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# GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY

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## STATE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY

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## MISSISSIPPI STATE CAPITOL

400 High Street, Jackson 39201

(601) 359-3114



The Mississippi State Capitol is located between Mississippi and High Street in downtown Jackson. The current structure is the third building to serve as the Capitol. The first building no longer stands and was completed in 1822. The second building was completed in 1839 and served as the Capitol until 1903. Today it is known as the Old Capitol Museum. The current Capitol building, which sits on the site of the old state penitentiary, was finished in 1903. Theodore Link from St. Louis, Missouri was the architect who designed the building. Construction costs totaled more than \$1 million and were paid for by back taxes from the Illinois Central Railroad lawsuit settlement.

From 1979 to 1983, the Capitol underwent a complete restoration. It cost \$19 million and renovators tried to preserve and maintain as much of the original building and design as possible.

The building was created to hold all branches of Mississippi state government, but only the Legislature and the executive branches currently operate in the capitol. The judicial branch is housed in the Carroll Gartin Justice Building located on High Street.

The Capitol is 402 feet wide and the dome is 180 feet high. The walls of the rotunda are Italian white marble and the base is New York jet-black marble. Balustrades are made of cast iron and original to the building. Eight large columns are made of art marble known as scagliola.

The inner rotunda dome contains 750 lights that illuminate the blind-folded lady and four important people in Mississippi history. The lady represents “Blind Justice” and the four figures consist of two Native Americans, a European explorer, and a Confederate soldier. The gold leaf coated copper eagle that sits atop the dome is eight feet high and 15 feet wide.

The Hall of Governors occupies the first floor. Portraits of all the State’s governors adorn the hallways. The photos date back to as far as 1798, when the Mississippi Territory was

created. The Secretary of State also has an office on the first floor near the main, southern-facing entrance. The second floor holds the State Library and the Supreme Court chambers, which are both now used as committee meeting rooms. The third floor consists of the Legislature, as well as offices for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House. Public viewing for both chambers is located on the fourth floor.

The Senate chamber is made of art marble and the base is Belgium black marble. The columns are Breccia violet with Corinthian caps. The dome is stained Bohemian glass and is protected by another dome on top. The saying printed in the center of the dome reads, "The people's government was made for the people by the people and answerable to the people." Theresa Whitecloud, a full-blooded Choctaw Indian princess, covers six of the wooden panels. The desks for the 52 senators were replaced in the 1940s.

The House of Representatives chamber dome is the original Bohemian stained glass and has another dome on top for protection. The walls of the chamber are art marble and the base is Belgium black marble. The Mississippi Coat of Arms sits atop each arch. The desks for the 122 representatives are the originals from 1903.

One of the 53 replicas of the Liberty Bell can be found on the grounds of the Capitol. Also on the Capitol grounds, a statue stands in memory of the ladies, mothers, wives, and daughters of the Confederate soldiers. The trees around the Capitol consist of the magnolia state tree and two Japanese magnolias. The battleship figurehead is from the second USS Mississippi and was presented to the state by the United States Navy in December 1909.

The Mississippi State Capitol is not only listed in the National Register of Historic Places, but is also designated a Mississippi landmark

## GOVERNOR'S MANSION

300 East Capitol Street, Jackson 39201

(601) 359-6421



The Mississippi Governor's Mansion is the second oldest continually occupied governor's residence in the United States. In 1842, the first residents moved in. The mansion was chosen as a National Historic Landmark in 1975. It made history at the time as one of only two governor's residences to receive this honor.

The state Legislature budgeted funds to build the Capitol and a “suitable house for the Governor” in January 1833. The Capitol was completed in 1839, but construction of the Governor’s Mansion did not begin until 1839. These delays resulted from the depression caused by the Panic of 1837. Governor Tilghman Tucker and his family were the first to move into the building in January 1842. Final construction costs for the building totally approximately \$50,000.

The Old Capitol and the Governor’s Mansion were both designed by William Nichols. A native of England, Nichols designed the mansion to have a Greek revival style. Many historians consider the Governor’s Mansion to be one of the best examples of Greek revival style in the United States.

The mansion started to deteriorate at the end of the nineteenth century, and people wanted it to be demolished by 1900. Governor Edmund Noel moved his family into the Edwards House in 1908. He and his family initially refused to live in the mansion in its current state. Governor Noel and his family then decided to briefly move into the mansion with hopes to bring attention to the condition of the property. After this, patriotic ladies’ organizations and First Lady Alice Noel convinced the Legislature to appropriate \$30,000 for a renovation that was directed by local architect William S. Hull.

In 1908-1909, the renovation consisted of the construction of a two-story family annex that was added to the back of the mansion. The older windows were replaced with a double-pane style to look more contemporary. The three-part window on the back of the mansion was bricked in, as well. A center staircase was added to give access to the new annex and the original staircase was removed. New entrances were created from the hall to the State Dining Room and from the hall to the Back Rose Parlor. These openings matched the size and look of the original entrances between the State Dining Room and Gold Parlor, as well as the double Rose Parlors. A new beveled glass door replaced the original front door, and hardwood flooring was positioned on top of the old pine plank flooring. Yellow pressed brick was added to the exterior of the Governor’s Mansion to match the two-story annex. The mansion kept the yellow brick until it was painted white during the 1940-1943 term of Governor Paul B. Johnson Sr.

The mansion’s structure was deemed unsafe for occupancy in July 1971, and Governor John Bell Williams had to vacate the mansion. The safety inspection determined only a major restoration could make the Governor’s Mansion livable again.

Governor-elect William Waller met with the State Building Commission in December 1971. At this meeting, a resolution was adopted that recommended to the Legislature the mansion be “completely restored, refurbished, and refurnished.” The Board of Trustees of the Department of Archives and History was put in charge of advising the project’s architect and Charlotte Capers was named the principal executive for the project. Soon after Governor Waller’s inauguration in January 1972, funds were set aside by the Legislature for the 1972-1975 restoration and renovation of the Governor’s Mansion.

Charlotte Capers acquired two prominent consultants for the project: Charles E. Peterson and Edward Vason Jones. Peterson, an architectural historian and restorationist, was best known for his restoration of Independence Hall. Jones was not only an architect and interior designer, but also a consultant to the White House. Both men worked alongside the project architects, Lewis-Eaton Partnership, Inc., on the historic and original parts of the mansion. The family annex built in 1908 was deemed unsafe in 1971. A new annex was built to provide more living quarters and office space.

The \$2.7 million restoration and renovation of the Governor’s Mansion was completed and dedicated on June 8, 1975. The mansion was deemed a National Historic Landmark for its “architectural and historical significance” in 1975.

## OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM

100 South State Street, Jackson 39201  
(601) 576-6920



The Old Capitol was the location of some of Mississippi's most important legislative actions. The passage of the 1839 Married Women's Property Act, Mississippi's succession from the Union in 1861, and the creation of the 1868 and 1890 state constitutions are a few significant events that occurred at the Old Capitol.

The Old Capitol was reopened by the state as a free museum after being restored. The museum focuses on the notable history of the building and the important events that have taken place there. Various multimedia displays show the roles of elected officials and the high court. The museum also showcases the importance of historic preservation to the state and the activities that occurred after the new Capitol was built in 1903.

The Old Capitol is a National Historic Landmark, as well as one of the country's best examples of Greek revival architecture. In 1839, the limestone exterior, copper dome, and large interior spaces made the building the most distinguished building in the state.

The architect for the Old Capitol was William Nichols. Nichols was born in 1780 in Bath, England and immigrated to the United States in 1800. Nichols came to Mississippi in 1835 as the new state architect. His first job was to tear down the building the previous architect had started. He also had to use limestone, even though he knew it was of lesser quality. Construction had to be slowed repeatedly because of problems with the brick suppliers and blocks of stone had to be carried by wagon to Jackson. Even though it was not an easy project, Nichols never gave up.

Besides small details on the interior of the building, the Capitol was completed by February 1840. In June 1840 a chandelier arrived and the final expense for flagging the rotunda was made on October 13, 1940. The total cost of the Capitol totaled \$400,000, a very large amount for that time. Nichols also designed the Mississippi Governor's Mansion and the State's first penitentiary. The penitentiary was located where the current State Capitol building now stands.

The Old Capitol Museum finished its last major renovation in 2009. The Old Capitol was the State's history museum from 1961 until 2005. Hurricane Katrina damaged the building and forced its closure. In 2006, the Legislature provided most of the \$16 million to

fund the project. Work began in January 2007 and the museum opened in early 2009.

The 2009 restoration brought major changes to Mississippi's most historic landmark. New changes and additions include the following: faux-limestone façade, wrought iron fence, historic Governor's office, state library, senate chamber, glass doors to legislative chambers, new draperies and carpets, light fixtures in the rotunda, and new staircase balusters.

The Old Capitol Museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday through Saturday and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The museum is closed on Monday. Admission to the Old Capitol is free, but please call ahead to schedule tours for groups of ten or more.

## E. T. WOOLFOLK STATE OFFICE BUILDING

501 North West Street, Jackson 39201



The E. T. Woolfolk Office Building stands immediately to the west of the Mississippi Capitol. The building was completed in 1949 at a cost of almost \$3.7 million. The original 259,000 square feet, 15-story building formed an appropriate backdrop to the new Capitol building. This building housed up to 28 State agencies at one point, making it a major hub of activity. At the time of construction, the Woolfolk building was the largest in the State.

In 1946, the Legislature authorized the building of a state facility to relieve the financial burdens of rents for State agencies. Architects E. L. Malvaney and Associates, Emmett J. Hull, Cary Jones, and Frank Gates were selected to design the building. The general contractor for the building was J.A. Jones Construction Company.

Governor Fielding L. Wright and other members of the Building Commission were responsible for the rapid progress in getting the project started and completed in the most timely and cost effective way.

The Woolfolk Building not only met the functional need for consolidating state agencies to one building, but was designed to reflect and highlight Mississippi's rich culture and heritage. For this reason, a portion of the building showcased Mississippi's industrial, recreational, and agricultural advantages in attractive displays and exhibits.

The building was named for Senatobia native Ellis Trigg Woolfolk (1877–1946), a state senator and representative who chaired the House Appropriations Committee. A 500-car parking garage was added in 2000 and an annex was added to the State office building in 2001.

## CARROLL GARTIN JUSTICE BUILDING

450 High Street, Jackson 39201



The Carroll Gartin Justice Building is home to the Mississippi Supreme Court and the Mississippi Court of Appeals. In 1993, planning for a new justice building began. Construction began in 2001 and the courts started moving in 2008. The building is named after former Lieutenant Governor Garroll Gartin. Gartin was also a two-term mayor of Laurel. He died while completing his third term as lieutenant governor in December 1966.

The remodeled building was designed to match the State Capitol across the street. The four-story building is 162,000 square feet and topped with a copper roof. The exterior consists of more than 10,000 pieces of Indiana limestone.

The State Supreme Court has been located in various buildings since its beginning in 1818. Originally, the court met at the Adams County Courthouse in Natchez. After moving to Monticello from 1826 to 1828, the Supreme Court relocated back to Natchez. From 1839 to 1903, the court met inside the Old Capitol in Jackson. The court moved from the current Capitol building to the original Gartin Justice Building in 1974.



## HEBER LADNER BUILDING

401 Mississippi Street, Jackson 39201



Constructed in 1924, the building now houses the Secretary of State's Office. The building started out as a library designed by architect N.W. Overstreet. The neoclassical Italian Renaissance-revival building was renovated in 1980. The two-story building contains 12,520 square feet of office and meeting space.

## WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING

120 South State Street, Jackson 39201



The War Memorial Building was designed by E.L. Malvaney and completed in 1940 as a tribute to Mississippi veterans. The exterior of the building is very restful and austere, but the interior is full of art deco style. Several veteran's associations and a military museum are located inside the building. A replica of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is located in the courtyard.

## **WALTER SILLERS BUILDING**

550 High Street, Jackson 39201



Currently, the Sillers Building houses the Offices of Medicaid, the Attorney General, and other State Agencies.

## **WILLIAM F. WINTER ARCHIVES AND HISTORY BUILDING**

200 North Street, Jackson 39201



The William F. Winter Archives and History Building was dedicated in November 2003. It serves as the main administration building and home to Mississippi's archives collection. The building shares a bluff in downtown Jackson with three prominent historic structures, including the War Memorial Building, the Capers Building, and the Old Capitol Building. The architecture of this facility mixes well with its historic neighbors and forms a suitable backdrop for the Old Capitol. The facility's major divisions are public areas for the study of state archives, administrative office spaces, archivists work areas, and archival stack storage areas.

**ROBERT E. LEE BUILDING**

239 North Lamar Street, Jackson 39201



The Italian Renaissance-style building was built in 1930 as a luxury hotel designed by Jackson architect Claude H. Lindsley. In 1969, the building was sold to the state and remodeled for government offices. It was again renovated in 1981 and 2011.

**CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**

359 North West Street, Jackson 39201



Parts of this building date as early as 1888-1889. Its present Collegiate Gothic appearance is due to major remodeling in 1925. Currently, it houses offices for the Mississippi Department of Education.

**OFFICE OF CAPITOL FACILITIES**

The Office of Capitol Facilities executes the responsibilities required to guarantee all buildings under this Office’s jurisdiction are kept operable and maintained. This Office also performs custodial duties and maintains grounds. Another responsibility of this Office is parking at the state buildings.

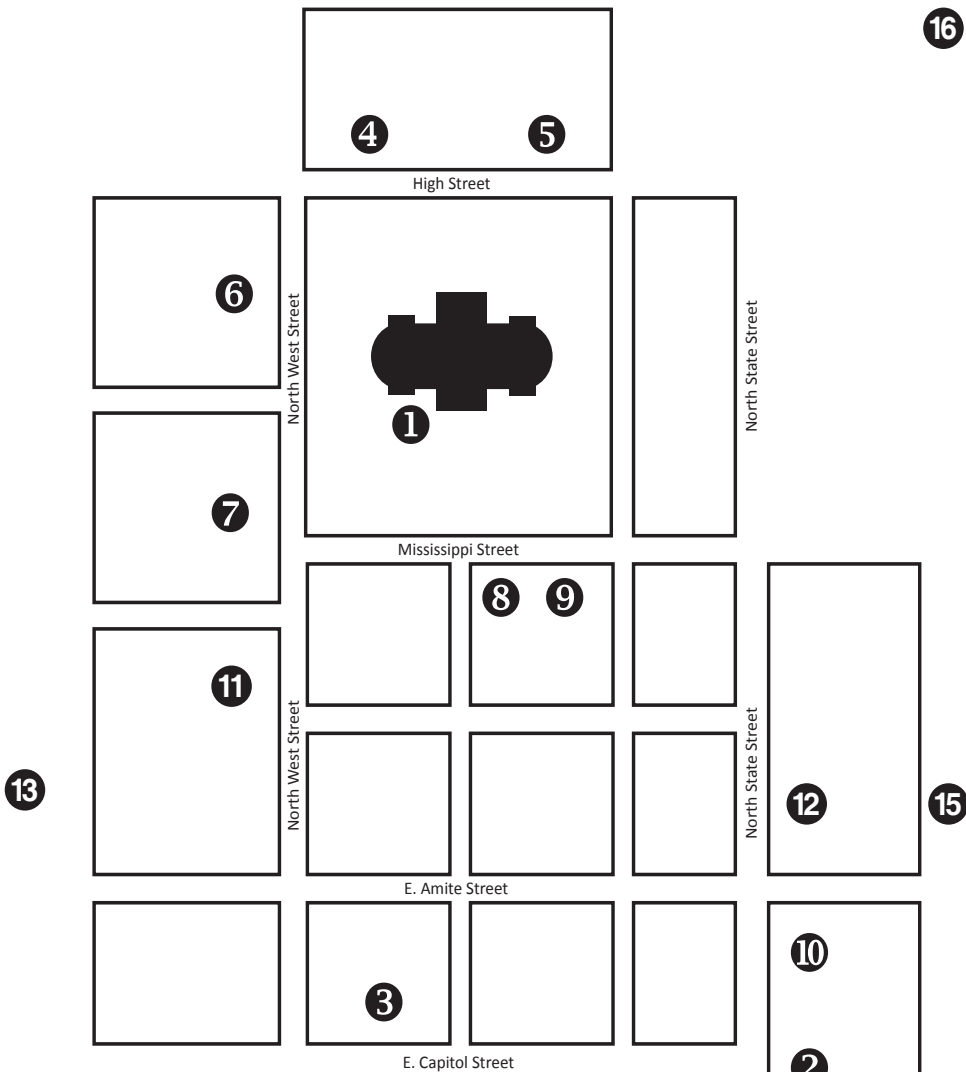
The Office of Capitol Facilities currently has 24 buildings under its jurisdiction: Central High Building, New Capitol Building, Burroughs Building, Carroll Gartin Building, Governor’s Mansion, Heber Ladner Building, Robert E. Lee Building, 700 North State Street, Walter Sillers Building, Charlotte Capers Building, GM&O Depot Building, 515 Amite Street, Old Capitol Building, Manship House, Manship Visitor’s Center, War Memorial Building, 301 Building, Carpenter Shop, State Records Center, E. T. Woolfolk Building, E. L. Bolton State Office Building (Biloxi), and State Service Buildings #1 and #2 (Hattiesburg). The 660 North Street and the 620 North Street Buildings are also under the jurisdiction of Capitol Facilities.

**CAPITOL FACILITES INFORMATION**

<b>BUILDING NAME</b>	<b>USE</b>	<b>CONSTR./ RENOVATED</b>	<b>GROSS SQ FT</b>
NEW CAPITOL .....	LEGISLATURE .....	1874/1903 .....	142,500
GOVERNOR'S MANSION .....	RESIDENCE/OFC .....	1842/1908/1972 .....	22,800
HEBER LADNER .....	SEC OF STATE .....	1924/1949/1980 .....	12,520
GARTIN BUILDING .....	JUDICIAL .....	1974/2001 .....	162,000
ROBERT E. LEE .....	OFFICE .....	1930/1981/2011 .....	115,300
WOOLFOLK .....	OFFICE .....	1949/2001 .....	446,616
WALTER SILLERS .....	OFFICE .....	1970/2008 .....	271,471
101 W. CAPITOL .....	OFFICE .....	1983 .....	50,000
301 BUILDING .....	OFFICE .....	1986 .....	83,690
620 BUILDING .....	OFFICE .....	1978/2010 .....	34,397
666 BUILDING .....	OFFICE .....	1973/2011 .....	34,964
700 BUILDING .....	OFFICE .....	1987/2009 .....	63,597
515 E. AMITE .....	OFFICE .....	2008/2009/2010 .....	112,000
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL .....	EDUCATION .....	1925/1999 .....	136,632
BOLTON STATE BLDG. ....	OFFICE .....	1998/2009 .....	136,611
HATTIESBURG SERVICE CTR... ..	OFFICE .....	1998 .....	27,555
GM&O DEPOT .....	OFFICE .....	1927 .....	5,200
WINTER ARCHIVES BLDG.....	LIBRARY/MUSEUM... ..	2003 .....	145,036
OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM .....	MUSEUM/OFFICE .....	1839/2000/2010 .....	52,200
CAPERS BUILDING .....	OFFICE/LIBRARY .....	1971 .....	44,700
WAR MEMORIAL .....	MUSEUM .....	1940 .....	44,400
STATE RECORD CENTER .....	WAREHOUSE .....	1981 .....	26,721
MANSHIP HOUSE .....	MUSEUM .....	1989/2001/2012 .....	5,928
SILLERS GARAGE .....	PARKING .....	2009 .....	301,376
WOOLFOLK GARAGE .....	PARKING .....	2001 .....	156,798
ROBERT E. LEE GARAGE .....	PARKING .....	1996 .....	115,300
WOOLFOLK ANNEX .....	OFFICE .....	2001 .....	34,143
OLD NAVAL BUILDING .....	STORAGE .....	1949 .....	25,000
TRAILWAYS BUS STATION.....	CARPENTER SHOP.....	1986 .....	13,328

# MISSISSIPPI CAPITOL COMPLEX

## JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI



- ① Mississippi State Capitol
- ② Old Capitol Museum
- ③ Governor's Mansion
- ④ William Gartin Justice Building
- ⑤ Walter Sillers Office Building
- ⑥ E.T. Woolfolk Office Building
- ⑦ MS Dept. of Transportation
- ⑧ Ladner - Secretary of State Bldg.
- ⑨ PERS Building
- ⑩ War Memorial Building
- ⑪ MS Dept. of Education
- ⑫ Winter Archives & History Bldg.
- ⑬ Robert E. Lee Office Building
- ⑭ Charlotte Capers Office Building
- ⑮ MS Department of Agriculture
- ⑯ MS Dept. of Human Services

## **STATE MUSEUMS**

### **EUDORA WELTY HOUSE**

1119 Pinehurst Street, Jackson 39202  
(601) 353-7762  
[www.mdah.ms.gov/welty](http://www.mdah.ms.gov/welty)

The Eudora Welty House is a National Historic Landmark and one of the nation's most intact literary house museums, reflecting Welty's life there over 76 years. Welty left her house and collection of thousands of books to the State. The Welty family also donated furniture and art. Visitors will see Welty's house as she lived in it.

### **JIM BUCK ROSS AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY MUSEUM**

1150 Lakeland Drive, Jackson 39216  
(601) 432-4500  
[www.msagmuseum.org](http://www.msagmuseum.org)

Celebrating Mississippi's proud agricultural legacy, the museum invites visitors to park their vehicle, walk across a rustic bridge, and enter a bygone era. Guides reveal how agriculture and forestry molded the history and heritage of the State. Various museums of the Ag Museum include the Heritage Center, Forestry Auditorium, Ethnic Heritage Center, Fitzgerald Collection, and more.

### **MANSHIP HOUSE MUSEUM**

420 East Fortification Street, Jackson 39202  
(601) 961-4724  
[www.mdah.ms.gov/new/visit/manship-house-museum](http://www.mdah.ms.gov/new/visit/manship-house-museum)

The Manship House was built on a four-acre lot in a sparsely settled area of Jackson when it was a city of about 3,000. Although the city has grown up around the house, it stands in its original setting of native trees and shrubs, some of which may have been planted by Manship himself.

## **MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE**

2148 Riverside Drive, Jackson 39202  
(601) 576-6000  
[www.mdwfp.com/museum](http://www.mdwfp.com/museum)

Located in LeFleur's Bluff State Park, the Museum's buildings and group feature a 73,000-square-foot exhibit complex overlooking a 300-acre natural landscape, 2.5 miles of nature trails and an open-air amphitheater.

## **MUSEUM OF MISSISSIPPI HISTORY**

200 North Street, Jackson 39201  
(601) 576-6850

The Museum of Mississippi History opens in celebration of Mississippi's bicentennial. The museum explores the entirety of the State's history.

## **MISSISSIPPI CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM**

200 North Street, Jackson 39201  
(601) 576-6800

The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum is the first State-sponsored civil rights museum in the nation and opens in celebration of Mississippi's bicentennial. The museum focuses on the years 1945 to 1976 and aims to tell the story of extraordinary struggle to guarantee equal rights for all.

## **MISSISSIPPI ARMED FORCES MUSEUM**

CSJFTC - Museum Building 850, Hattiesburg 39407  
(601) 558-2757  
[www.armedforcesmuseum.com](http://www.armedforcesmuseum.com)

The Mississippi Armed Forces Museum is the only State-operated museum in Mississippi dedicated completely to military history. The museum honors the service and sacrifices of people from all branches of the military and houses over 15,000 artifacts.

