

COME VISIT US!

TOURS

Guided tours of Pennsylvania's Capitol are offered every half hour Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Weekends and most holiday tours are offered at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., & 3:00 p.m.

The Capitol is closed for tours New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

Schedule subject to change without notice.

Tour the Capitol by scheduling a tour online at www.pacapitol.com/book-a-tour/ or by calling the Tour Guide Office at 1-800-TOUR-N-PA (868-7672).

Groups of 10 or more require advanced reservations.

For your safety, and the safety of others, group size is limited to 40.

Groups with more than 40 people will require multiple tour times. Please schedule accordingly.

All changes or cancellations must be made by calling 1-800-868-7672.

THE INTERACTIVE WELCOME CENTER

Is located in the East Wing of the Capitol, and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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THE
PENNSYLVANIA
CAPITOL



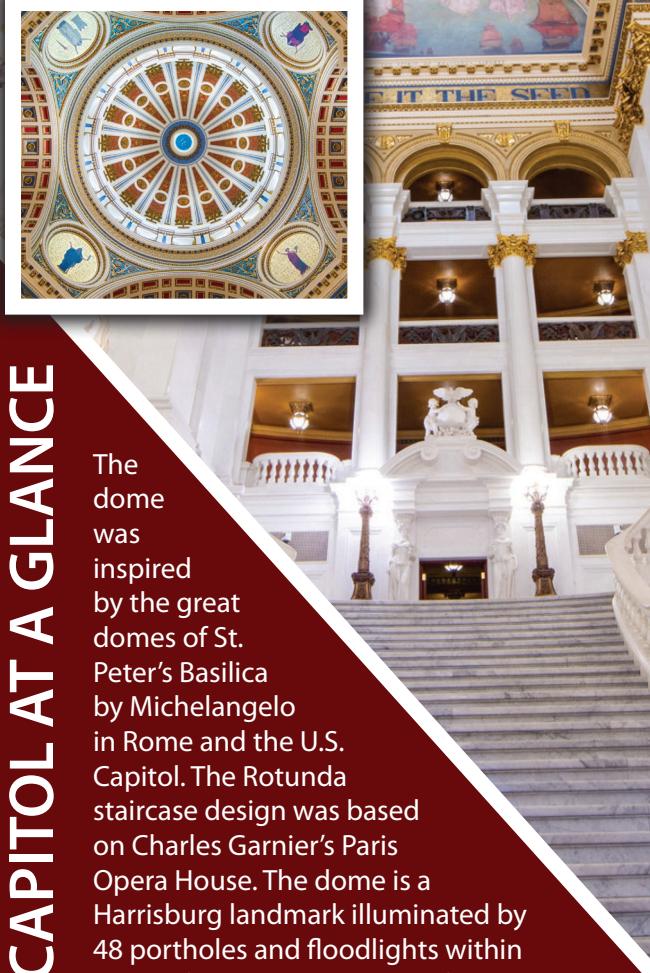
LOOKING BACK AT THE CAPITOL

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 on 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.

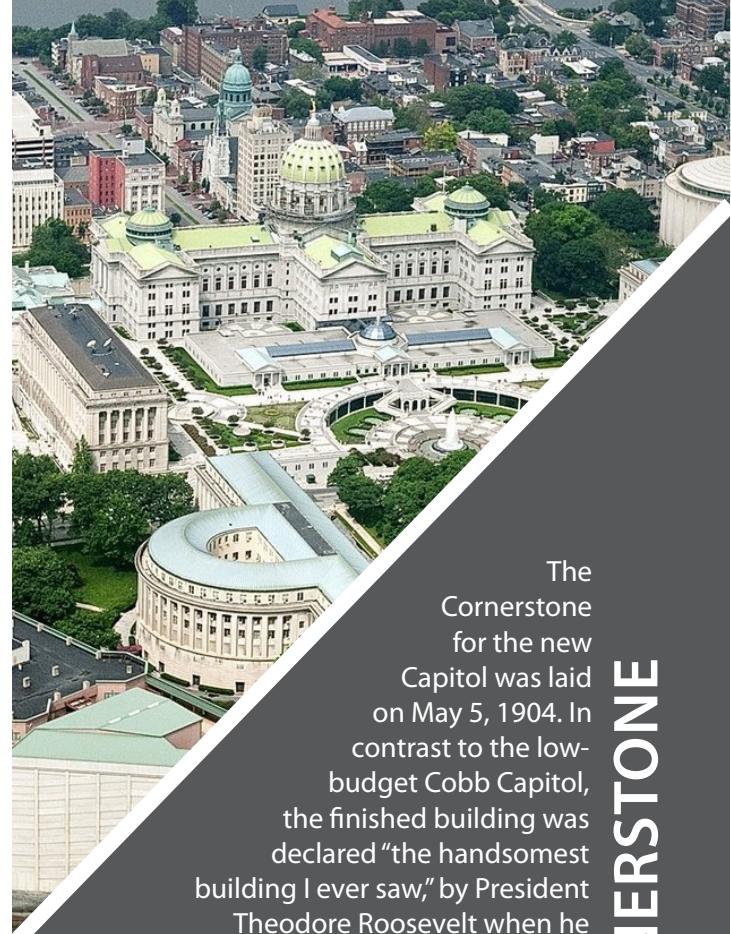
On February 2, 1897, while the Legislature was in session, a fire, presumably caused by a faulty fireplace flume, burned beneath the floor of the Lieutenant Governor's office. Outside, a blizzard hampered efforts to battle the blaze. Fortunately no one was killed, but the 75-year-old building burnt down.

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.

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.



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 handsomest building I ever saw," by President Theodore Roosevelt when he dedicated it with a 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 terracotta tile. The Capitol is 520 feet long and 254 feet wide and covers 45 acres of ground.



THE CORNERSTONE