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Form 10-300 (July 1969)

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	NATI	ONAL	PARK	SERV	ICE	

STATE:		
	KENTUCKY	
COUNTY:	FRANKLIN	
	OR NPS USE ONLY	

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7.	DESCRIPTION							
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	CONDITION	XX Excellent 🗌 Go	ood 🗌 Fair	☐ Det	eriorated	Ruins	Unexposed	
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Kentucky's magnificent Capitol is surrounded by an architectural stone terrace. The face-work of the three story building is constructed of Oolitic limestone from Bedford, Indiana, and has a Vermont granite base. The outer walls are ornamented with 70 Ionic columns of Bedford stone.

A richly sculptured pediment graces the north entrance. It shows a heroic lady, Kentucky, standing in front of a chair of State, with Progress, History, Plenty, Law, Art, and Labor as her attendants.

The nave is generous in length and breadth and is ornamented with 36 monolithic columns of granite from Barre, Vermont. The white marble used in construction of walls and stairways is from Georgia quarries. Tennessee and Italy furnished marble for the floors - Tennessee the light, Italy the dark.

Lunettes of the nave are decorated with handsome oil paintings, depicting significant events in Kentucky's pioneer history.

In the House Of Representatives and Senate Chambers is a marble effect which is a form of ornamental plastering known as "Scagliola." The unusual effect is achieved by applying fine marble dust to a sublayer of gypsum mixed with glue, and then giving the surface a high polish.

Much French influence is found in the building. The rotunda and interior of the dome, and the lantern and dome exterior, were copied from the Hotel des Invalides over Napoleon's Tomb in Paris. Stairways, banisters, and balustards are patterned after those in the Opera of Paris. The State Reception Room is a replica of Marie Antionette's drawing room in the Grand Trianon Palace at Versailles.



SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	lôth Century	☐ 18th Century	X 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1904	; 1906; 1910	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	eck One or More as Appropria	ite)	11 11 11 11
Abor iginal	Education	XX Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering-	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
☐ Agriculture	Invention	Science	1 Minimum Kan
XX Architecture	Londscape	Sculpture	JUN
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☐ Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	VIDER 18
			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Plams for construction of Kentucky's Capitol were begun when it was determined that Kentucky would receive at least one million dollars from the federal government for claims stemming from the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. The 1904 General Assembly, at the request of Governor J.C.W. Beckham, appropriated a like amount and appointed a Capitol Building Commission.

A special session of the General Assembly, in February, 1905, selected a thirty-four acre site, 599 feet above sea level, in south Frankfort, and appropriated \$40,000 for its purchase. Ground was broken and excavation begun, May 25, 1905. The original completion date was set for 1907, but unavoidable delays resulted and it was two years later, December 1907, before the various departments of state government could move into the offices. One month later, January 1910, the first session of the Kentucky General Assembly was held in the new quarters. On June 1, 1910, the new Capitol Building was officially dedicated. Cost of the building, including land, construction, and furnishings was \$1,820,000.00

The contract for the design of the Capitol Building went to a brilliant young architect, Frank Mills Andrews, who had the courage and initiative to break away from the conventional design of public buildings. Early in his career, Andrews became an admirer of the "Francaise," having been greatly impressed by the artistic results of the design of so many showplaces of France. Consequently, in the design of the Kentucky Capitol Building, he decided to combine the sturdy majestic profile of the Grecian with the highly ornate elegance of French styling.

The interior of the dome and the rotunda were chosen by Archews to be the main portion of the building to portray the French influence. This area is patterned after the Tomb Of Napoleon. To remind the world that Kentucky furnished the President for both the Confederacy and the Union duming the Civil War, the statues of Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln occupy prominent places in the rotunda. The statues of the statesman Henry Clay and the noted pioneer surgeon, Ephriam McDowell, are also included in the rotunda. (See Continuation Sheet)

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

	APR	13	1973
ENTR	Y NUMBER		DATE
F	OR NPS USE	ONL	Υ
COUNTY	FRANK		
	KENTU		
STATE			

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Of particular beauty and charm is the State Reception Room. Architect Andrews here produced a replica of Marie Antionette's drawing room in the Palace of the Grand Trianon of Versailles. There the walls are covered by paintings of the original Gobelin tapestry. The Scagoliola on both the walls and the ceilings is copied after the Pavonazzo marble that was used in the French Palace.

Carpet in the Reception Room was woven in Austria from the French Ellane pattern, and is said to be the largest specially designed rug ever made; it is 56 x 16 feet and has been in use since 1910. A most unusual feature of the Reception Room is the lighting effect brought about by the continuous mirror reflection of the three chandeliers and their elaborate arrangement of glass prisms.



Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
Kentucky	
COUNTY	
Franklin	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
AD D 1	3 1973

(Num	ber	ali	entri	es)

#8 Statement of Significance

Since the time of its completion the Kentucky State Capitol Building has contained the office of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and their Administrative staff, as well as many other important state offices. It has also served as the bienniam meeting place of the Kentucky General Assembly. Since January, 1910, all State Legislation has been voted on and become law in the Chambers of this building. Governors, Legislators, and other state officials have gained political prominence in careers launched in the halls and rooms of the Kentucky State Capitol Building.

