

= Pennsylvania State Capitol =

The Pennsylvania State Capitol is the seat of government for the U.S. state of Pennsylvania and is in downtown Harrisburg . It was designed in 1902 in a Beaux @-@ Arts style with decorative Renaissance themes throughout . The capitol houses the legislative chambers for the Pennsylvania General Assembly , made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate , and the Harrisburg chambers for the Supreme and Superior Courts of Pennsylvania , as well as the offices of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor . It is also the main building of the Pennsylvania State Capitol Complex .

The seat of government for the state was originally in Philadelphia , then was relocated to Lancaster in 1799 and finally to Harrisburg in 1812 . The current capitol , known as the Huston Capitol , is the third state capitol building to be built in Harrisburg . The first , the Hills Capitol , was destroyed in 1897 by a fire and the second , the Cobb Capitol , was left unfinished when funding was discontinued in 1899 .

Joseph Miller Huston designed the current capitol , dedicated in 1906 . After its completion , the capitol project was the subject of a graft scandal . The construction and subsequent furnishing cost three times more than the General Assembly had appropriated for the design and construction ; Huston and four others were convicted of graft for those excessive costs .

The Pennsylvania State Capitol is often referred to as a " palace of art " because of its many sculptures , murals and stained @-@ glass windows , most of which are Pennsylvania themed or were made by Pennsylvanians . The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 . Starting in 1982 , the restoration of the capitol has been ongoing . It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2006 ; the boundaries of the designation were expanded to include the Capitol Complex in 2013 with the capitol a contributing property .

= = History = =

William Penn formed the first government of the then @-@ Province of Pennsylvania on October 28 , 1682 , in Chester , Pennsylvania . The government did not have a regular meeting place and often met in Quaker meeting houses or at private residences in Philadelphia . Pennsylvania 's first statehouse , now known as Independence Hall , was built in Philadelphia starting in 1732 and was completed in 1753 . With both the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the two predecessors of the United States Congress occupying Independence Hall from 1775 to 1783 , the state legislature considered proposals for moving the seat of the state government . John Harris , Jr. offered to give 4 acres ( 2 ha ) and 21 square perches ( 5 @,@ 717 ft<sup>2</sup> ; 531 m<sup>2</sup> ) of land near the banks of the Susquehanna River in central Pennsylvania to the state , provided that it be eventually used as the site of the capital . Harris also laid out a city in 1785 , near his plot of land , and named it in honor of his father . In 1799 , the legislature voted to relocate the capital to Lancaster instead of Harrisburg , because of Lancaster 's greater population . From 1799 to 1812 , the legislature resided in Lancaster at the Old City Hall .

= = Hills Capitol = =

The legislature voted in 1810 to relocate the capital again , and moved the seat of government to Harrisburg in October 1812 onto the land given by Harris . An additional 10 acres ( 4 ha ) was also purchased from United States Senator William Maclay . The legislature met in the old Dauphin County courthouse for the next decade until a new capitol was constructed . A competition was held to determine the design of the capitol starting in 1816 , which " was the first formal contest for [ designing ] an American statehouse " . The designs submitted , including one from William Strickland , were rejected as being too expensive . Another contest was started in January 1819 . Of the seventeen designs submitted , two were selected as semifinalists . One was from Harrisburg architect Stephen Hills and the other was from the designer of the Washington Monument , Robert Mills ; Hills ' design was selected . Hills had designed a " red @-@ brick , Federal @-@ style "

capitol to " architecturally represent the function of democratic government . " Construction began on the Hills Capitol in 1819 and it was completed in 1822 . The capitol 's construction and subsequent furnishing was estimated to have cost \$ 244 @, @ 500 . The Hills Capitol was visited by famous people , including the Marquis de Lafayette in 1825 and Albert Edward , Prince of Wales , ( later King Edward VII ) in 1860 . Abraham Lincoln visited the capitol in 1861 as president @-@ elect , and then his body lay in state there after his 1865 assassination . Pennsylvania 's collection of Civil War battle flags , which were accumulated in 1866 , was moved from the State Arsenal to the second floor of the capitol in 1872 . The flags were moved , again , in 1895 to the Executive , Library and Museum Building . On February 2 , 1897 , around noon , smoke was discovered coming from the Lieutenant Governor 's offices . By early evening , the Hills Capitol had been reduced to a " smoldering mass of debris " .

= = = Cobb Capitol = = =

After the destruction of the Hills Capitol , the now " homeless " legislature moved to a nearby Methodist Church . There were soon demands that the capital be relocated to Pittsburgh or Philadelphia ; the legislature quickly appropriated money to build a new capitol in Harrisburg . Governor Daniel H. Hastings opted for a pay @-@ as @-@ you @-@ go policy to allow the construction costs to be spread over multiple annual budgets . Governor Hastings also figured that \$ 550 @, @ 000 was enough to build " a small legislative building " that could be added onto as needed over time . After building designs were submitted by various architects in another competition , Henry Ives Cobb was chosen in 1897 to design the new capitol . Construction of the Cobb Capitol began on May 2 , 1898 . The legislature met in the finished building , which they had deemed complete , even though it was an " unadorned , unfinished , several @-@ story brown brick structure that looked like a factory " , on January 3 , 1899 . Cobb himself described the building simply as " ugly " but believed that he would be able to finish it eventually , when more funding became available .

= = = Huston Capitol = = =

Governor William A. Stone appointed a new Capitol Building Commission in 1901 . The commission then held another design competition , for Pennsylvania architects only , which prevented Cobb , a Chicagoan , from submitting a design or finishing his capitol . The Building Commission also stipulated that parts of the unfinished , current capitol were to be used in the new capitol . The General Assembly had appropriated \$ 4 million for the construction of the capitol . It did not limit the total amount to be used in furnishing the building . This caused problems after construction completion of the capitol . The American Institute of Architects was opposed to competition , citing that the terms of the competition were " calculated to only ' encourage favoritism and injustice ' and that they in no way obligated the Capitol [ Building ] Commission to select the best design or the best architect " . The Institute also advised that no Pennsylvania architects enter the competition ; Philadelphia architect Addison Hutton was subsequently expelled from the organization after submitting an entry . Joseph Miller Huston 's design was chosen from among nine entries in the competition in January 1902 .

The ground was broken for the Huston Capitol on November 2 , 1902 , but the cornerstone was not laid until May 5 , 1904 . Ownership of the capitol was handed over to the state government on August 15 , 1906 , and the Capitol Building Commission was dissolved .

Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker dedicated the new capitol on October 4 , 1906 . Former Governor Stone , who had become president of the Building Commission after leaving office , ceremoniously gave the key to the capitol to Governor Pennypacker . President Theodore Roosevelt , who had arrived earlier that morning by a special train to deliver a speech and tour the new capitol , declared it " the handsomest building I ever saw " . The Pennsylvania , Northern Central , Reading , and Cumberland Valley railroads each ran special trains to accommodate the crowds traveling to and from Harrisburg for the dedication .

Although the building was completed , the majority of the artwork in and around the capitol would not be completed for another two decades . The murals in the rotunda were not installed until 1908 and the sculptures outside the entrance to the capitol were dedicated on October 4 , 1911 . The collection of Civil War flags were removed from the Executive , Library and Museum Building . After a parade and a ceremony , they were installed in glass display cases in the capitol rotunda on June 14 , 1914 . The decoration of the capitol was completed on May 23 , 1927 , when the murals in the Supreme Court Chambers were unveiled .

= = = = Graft scandal = = = =

William H. Berry was elected in 1906 , shortly after the dedication , to the office of State Treasurer on a reform " fusion ticket " . Berry was the only Democrat elected to a statewide office from 1895 to 1934 . His successful campaign was deemed by Governor Pennypacker to be " one of those freaks of ill fortune " . Berry began investigating the costs of the capitol project and brought its \$ 13 million pricetag to the attention of the public . Part of the reason for the discrepancy was Pennsylvania 's " over @-@ elaborate " and sometimes " unintelligible " method of " ordering and purchasing supplies , equipment [ and ] furnishings , commonly called the ' per @-@ foot rule ' " . Because the methods of measuring under the " per @-@ foot rule " were not rigorously enforced , furnishing could be , intentionally , overpriced by the supplier . For example , a flagpole installed on the capitol roof was priced at \$ 850 ; Berry estimated the value of the pole to have been only \$ 150 . Other expenses included \$ 1 @,@ 619 for a \$ 125 bootblack stand and \$ 3 @,@ 257 for a \$ 325 " mahogany case in the Senate barber shop " .

Pennypacker tried to demonstrate that costs associated with the capitol were reasonable in comparison with similar notable structures . He pointed out that the United States Capitol cost \$ 18 million , but had " fifty @-@ five less [ rooms ] than the Capitol at Harrisburg . " Pennypacker also showed how the New York State Capitol had cost \$ 24 million , and was still unfinished . After an investigation , a total of five people , including Huston , were convicted , on December 8 , 1908 , and sentenced to two years in prison for " conspiring with State officials to defraud the State in the erection and furnishing of the Capitol . " The Superintendent of Public Ground and Buildings James Shumaker and Auditor General William P. Snyder were also convicted . Among the convicted , John H. Sanderson and William L. Mathues died before going to prison .

= = = = Brunner plan = = = =

From 1912 to 1917 , the state acquired all of the 541 separate properties that comprise the Eighth Ward east of the capitol . The Eighth Ward was situated between the capitol and a set of railroad tracks , then owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad . Arnold Brunner was hired in 1916 to develop new accommodations for state government , which had already outgrown the capitol . He introduced his plan in 1920 , which called , first , for the demolition of the Eighth Ward . Brunner planned two office buildings behind the capitol , the North and South Office Buildings , and these were separated by a courtyard he named the People 's Court . The South Office Building was completed in 1921 . The leveling of the Eighth Ward was finished in 1925 .

Although Brunner died on February 14 , 1925 , elements of his plans were still completed , except for his People 's Court , which became a parking lot . Brunner planned a bridge to cross the railroad tracks and connect the capitol with the highest point in the city at 13th Street . Brunner had also originally planned to have another bridge span the Susquehanna River , on the west side of the capitol . After his death , parts of the bridge were redesigned and became the current State Street Bridge , which was completed in 1930 . The Education Building , or Forum Building , was completed in 1931 .

= = = = Restoration and preservation = = = =

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission erected two historical markers on August 11

, 1953 ? one commemorating the Hills Capitol and another for the current capitol . The capitol was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 14 , 1977 . In 1982 , the Capitol Preservation Committee ( CPC ) was created " to supervise and coordinate the historic preservation of the State Capitol Building " . One of the CPC 's first projects was the preservation of the 390 Civil War flags and 22 flags from the Spanish ? American War , which had been undisturbed since being placed in the rotunda in 1914 . Between 1985 and 1987 , scaffolding was erected in the rotunda and the murals removed for restoration . The statue atop the capitol dome was removed for restoration via helicopter in the summer of 1998 , being returned in September of the same year . It was decided to restore the Senate Chamber after it was flooded with 26 @,@ 000 US gallons ( 98 @,@ 000 L ; 22 @,@ 000 imp gal ) of water on February 14 , 1999 . The capitol was declared a National Historic Landmark on September 20 , 2006 , during its centennial . On February 27 , 2013 , the boundaries of the designation were revised to encompass the grounds and surrounding buildings .

= = Exterior = =

The capitol is 520 feet ( 160 m ) long and 272 feet ( 83 m ) tall . It is 254 feet ( 77 m ) wide at its center wing and its two side wings are 212 feet ( 65 m ) . The facade of the capitol is constructed out of granite from Hardwick , Vermont . The 94 @-@ foot -diameter ( 29 m ) dome is topped by the gilded brass statue of Commonwealth by Roland Hinton Perry . Standing 14 feet 6 inches ( 4 m ) tall atop a 4 @-@ foot -diameter ( 1 m ) ball , the statue is the personification of a commonwealth . The dome itself weighs 26 @,@ 000 short tons ( 24 @,@ 000 metric tons ) and was architecturally inspired by St. Peter 's Basilica in Vatican City .

Huston designed the large bronze doors at the capitol 's main entrance . They were modeled by sculptor Otto Jahnsen and were both cast in one piece using the lost wax method of casting by the Henry Bonnard Bronze Company . The doors are decorated with scenes from the history of Pennsylvania , such as the arrival of William Penn and his peace treaty with the Lenape . Busts of people who were important in the construction of the capitol , like Governor Pennypacker , Boies Penrose , and Matthew Quay , decorate the edges of the doors . The bust of Huston hides the doors ' keyhole .

The entrance is flanked by two sculptures , entitled Love and Labor : The Unbroken Law and The Burden of Life : The Broken Law . Both were sculpted out of Carrara marble from models created by George Grey Barnard in 1909 .

= = = Grounds = = =

The Pennsylvania Capitol Grounds , officially the Capitol Park , comprises 45 acres ( 18 ha ) and 26 @.@ 4 square perches ( 7 @,@ 187 ft<sup>2</sup> ; 668 m<sup>2</sup> ) . The grounds are bounded by North Street on the north , 7th Street on the east , Walnut Street on the south and 3rd Street on the west . Arnold Brunner designed the layout of the grounds , which originally totaled only 15 acres ( 6 ha ) from the land Harris and Maclay gave to the state . The remaining 29 acres ( 12 ha ) were added when the state bought the Eighth Ward .

A 64 @-@ foot -tall ( 20 m ) monument , dedicated to the citizens of Pennsylvania who died in the Mexican ? American War , was built in 1858 . The monument was not placed onto the grounds until 1868 and was moved to the southeast corner of the grounds in 1893 , when the Executive , Library and Museum Building was built . In 1896 ? 97 , a monument , dedicated to former governor John F. Hartranft , was sculpted by Frederick Ruckstull . The 26 @-@ foot -tall ( 8 m ) monument was unveiled on May 18 , 1899 , and was placed in front of the capitol . It was moved in 1927 to in front of the Executive , Library and Museum Building . Friends of Penrose in the General Assembly , who had died in 1921 , passed legislation for a memorial to Penrose . The 16 @-@ foot -tall ( 5 m ) monument was dedicated on September 23 , 1930 , and is located near the corner of North 3rd and Walnut Streets .

= = Interior = =

The Pennsylvania State Capitol houses the chambers for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives , the Pennsylvania Senate , and the Harrisburg chambers for the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania . The Capitol contains 475 rooms and has four floors , not including a mezzanine between the first and second floors , and a basement . The bronze entrance doors of the capitol lead into the rotunda on the first floor with the grand staircase in the center . The staircase in the rotunda is an imperial staircase , similar to the one in the Palais Garnier in Paris , France . The staircase leads to the mezzanine between the first and second floors , before dividing into two staircases leading to the second floor . Edwin Austin Abbey painted four allegorical medallions around the base of the capitol dome , detailing the " four forces of civilization " : Art , Justice , Science , and Religion . Four lunette murals were also painted by Abbey and " symbolize Pennsylvania 's spiritual and industrial contributions to modern civilization " . The lunettes are situated in the recesses of each arch in the rotunda . The rotunda is paved with tiles , hand @-@ crafted by Henry Chapman Mercer , from the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works . Mercer produced 1 @,@ 600 square feet ( 100 m2 ) of tile , which includes " 377 mosaics , representing 254 scenes , artifacts , animals , birds , fish , insects , industries and workers from Pennsylvania history " . The interiors of the rotunda and the dome are inscribed with a quote from William Penn made upon the foundation of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania :

There may be room there for such a holy experiment . For the nations want a precedent . And my God will make it the seed of a nation . That an example may be set up to the nations . That we may do the thing that is truly wise and just .

= = = House Chamber = = =

The lower house of the bicameral General Assembly , the House of Representatives , has 203 members , elected for a term of 2 years , and presided over by the Speaker of the House . The House Chamber , or Hall of the House , is the largest of the three chambers at 90 feet ( 30 m ) wide and 120 feet ( 40 m ) long . It is located on the south side of the rotunda .

The House Chamber was designed with an Italian Renaissance theme . William B. Van Ingen created the fourteen circular , stained @-@ glass windows in the House Chamber , and Abbey painted its five murals . The largest of the murals is situated behind the Speaker 's rostrum . Named the Apotheosis of Pennsylvania , it depicts 28 famous Pennsylvanians .

= = = Senate Chamber = = =

The Senate is the upper house of the state legislature and has 50 members , elected to 4 @-@ year terms . The Senate is presided over by the President of the Senate , who is also the Lieutenant Governor . The 95 @-@ by @-@ 80 @-@ foot ( 29 by 24 m ) Senate Chamber , or Hall of the Senate , is the second @-@ largest chamber and was designed with a French Renaissance theme . It is located on the north side of the rotunda , opposite the House . Violet Oakley painted the murals in the Senate Chamber . Ingen also made 10 stained @-@ glass windows for the Senate Chamber . Both the House and Senate Chambers are on the second floor , each with an entrance on the third and fourth floors leading to a press gallery .

= = = Supreme Court Chamber = = =

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania is the court of last resort in the Commonwealth . The Superior Court of Pennsylvania is one of two intermediate appellate courts in state . The Supreme Court Chamber , officially the Supreme and Superior Court Chamber , is used by both courts and was designed using ancient Greek and Roman themes . It is located on the fourth floor of the capitol , on the east side of the rotunda . The Supreme Court Chamber is the smallest of the three chambers at 42 by 72 feet ( 13 by 22 m ) . Oakley painted the 16 murals in the " Supreme Courtroom " to depict the history of law . A stained @-@ glass dome , designed by Pennsylvania native Alfred Godwin , is

in the center of the ceiling .

= = Capitol Complex = =

The Pennsylvania State Capitol Complex includes the buildings owned by Commonwealth , which are controlled by the Pennsylvania Department of General Services , and are centered on the capitol in Harrisburg . The Capitol Complex became a National Historic Landmark in 2013 when the designation was revised to include not just the capitol , but the surrounding building as contributing property ? except for the East Wing .

The oldest building in the complex is the Executive , Library and Museum Building . Situated next to the Hills Capitol and the Huston Capitol , it was built in 1894 . It was designated the Matthew J. Ryan Legislative Office Building on June 14 , 1999 , in recognition of former Speaker Matthew J. Ryan . The Ryan Office Building is the oldest building in the complex and was originally designed to house the State Library and State Museum of Pennsylvania , as well as the Governor 's Office and Reception Room . Today it houses the offices of the members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives .

The seven @-@ story North and South Office Buildings are situated behind the capitol and overlook the East Wing . The South Office Building was renamed the K. Leroy Irvis Office Building on December 20 , 2002 , in recognition of former Speaker K. Leroy Irvis . The State Museum and State Archives buildings were constructed in 1964 . A 640 @-@ by @-@ 320 @-@ foot ( 200 by 100 m ) addition , called the East Wing , was dedicated on December 2 , 1987 . The East Wing replaced the decades @-@ old parking lot and fulfilled Brunner 's plan of a People 's Court . It was built partially underground , such that the tallest point on the East Wing barely reaches the first floor of the capitol .