designer. Dark gray paint is the highlighting background for the gilded designs: an eagle, a pair of American flags flanking an aegis (a shield from Greek mythology), and other symbols.

This is the first time the West Virginia state capitol building dome has been finished exactly the way it was supposed to be. The original design of the dome was based on the building in Paris that houses Napoleon's tomb, the Hotel National des Invalides. That dome is partially gilded, and its lantern is completely gilded. Like Les Invalides, the original capitol dome was finished with gold leaf and a gray (lead-colored) field.

Many of our state capitols have domes, and several of them are gilded, as is West Virginia's. Many also have cupolas, or lanterns, on top of the domes. This is the only one with a lantern that is completely gilded.

<http://www.tigerleaf.com/statecapitols/ta-on-dome.htm>

It's almost impossible for a West Virginian to go without seeing painting contractor W.Q. Watters Company's mark of influence in the state.

And W.Q. Watters isn't finished. It's preparing to paint the state Capitol's interior and exterior again later this year. The work will be done in phases, with the painters starting with the iconic dome outside and working their way inside to paint the House of Delegates and Senate chambers.

"We had to match what [original Capitol architect] Cass Gilbert put in there when it was built," Thaxton said of previous jobs painting the Capitol. "It's all historical."



The color adorning the Capitol dome is made up of gold leaf sheets applied in small squares. At his office in the contractor's location on Kanawha State Forest Drive, Thaxton showed off one of these gold leaf sheets, noting that it's "thinner than cigarette paper" and just as light.

"This here is real gold," he said. "In order to put this stuff down, you clean the surface all up, and you put an adhesive on it. You have to brush [the surface] to generate electricity."

When the gold leaf sheet touches the surface, "It's done," he said. Then the next sheet is applied, and so on, all fitting together like a puzzle on the Capitol dome or elsewhere.

https://www.wvgazette.com/business/contractor-w-q-watters-builds-on-a-history-of-painting/article_1ac1ead2-8529-5e8e-b682-5079e7f74eeb.html





Above: Between the outer and inner domes

Capitol Architectural Quirks, Often Unnoticed, Add to Statehouse's Charm

http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Wrapup/pdfs/Vol.XVII_issue5.pdf

The Capitol, in fact, contains just as many intricacies as a piece of legislation, but instead of being written on paper, these complexities are etched in stone and carved in wood.

It is in this historic building, designated in 1994 as one of the greatest state capitol buildings in the United States by the Building Owners and Managers Association International, that workers and legislators – busy with the day's work – often overlook the complexities and quirks of the building in which West Virginia's Legislature is housed. In fact, there are many sights and details that when noticed or revealed, are followed by an, "I've worked here all these years, and I never knew that."

For instance, construction on the State Capitol began in 1924 and was completed in 1932, taking eight years to construct Cass Gilbert's design, full of

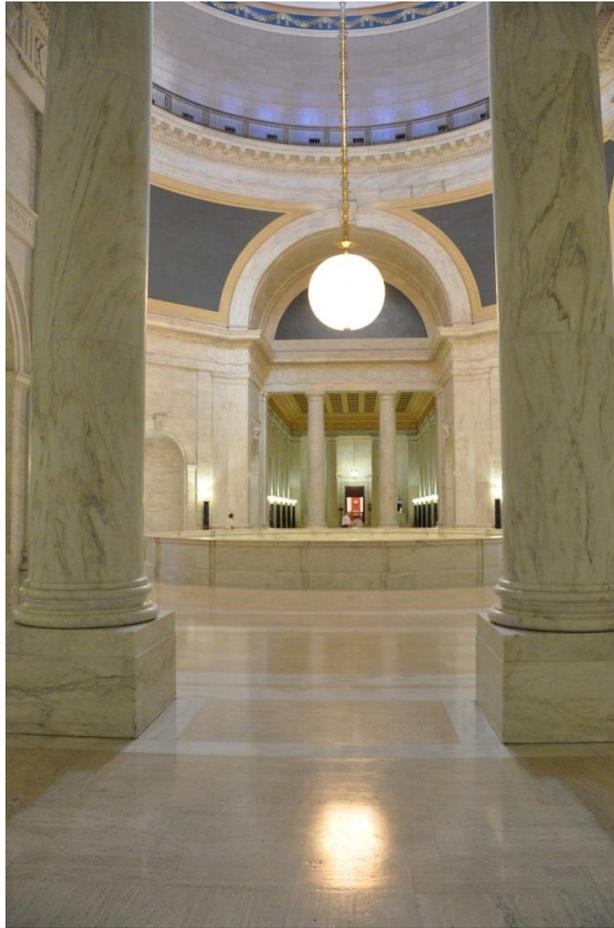
marble columns, rich paints and ceiling rosettes. The West Wing, which houses the Senate, was completed after one year of construction that began in 1924 and ended in 1925. The East Wing was the next section of the Capitol to be constructed, beginning in 1926 and ending in 1927. Capping off the Capitol's completion was the installment of the Capitol's center – the Rotunda – which was built from 1930-1932.

The final price of building the complex was \$9.5 million, a price paid in full upon completion. If West Virginia were to rebuild the Statehouse in its entirety, exactly as it stands now, it would come at a price that is unaffordable – as one Cultural Center worker stated, the Capitol is literally “priceless.”



Ceiling Rosettes - Front Portico photo: Martin Valent

Once atop the spacious stairways at either the North or South exterior of the Capitol, one can look directly above to observe examples of the ceiling rosettes. The colonnade of these porticos is styled in the classic Roman Corinthian order, and supports a vaulted ceiling that features square coffered panels containing these rosettes, which represent West Virginia hardwoods.



As she noted, the price of a marble coffee tabletop can run from \$200-\$1,000. But marble pillars are different than coffee tabletops, especially when they are weighed in tons instead of pounds. Two-hundred train carloads of marble were needed to construct the interior of the Capitol building. Moreover, the two support columns in front of both the House and Senate weigh 34 tons. Ultimately, two-thirds of the Capitol's interior is composed of seven different types of marble – literally priceless. The Statehouse is insured for \$200 million.





However, before these details can be noticed and the architecture can be appreciated, lighting is needed. Lining the halls that lead to both the House of Delegates and the Senate are 55 column lights, representing each of West Virginia's 55 counties. These black and gold Belgian marble columns are capped off by translucent alabaster sconces – emanating a soft and golden glow.



Lighting is an important and expensive feature for both houses and the Rotunda area, as well. Although the ceilings in the House and Senate may differ in style and structure, the chandeliers that dangle from the center of the room are equal in grandiose proportion and price. Together, both chandeliers are worth \$500,000.

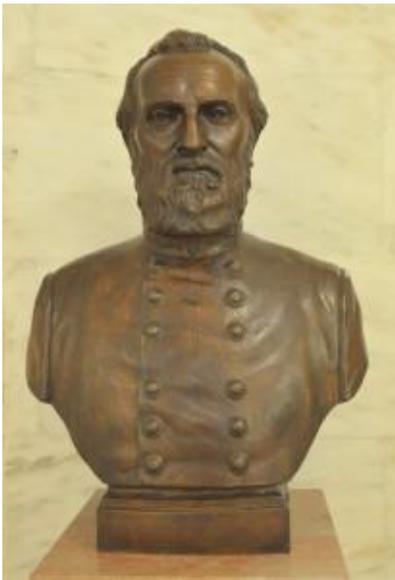


The chandelier in the center of the Rotunda, though, is on a much more grand scale than those lights that hang in both houses. The central light measures in at eight feet in diameter and weighs 4,000 pounds. It takes 96 light bulbs to illuminate the 10,080 Czech Republic Crystals that make up the chandelier. Every four years, the chandelier is lowered for cleaning; then the panels of crystal are removed and dipped into a warm rinse.

The dome that encases the Rotunda is just as noteworthy. The recently remodeled, gray and gold-leafed dome is the fourth largest dome in the United States. And, although the dome is smaller in diameter than the U.S. Capitol, West Virginia's Capitol dome is 4 1/2 feet taller than the Capitol in Washington, D.C.



In his design, Gilbert not only decorated and embellished the walls, floors and Rotunda areas of the Capitol, but he also made sure that the ceilings that lead to the both House chambers were equally as extravagant. Visitors see plaster molded rosettes that appear to be blossoming from the ceiling. These medallions, though, are more than a decoration for the ceiling; they are a reflection of the state’s environment. Carved from plaster, the rosettes are sculpted to resemble the leaves of three prominent pieces of foliage: Sugar Maple (the state tree), Magnolia and Red Oak.



“Stonewall” Jackson



Labor Leader “Cleve” Bailey

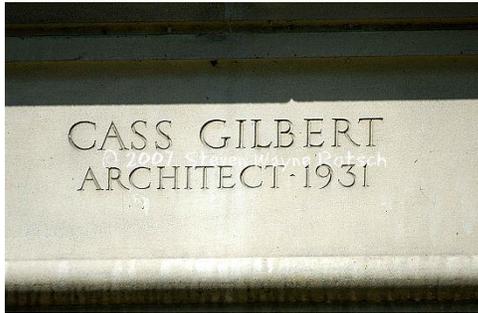


Anna Jarvis (Founder of Mother’s Day)

The Capitol is a complex building, all of its 333 rooms. In “Trivial Pursuit” fashion, every aspect of its architecture could be the answer to a West Virginia history question. For example, Anna Jarvis’ bust is the only statue of a female on the Statehouse grounds. Moreover, two U.S. Presidents are honored within the Capitol Grounds: Abraham Lincoln is featured in a statue that faces the Kanawha River, and a plaque in the stairwell that leads to the Capitol basement features an excerpt from John F. Kennedy’s Inaugural Address.

Another fact: Before 1995, when the House Chamber was remodeled, three electrical outlets were all that were provided for the state’s 100 delegates. After the remodeling was complete, each Delegate was allotted two outlets – one for a computer and one for a lamp. The elevators in the center part of the building are numbered in European fashion beginning with Basement, Ground (as compared to first), First (often thought of as second), and Second (which is more like the third).

Some of the Capitol's greatest charm exudes from its little quirks – either etched in stone or painted on an edifice. This isn't always noticed.



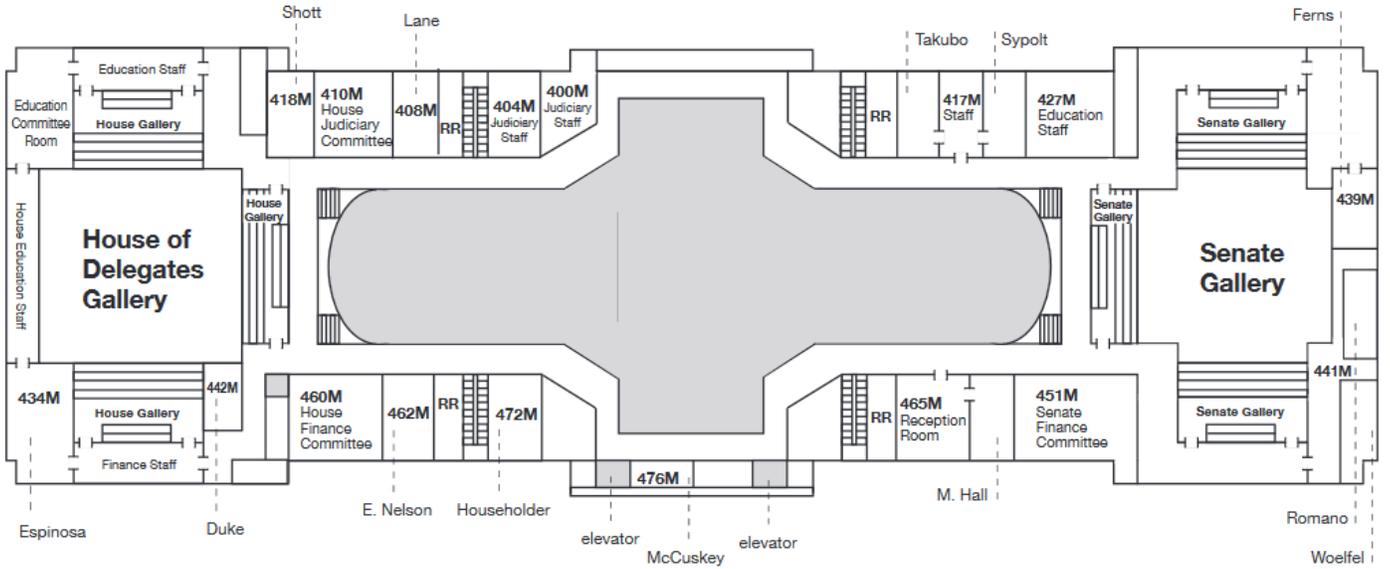
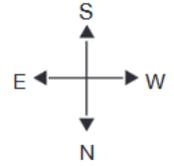
Despite the detailed halls and ceilings, floors and doorways of the West Virginia Capitol, Gilbert's overall scheme will forever be incomplete – on the brink of being fully realized. He designed the U. S. Supreme Court building and U.S. Chamber of Commerce, but the West Virginia Capitol is not completely finished. In the Rotunda's center, blue panels that were originally intended to feature murals of the Mountain State encircle the upper well. Before his vision was fully realized, Gilbert passed away. The panels will remain empty and blue, honoring Gilbert's design and the murals he envisioned when he first drew the blueprints in 1924. Even without them, the building, itself, is full of just as much history as it has marble – a priceless Statehouse.



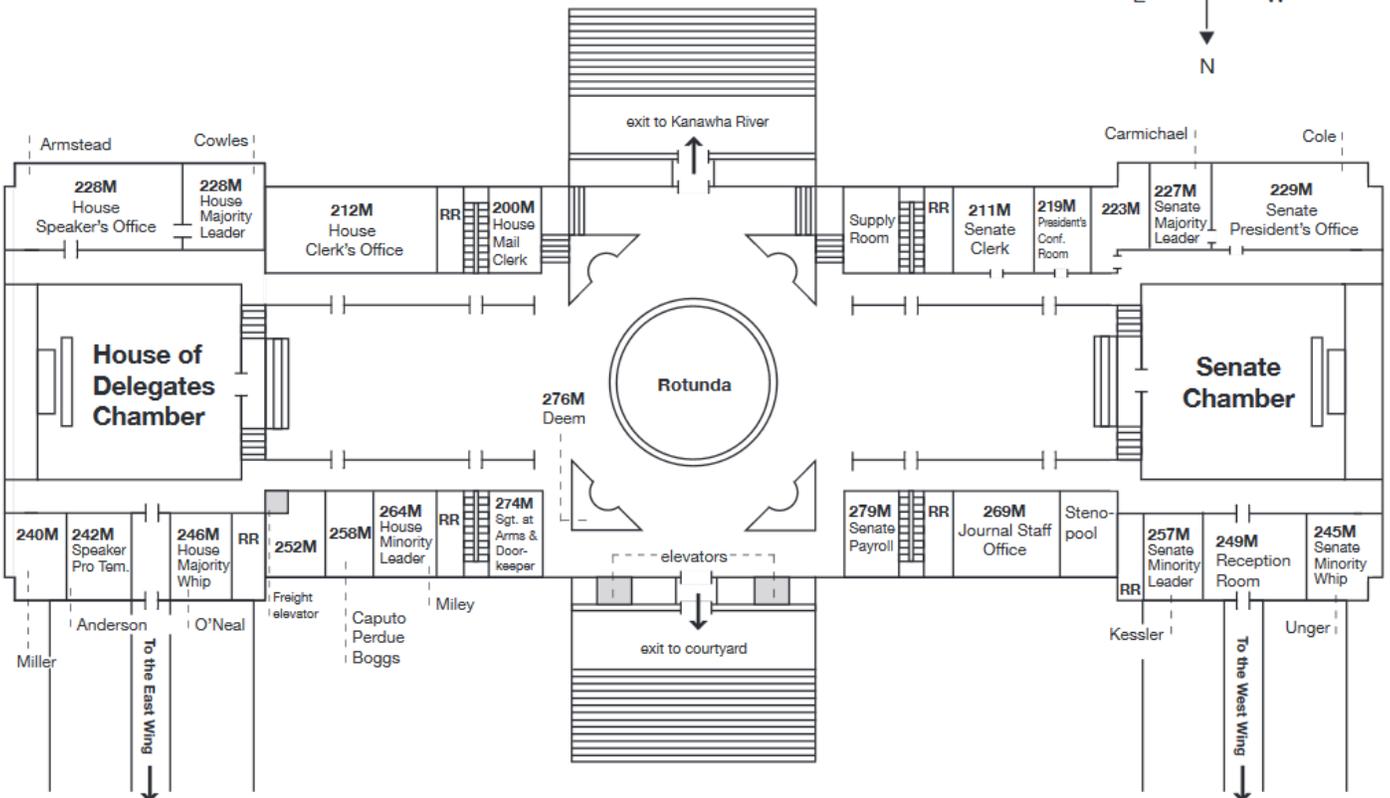
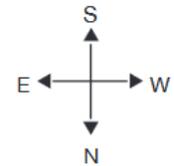
These solid limestone pillars, weighing 86 tons (172,000 lbs.) each, line the porticoes of the Capitol's north and south main entrances.

(Floor plans show office assignments of Legislators from previous years – they are not accurate now.)

Main Building - Third Floor



Main Building - Second Floor





The friezes just below the ceilings of the Rotunda and Legislative Foyers have a repeating pattern of five carved symbols; an owl perched on a book in front of a man's profile representing art and education; a bull with ears of corn framing its face representing agriculture; a round shield, peace pipe and tomahawk representing Native American lore, scales representing peace and justice; and the six sided shield with pickaxes representing mining and industry.





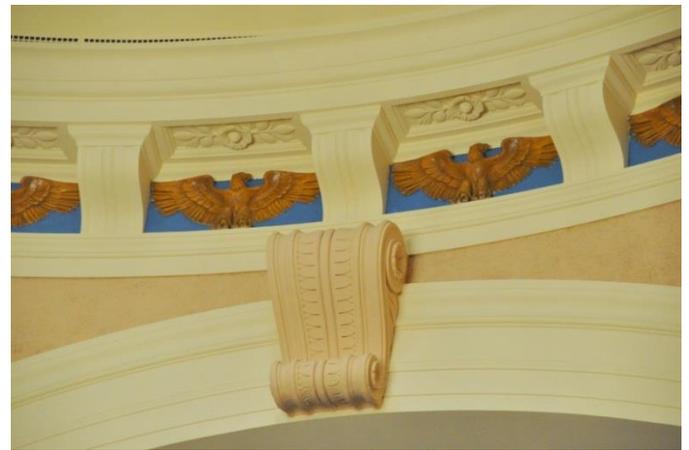
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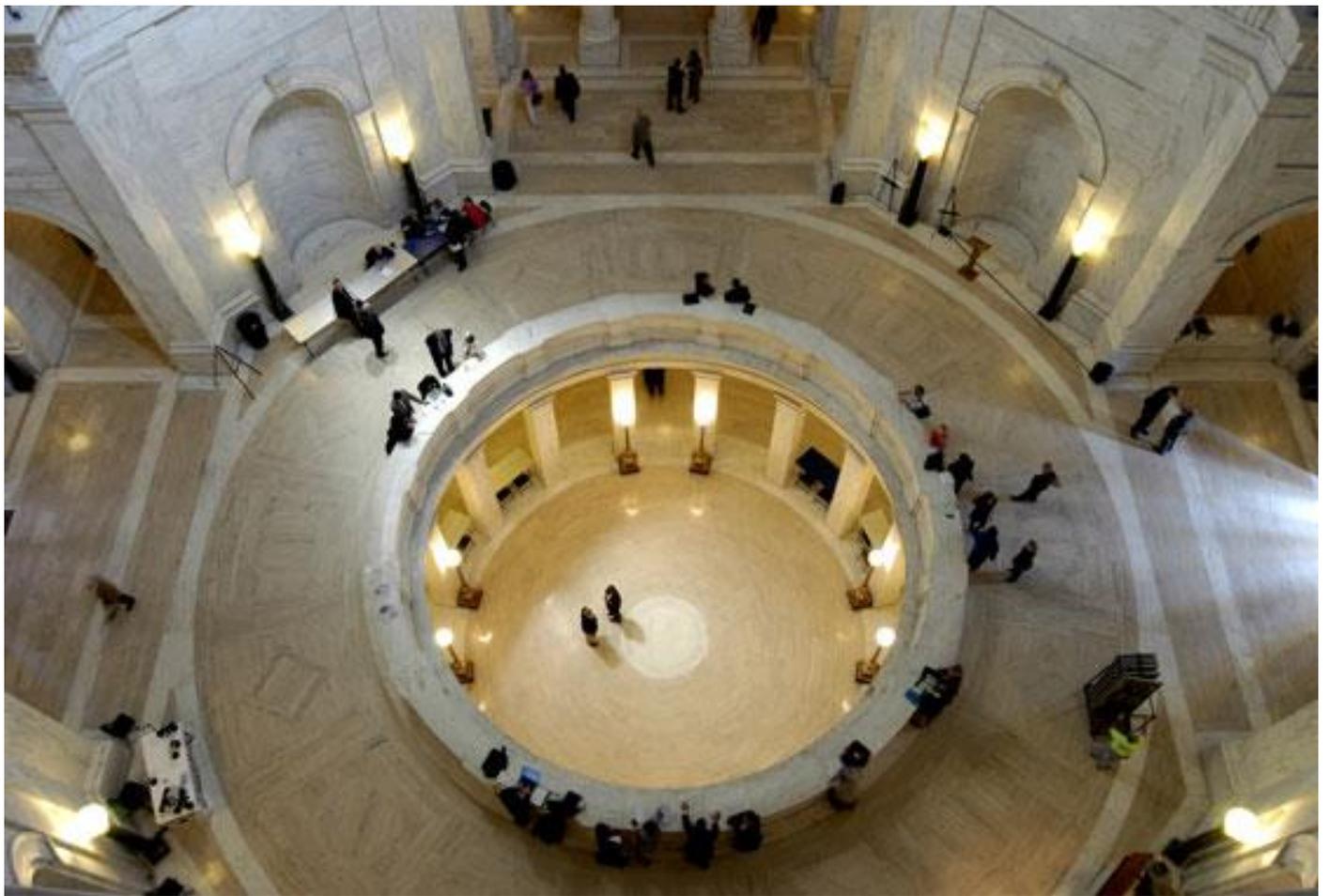
The House of Delegates Chamber has 1 row of Rosettes, Eagles with folded wings in the frieze, and a flat ceiling.

The Senate Chamber has 2 rows of Rosettes, Eagles with spread wings, and a domed ceiling.

House

Senate









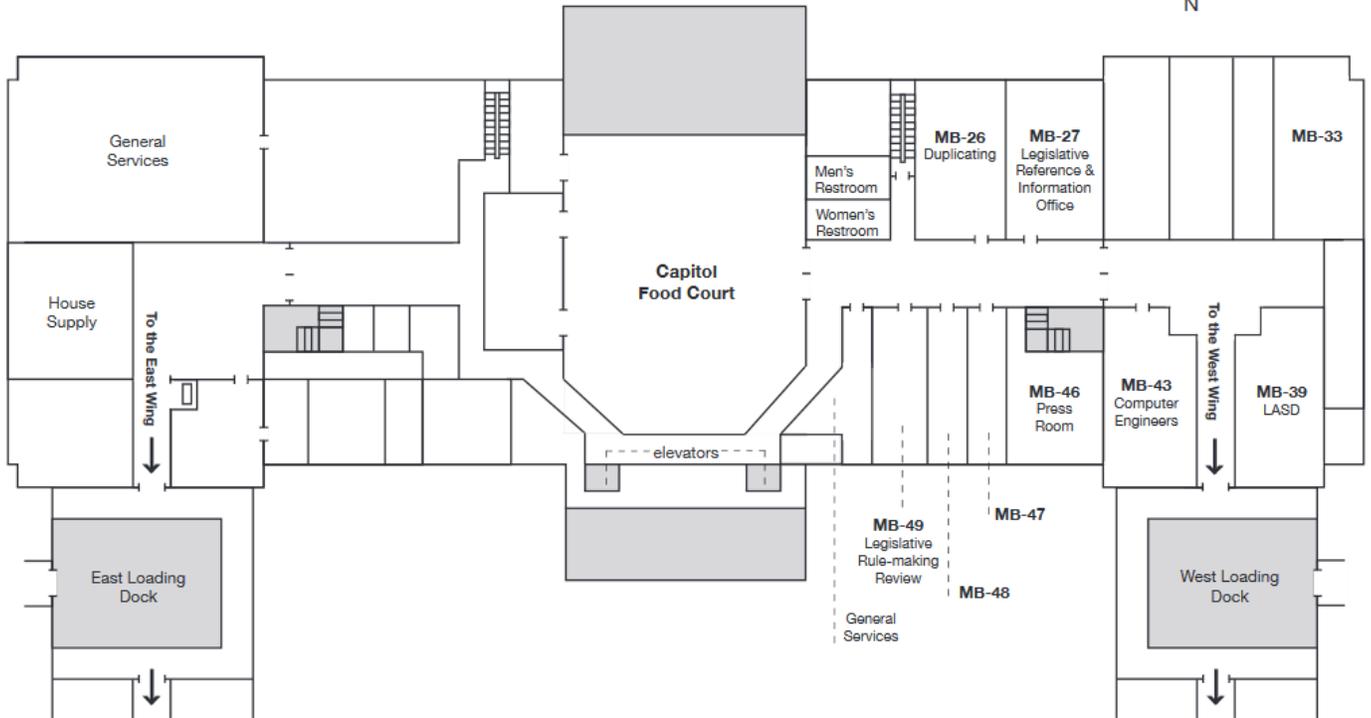
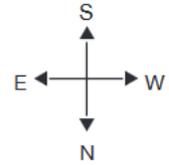


Governor's Reception Room and Office

<https://governor.wv.gov>



Main Building - Basement



<http://www.wvcapitolfoodcourt.com>



Supreme Court of Appeals



Most of these photos are from the Supreme Court Website's "Virtual Tour"

<http://www.courtswv.gov/>









