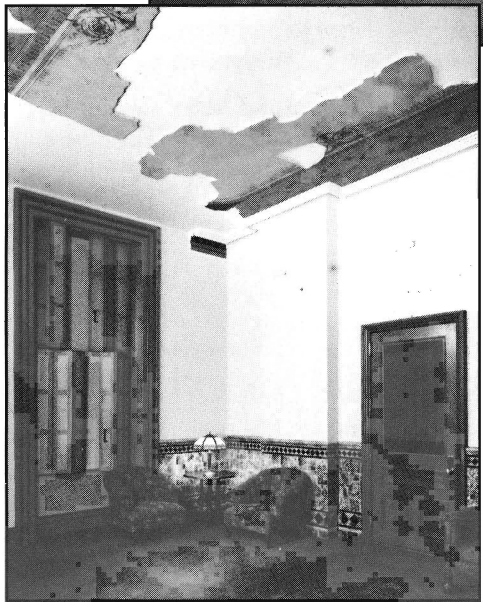
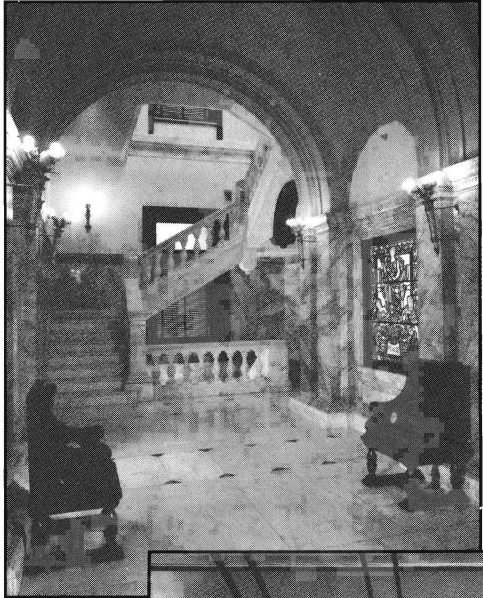


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Visiting the New Jersey State House



A Walk Through History

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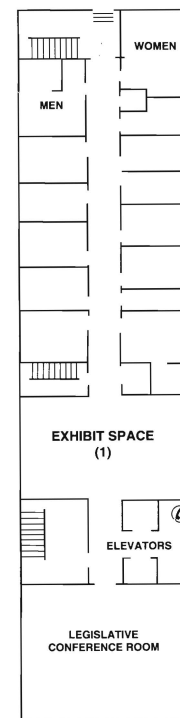
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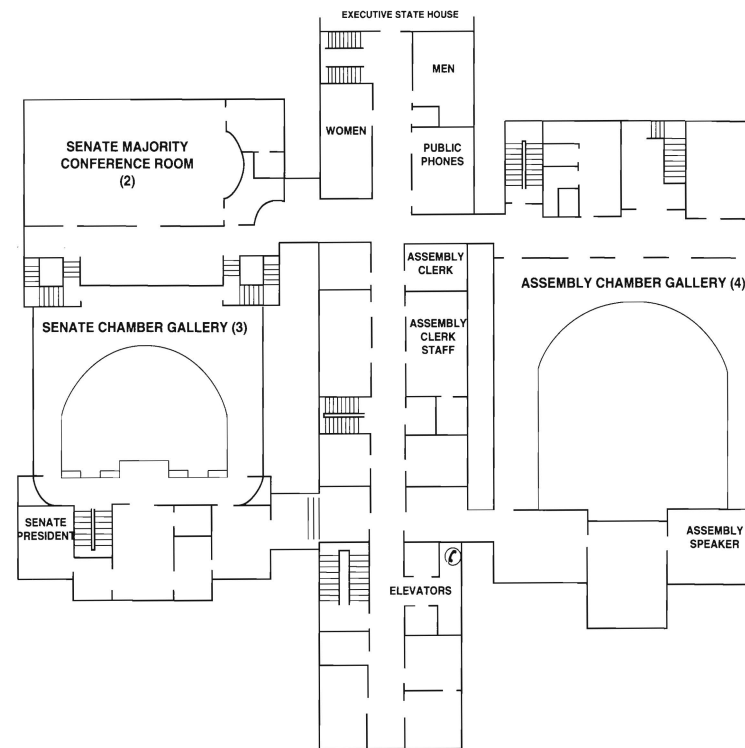
Welcome to the New Jersey State House. Since 1792, this building has served as the main meeting site for the legislative and executive branches of our state government. As the size and scope of our government's responsibilities increased, so too did our State House. Today the building stands as both a proud monument to our democratic process and a dynamic example of architectural evolution.

An extensive restoration of the legislative portion of the building was completed in the fall of 1991. The purpose of this work was to renew the building's former splendor and bring the structure up to modern safety codes. Highlights of this work are best seen on guided tours, provided on non-legislative days by the Office of Legislative Services. Or you may use the suggested tour path explained here to explore the major points of interest. Please be advised however, that due to legislative work schedules and security concerns, many areas (noted by *) may be inaccessible for spontaneous viewing. *Begin the tour by taking the elevator up to the exhibit space on the third floor.*



The inaugural exhibit, "**Chronicles of the State House**,"(1) consists of four quadrants each pertaining to a different time period of State House history. There are numerous photographs, correspondence and antique artifacts related to the building's past and present form. *After viewing the exhibit, take the elevator down to the second floor and turn right as you exit the elevator area. Proceed down the hall and through a set of doors. Off to the left, is a small bend in the hallway. Follow this hallway around and into the Senate Wing.*

To the right is the **Senate Majority Conference Room*(2)**. This room originally housed the precursor to what is now the State Supreme Court. The stained-glass skylights, the cornices and pilasters all reflect the classical elements of this wing. The skylights, which were found in an attic, cornices and coffered ceiling are all original. The paint colors match the room's 1903 decor and the carpet is evocative of patterns in use at that time.



Seven different types of wood were used to make the large hand-crafted conference table, which seats up to 34 people.

The **Senate Chamber (3)** is on the left. What appears to be marble is actually scagliola – a faux marble made from a plaster base. The desks are reproductions of the original furnishings. The painted murals surrounding the room reflect the ideals of Liberty and Abundance, which are also the subjects of the State Seal. Liberty is shown by battle scenes, and legislative and educational activities. Abundance is represented by scenes of major industries. The stained-glass dome contains the names of prominent families of the era. The gallery seating both here and in the Assembly gallery are original. *Return back towards the main corridor but continue walking straight until the Assembly Chamber is on your right.*

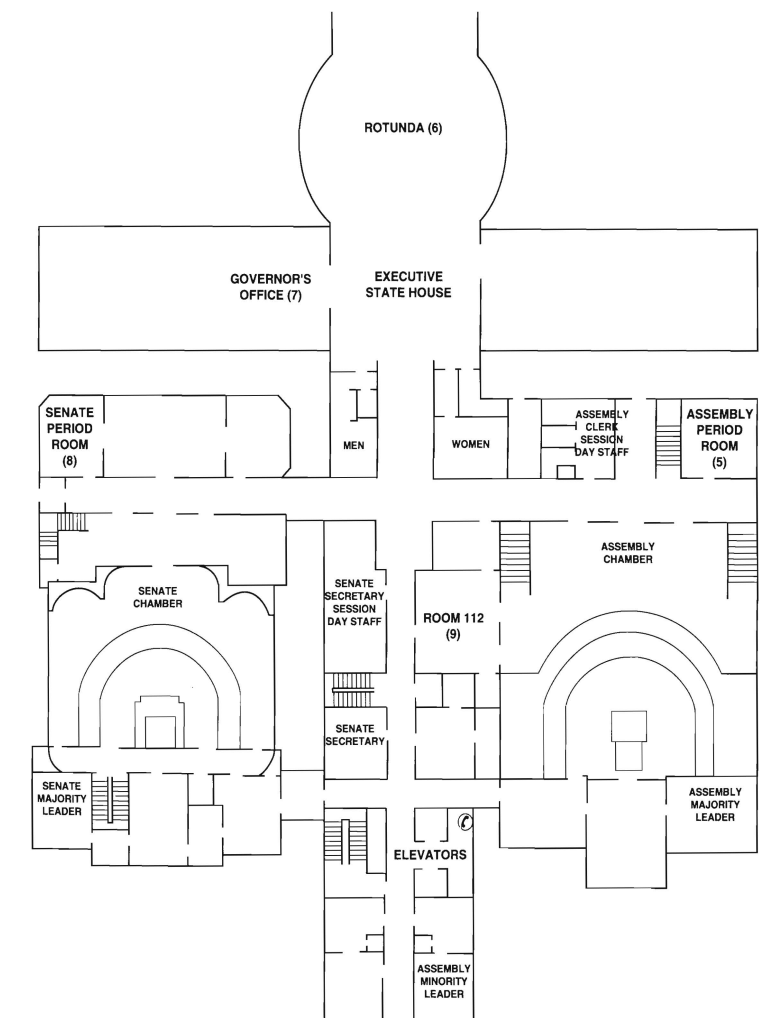
Since opening in 1892, the **Assembly Chamber (4)** has been lit by a magnificent chandelier, purported to have been made in Thomas Edison's workshop in Menlo Park. The sconces, stained-glass lunettes and desks are also original to the chamber. The carpet has state symbols – the eastern goldfinch, red oak, honey bee and violets – worked into a pattern reminiscent of the past. Gold leafing enhances the decorative plasterwork surrounding the room. *Use the open stairwell across from the chamber to go down one flight. At the bottom of the stairs, turn to the left for the next stop.*

The **Assembly Period Room*(5)** recreates a Victorian conference room in the Arts and Crafts style. Most of the furnishings are reproductions with the notable exception of Governor Hoffman's table. It is believed the Governor used this table during the 1930's Lindbergh kidnapping trial. *Walk back to the main corridor and at the intersection, turn right to enter the executive portion of the State House.*

At the center is the **Rotunda (6)**, which is the round open space under the dome. This area was rebuilt following a devastating fire in 1885 destroyed the original dome. In the center is a

bust of Woodrow Wilson, the only New Jersey governor to become a United States president. *Heading back towards the legislative portion of the building, you will pass the Governor's Office (7) on the right. Part of the original 1792 structure still exists as part of the Governor's wing. Return back into the legislative portion of the building and turn right. Proceed to the last room at the right of the hallway.*

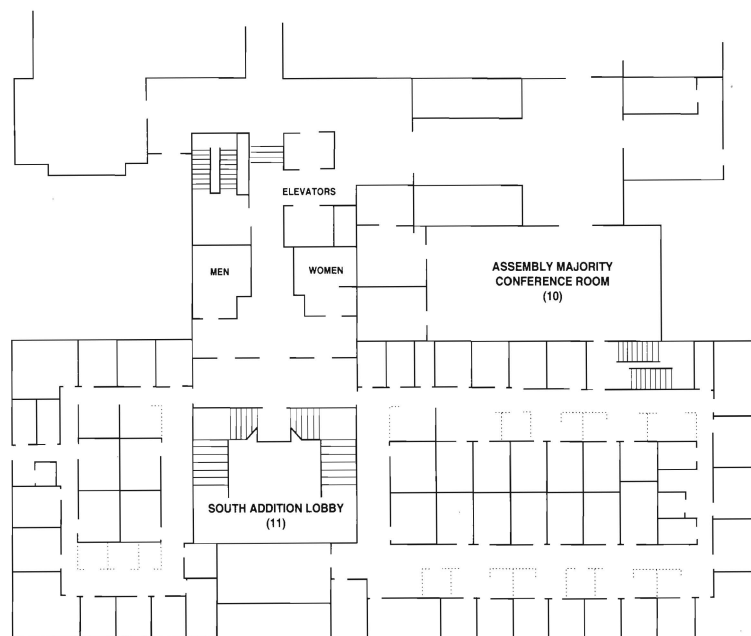
The dictionary stand in the **Senate Period Room*(8)**, was an original State House furnishing. Nearly one hundred years old, the stand and the impressive roll-top desk were found still in use in state agencies. The antique lamps, revolving bookcase, coat rack and standing ashtray also date back to the turn of the century. Across the hall, are two stained-glass windows flanking the Senate Chamber entrance which are also from this time period. Peace and Justice are the subjects depicted in these artworks. *Head back to the main corridor, turn right and proceed through the set of doors.*



The first room on the left, **Room 112*(9)**, shows fragments of a painted ceiling believed to have been done in 1872. The work was hidden for about 100 years until being discovered during the restoration. As a historical artifact, the ceiling has been preserved, but not restored. The tile in this room and in the hallway outside the Assembly Chamber, was manufactured locally in 1892 by the Trent Tile Company. *Continue down the main corridor and take the elevator to the basement level. As you exit the elevator, turn away from the main corridor and proceed through a set of doors. Make the first right and enter into the room directly ahead.*

The marquetry walls in the **Assembly Majority Conference Room*(10)** were commissioned during the recent restoration. Here artist Hiroshi Murata pays tribute to architectural details in and around the capitol complex. The work, entitled *Resolution*, consists of eighty-seven different types of wood veneer. *Return to the main corridor and turn to the left. Continue into the South Addition.*

Across the **South Addition Lobby (11)**, is another new artwork for the State House. *The Dawn of Law* is a marble bas-relief by artist John Goodyear. The notions of order and chaos create a background for displaying famous law-givers of the ages – Confucius, Hammurabi, Draco, Moses and Theodora and Justinian I. *This completes the tour.*



We hope you've enjoyed your visit to the New Jersey State House and a walk through history. For more information about public tours, student tours and special interest tours emphasizing artworks and architectural details, contact the Office of Legislative Services, Office of Public Information at (609) 292-4661.

The Office of Public Information produces numerous publications and videos, some of which may be of interest to those wishing to learn more about the State House and the legislative process. These include:

- *The Legislative Process in New Jersey* – explaining the path of legislation from idea to enactment
- *Your Guide to the Capitol Complex* – highlighting other nearby historical and cultural sites
- *State House Fact Sheet* – an overview of the lengthy history of the building and key elements of the restoration effort
- *Commissioned Artworks Brochures* – pictures and explanations of the marquetry walls in the Assembly Majority Conference Room and the marble bas-relief in the South Addition lobby
- *Student Activity Booklet* – legislative puzzles and pictures for elementary school grades

They are all available at the information desk in the South Addition Lobby.

Prepared by the Office of Legislative Services
Office of Public Information
CN-068, State House
Trenton, NJ 08625-0068

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Short & Ford/ Johnson Jones Joint Venture Architects.