

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Confederate Capitol

AND/OR COMMON

Alabama State Capitol

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Goat Hill, east of Dexter Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Montgomery

VICINITY OF

second

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alabama

01

Montgomery

101

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of Alabama/Chief of General Services

STREET & NUMBER

State Capitol Building, Room 24

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Montgomery

VICINITY OF

Alabama

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Montgomery

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey (8 sheets and 11 photographs)

DATE

1935

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Washington

District of Columbia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Territorial Capital of Alabama was established at St. Stephens in 1818. Huntsville served as capital for 1819 and part of 1820, then Cahaba 1820-1826, then Tuscaloosa 1826-1847. In 1846 the State legislature chose Montgomery as a new permanent capital city, provided the people of Montgomery paid all the expenses for the removal of capital records and construction of the capital building.

Architects from New York, Baltimore and New Orleans entered the competition in 1846 for the design of the Montgomery Capital. Stephen Decatur Button (1813-1897) was awarded the contract. Button was born in Connecticut and began his career as a house builder in Hoboken, New Jersey. He went south in 1843 and is known to have worked in Florida, Augusta, Georgia and other towns and was engaged in other work besides the capital in Montgomery in early 1848. That year he left the south and went to Philadelphia where he opened an office, while living in Camden, New Jersey. Later in the century he again did some work in the south, particularly in New Orleans.

Appointed as superintendent of construction for the Montgomery Capital in 1847 was George Nichols, an English born architect who arrived in America in the mid-nineteenth century. All the buildings he is known to have designed were located in Alabama. In 1840 he completed the president's house at the University of Tuscaloosa. None of his other buildings are known to have survived the Civil War.

The top of Goat Hill was chosen as the site for the capital building. This elevation is at the head of Dexter Avenue, Montgomery's main business street and overlooks this whole section of the town. The building was completed and turned over to the State October 26, 1847, and was first occupied by the legislature in December 1847. Two years later, on December 14, 1849, while the second biennial legislature was in session, a fire destroyed almost the entire building, only the masonry foundations and part of the walls were left.

The legislature argued about moving the capital back to Tuscaloosa, but decided to remain in Montgomery, and in February 1850 appropriated money to rebuild the destroyed capital, on the same site, based on the original plans. By this time Stephen Decatur Button was practicing in Philadelphia, however, for the rebuilding he was named superintendent of construction and he maintained contact by mail with Montgomery until 1856. For the rebuilding, George Nichols was named architect, although the work was based on Button's plans for the first buildings, including the dome and portico, the most distinctive exterior features of the simple but well-proportioned building. The building was completed in time for the legislature to meet there October 1, 1851. The clock was placed in the tower in February 1852. The building was originally square but has been extended on three sides and is now T-shaped.

The exterior walls are stucco over brick and the 97 foot dome is metal painted white. The interior walls are of sand-finished plaster, with hall floors of marble and office floors of pine. The original plan of the building

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES February-May, 1861

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Stephen Decatur Button, Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Alabama State Capitol was the meeting place for delegates from six Southern States, February 4-8, 1861. There they adopted a provisional constitution for the Confederate States of America, and the Confederate Congress continued to meet there until the capital was moved to Richmond in May 1861.

The original Capitol building, designed by ~~Stephen Decatur Button~~ was completed in Montgomery during 1847. During the session of the legislature on December 14, 1849, the building was almost entirely destroyed by fire. Work on a new building, based on the original plans, began immediately and the second building was completed in 1851 and is the central portion of the Alabama State Capitol of today.

HISTORY

On January 11, 1861, following the election of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States, Alabama's Secession Convention voted to withdraw from the Union. On February 4, six Southern States met to form a provisional Confederate Constitution. South Carolina had been the first to secede, on December 20, 1860. The Alabama Ordinance of Secession was the fourth, following South Carolina, Mississippi, and Florida. By February 4 they had been joined Georgia and Louisiana. Texas had also seceded, but did not attend. On February 7, the 37 delegates considered a "Constitution for the Provisional Government of the Confederate States of North America." The word "North" was stricken, and on February 8 the constitution was unanimously adopted.

February 9 Jefferson Davis of Mississippi was unanimously elected President of the Confederation and Alexander Stephens of Georgia became Vice President. With great celebration, Davis was inaugurated February 18 on the west portico of the Capitol and afterwards the original Confederate flag, the Stars and Bars, was raised for the first time, over the building.

The permanent Confederate constitution was adopted in this building on March 11, 1861. One month later Confederate guns fired on Fort Sumter. The Confederate Congress continued to meet in Montgomery for another month, when the capital was moved to Richmond May 22, 1861, following Virginia's entrance into the Confederacy.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Coulter, E. Merton. The Confederate States of America, 1861-1865, Vol. VII, 1950.
 Kennedy, J. B., Jr. "Greek Revival Architecture in Alabama." Brickbuilder, 1904.
American Architect and Building News. July 16, 1892, Vol. 37, pp. 37-38.
 Randall, J. G. Lincoln the President: Springfield to Gettsburg, Vol. I, 1945.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY nine

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>16</u>	<u>56,57,60</u>	<u>3,58,23,0,0</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Alabama State Capital and its grounds occupy approximately 9 acres on the top of Goat Hill, overlooking Montgomery. The grounds are bounded on the north by Monroe Street, on the east by Union Street, on the west by Bainbridge Street and on the south by Washington Street, along each of the sides by the inside curb of the street nearest the capital grounds.

See Sketch Map

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Blanche Higgins Schroer, Landmark Review Project

9-29-75

ORGANIZATION

DATE

1100 L Street NW.

(202) 523-5464

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Washington

D.C.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it is designated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Designated date Dec 11, 1968

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Boundary Certified: Blanche Higgins Schroer
 DATE Aug 27, 1977

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/10/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Confederate Capital ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

(as seen in enclosed plan) is rather simple. The Senate and House today still occupy the same rooms as first intended, with slight alterations. The Supreme Court, however, has been moved out of the original portion of the building.

The 1934 HABS report cited the cantilevered double stairway which rises two stories inside the main entrance and the rotunda as the most marked features of the plan. "In the main stair hall we find one of the few existing double circular stairs of ambitious public character. The rotunda, while not large is very well proportioned to the size of the building and to the Senate and House chambers." The report also described the elevation and dome as of "exquisite design" and singled out the dome drum and the capitals of the six portico columns as particularly distinctive.

In 1885-1886 the first addition, the east wing, was constructed by contractors Figh and Williams to provide space for the Supreme Court, the library and offices of the Court of Appeals. The south wing, completed in 1907, and the north wing, completed in 1911, were designed by Charles F. McKim of New York, and Frank Lockwood of Montgomery. The entire building was renovated in 1934, and the State is currently planning a new restoration and renovation of the building.

The capital building's grounds were planned by the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted in the end of the nineteenth century and still contain some rare and beautiful shrubbery and trees as well as several historical monuments.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

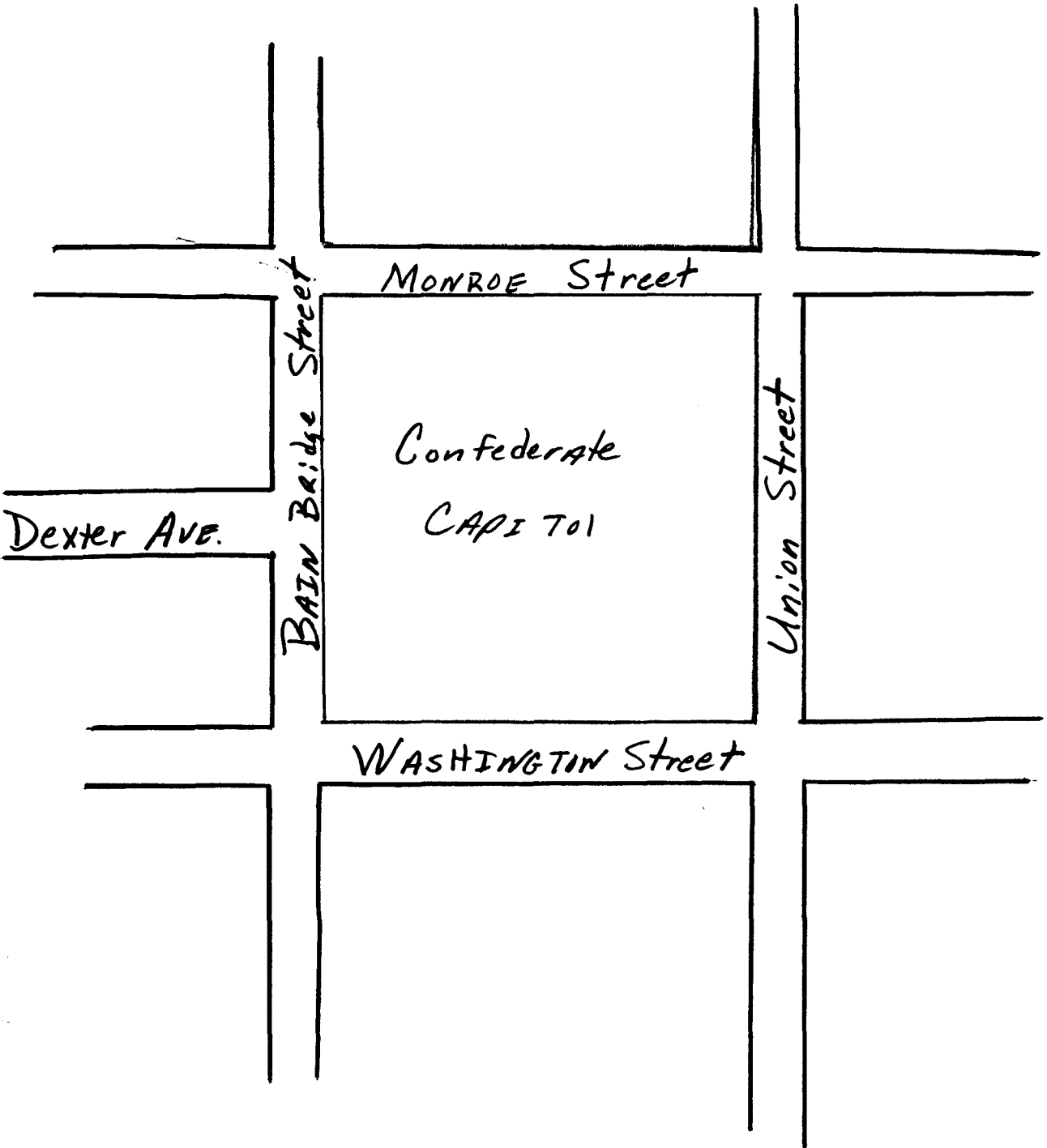
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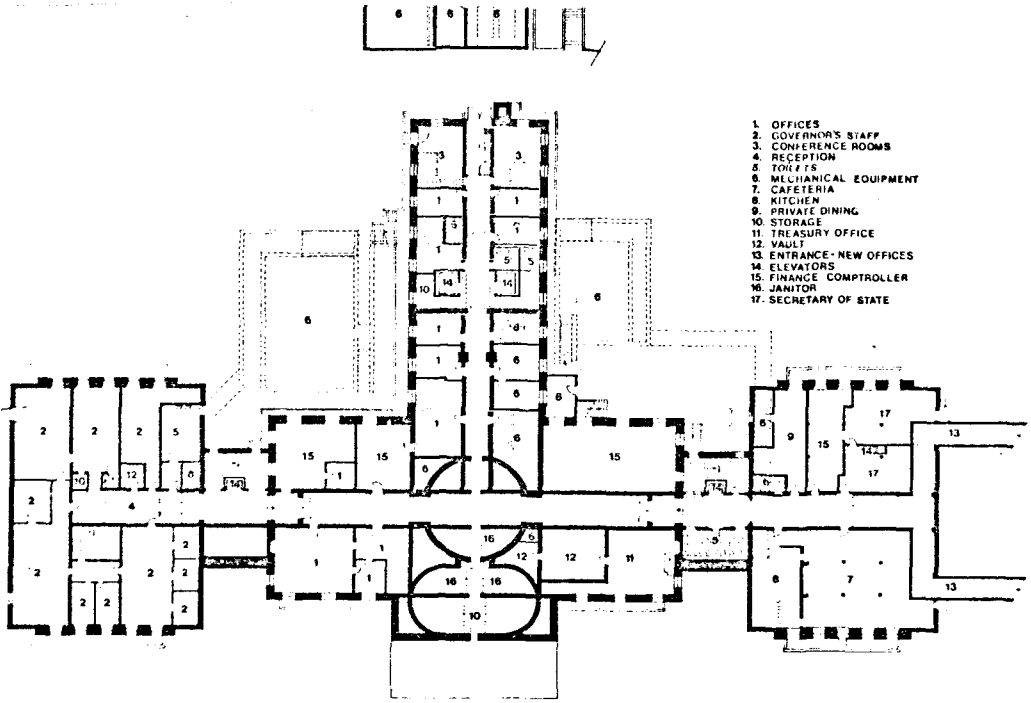
Simpson, James B. "Alabama State Capitol, a Historical Sketch." Alabama Historical Quarterly, January 1898, reprinted Spring 1956, Vol. 18, No. 1, pp. 81-130.

Weese, Harry, and Associates. A Study for the Restoration of the State Capitol of Alabama. Prepared for the State Capitol Preservation Commission, 1973.

West, Richard. Interview with Carolyn Pitts, NPS architectural historian.

Sketch MAP

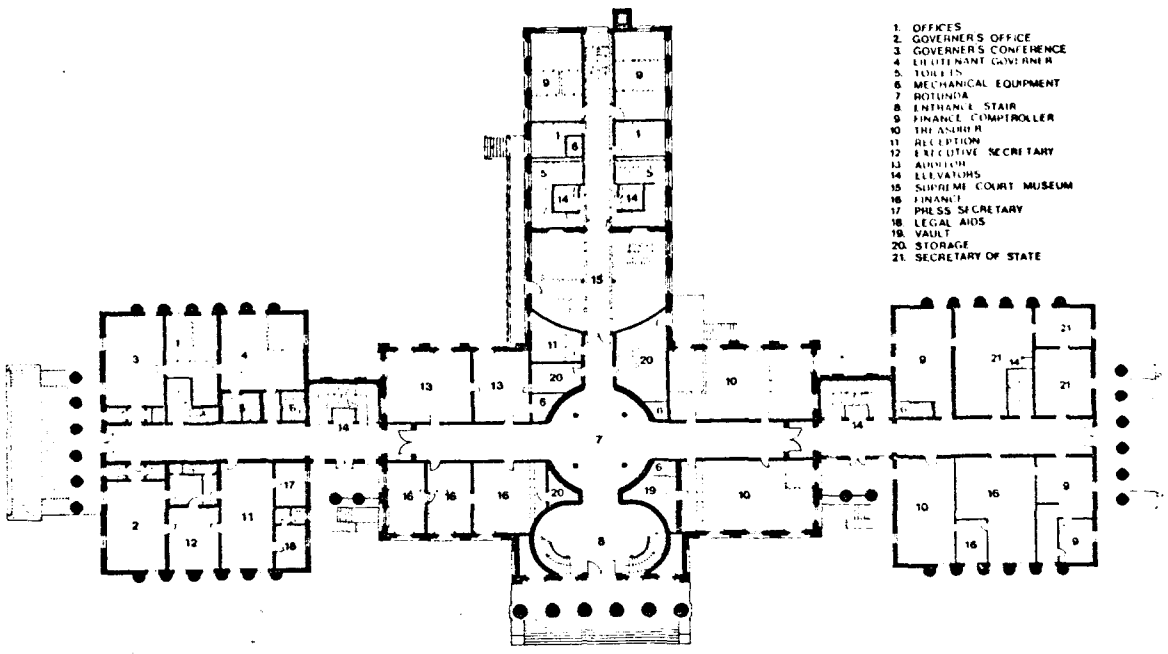




- 1. OFFICES
- 2. GOVERNOR'S STAFF
- 3. CONFERENCE ROOMS
- 4. RECEPTION
- 5. TOILETS
- 6. MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT
- 7. CAFETERIA
- 8. KITCHEN
- 9. PRIVATE DINING
- 10. STORAGE
- 11. TREASURY OFFICE
- 12. VAULT
- 13. ENTRANCE-NEW OFFICES
- 14. ELEVATORS
- 15. FINANCE COMPTROLLER
- 16. JANITOR
- 17. SECRETARY OF STATE

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

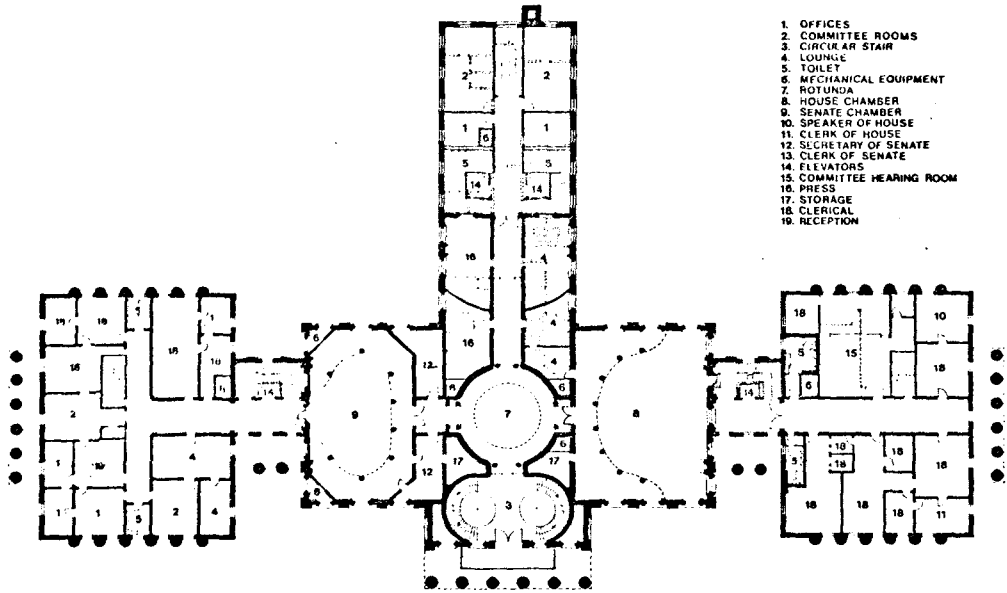
0 10 20
 1:1 AS SHOWN 1/12 SCALE 1961 1964 NEW YORK



- 1. OFFICES
- 2. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
- 3. GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE
- 4. LITIGANT GOVERNOR
- 5. TOILETS
- 6. MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT
- 7. ROTUNDA
- 8. ENTRANCE STAIR
- 9. FINANCE COMPTROLLER
- 10. JANITOR
- 11. RECEPTION
- 12. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- 13. AUDITORIUM
- 14. ELEVATORS
- 15. SUPREME COURT MUSEUM
- 16. FINANCE
- 17. PRESS SECRETARY
- 18. LEGAL AIDS
- 19. VAULT
- 20. STORAGE
- 21. SECRETARY OF STATE

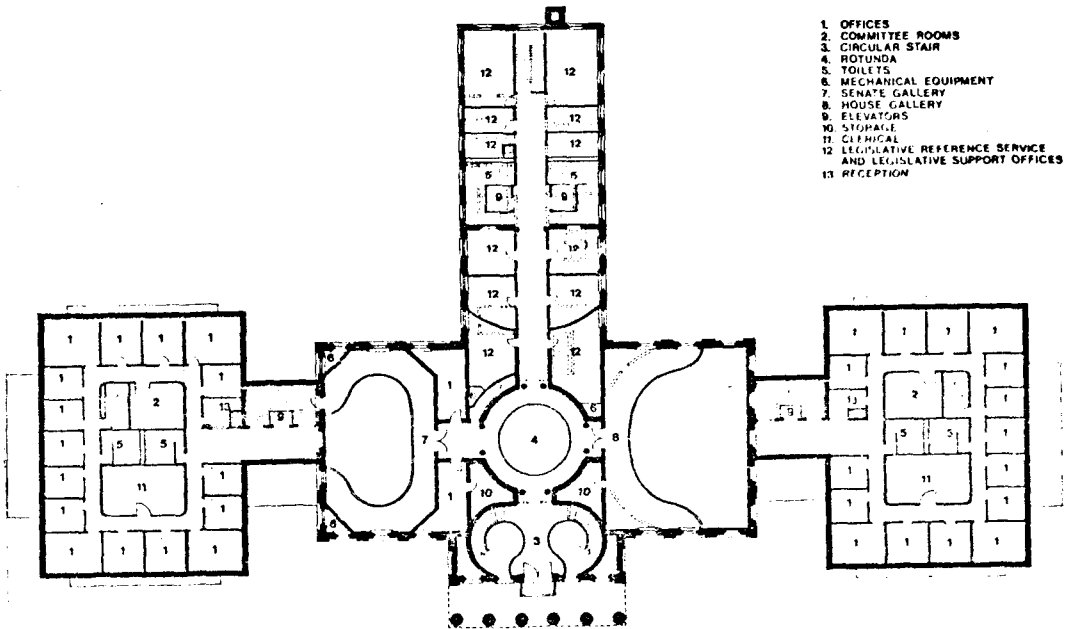
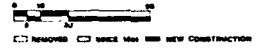
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

0 10 20
 1:1 AS SHOWN 1/12 SCALE 1961 1964 NEW YORK



- 1. OFFICES
- 2. COMMITTEE ROOMS
- 3. CIRCULAR STAIR
- 4. LOUNGE
- 5. TOILET
- 6. MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT
- 7. ROTUNDA
- 8. HOUSE CHAMBER
- 9. SENATE CHAMBER
- 10. SPEAKER OF HOUSE
- 11. CLERK OF HOUSE
- 12. SECRETARY OF SENATE
- 13. CLERK OF SENATE
- 14. ELEVATORS
- 15. COMMITTEE HEARING ROOM
- 16. PRESS
- 17. STORAGE
- 18. CLERICAL
- 19. RECEPTION

SECOND FLOOR PLAN



- 1. OFFICES
- 2. COMMITTEE ROOMS
- 3. CIRCULAR STAIR
- 4. ROTUNDA
- 5. TOILETS
- 6. MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT
- 7. SENATE GALLERY
- 8. HOUSE GALLERY
- 9. ELEVATORS
- 10. STORAGE
- 11. CLERICAL
- 12. LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE SERVICE AND LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT OFFICES
- 13. RECEPTION

THIRD FLOOR PLAN

