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Guided tours are offered

Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4:00pm

Weekends and most holiday
tours are offered at:
9:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm and
3:00pm

If your group numbers more than ten,
please call for advance reservations:
1-800-TOUR N PA

The Welcome Center is open

Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm
(except holidays)

To contact your State Representative
see "State Legislator" in the blue
pages of your telephone book
For names, addresses and telephone
numbers of Representatives and
Committee Chairmen call:

House General Information
(717)-787-2372

www.house.state.pa.us

House Republican
Communications Department
(717)-787-3993

www.pahousegop.com
Democratic

Information Office
(717)-787-7895

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**The Capitol**
Representative Mark M. Gillen
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
P.O. Box 202128
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2128



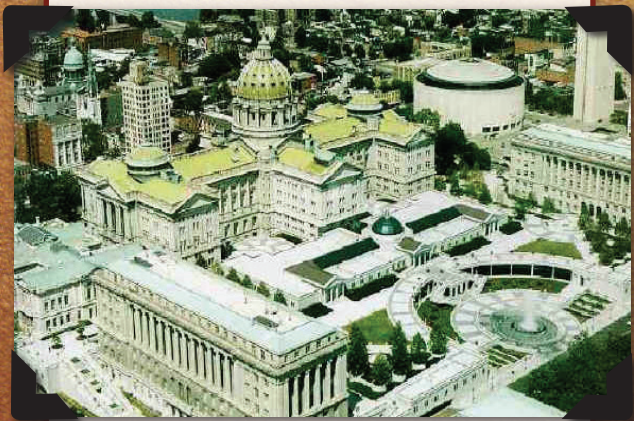
Welcome to...



*The
Pennsylvania
Capitol*



The cornerstone for the new Capitol was laid on May 5, 1904. In contrast to the low-budget Cobb Capitol, the finished building was declared "the most beautiful state Capitol in the nation," by President Theodore Roosevelt when he dedicated it with joyous ceremony on October 4, 1906. Built and furnished at a cost of \$13 million, the building was designed in the classic Renaissance style. Its five-story exterior is made of Vermont granite and the roof is made of green glazed tile. The Capitol is 520 feet long and 254 feet wide and covers two acres of ground.



The Capitol at a Glance



The dome was inspired by the great domes of St. Peter's Basilica by Michelangelo in Rome and the U.S. Capitol. The Rotunda staircase design was based on Charles Garnier's Paris Opera House. The dome is a Harrisburg landmark illuminated by 48 portholes and floodlights within the roof. The Capitol interior features four great rooms, of which the Hall of the House is the largest. Different Renaissance designs are featured in some of its most important rooms - Italian in the House, French in the Senate and English in the Governor's Reception Room. The art and ornamentation reflect Greek, Roman and Italian styles.

Pictures courtesy of the PA Capitol Preservation Committee & Brian Hunt

Looking Back at the Capitol

In 1810, the state Legislature passed an Act making the borough - now city - of Harrisburg the state capitol effective in October 1812. The Assembly met in the Dauphin County Courthouse while Legislators debated where, when and how to build the new Capitol. Actual construction on the building, designed by Stephen Hills, began at noon May 31, 1819, when the cornerstone was laid. Construction finished less than three years later on January 2, 1822, at a cost of approximately \$135,000.

On February 2, 1897, while the Legislature was in session, a fire, presumably caused by a faulty fireplace flume, burned



beneath the floor of the Lieutenant Governor's office. Outside, a blizzard hampered efforts to battle the blaze. Fortunately no one was killed, but the 75-year-old building burnt down.

The Legislature then was housed temporarily at Harrisburg's Grace United Methodist Church. A new building was quickly erected, but considered ugly and undignified. Consequently, the Legislature held a design competition, and hired Philadelphia architect, Joseph Huston, to develop plans for the third and current Capitol.