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TEXAS CAPITOL GUIDE

Government Publications
Texas State Documents

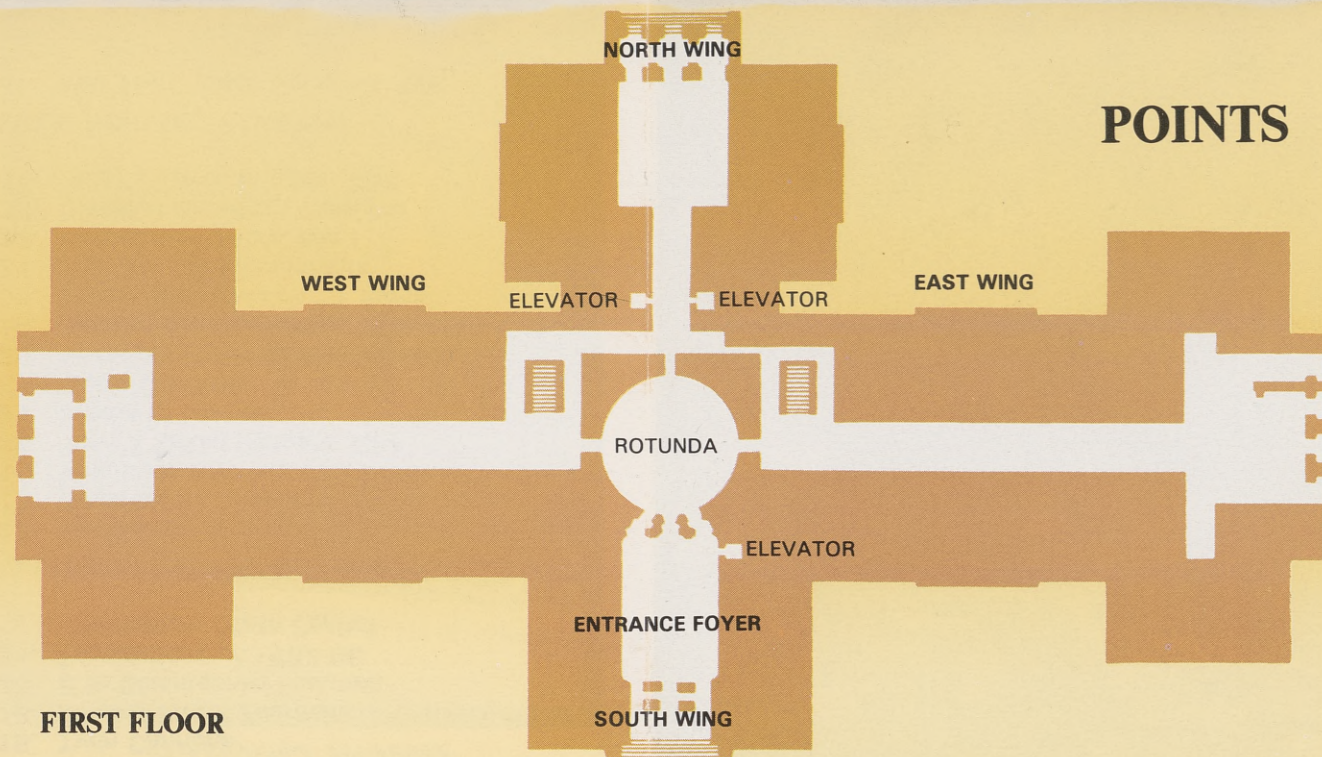
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STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
Travel & Information Division
Austin, Texas

POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE TEXAS CAPITOL



FIRST FLOOR

SOUTH ENTRANCE FOYER (from downtown Austin)

Twelve significant battles fought on Texas soil are memorialized in terrazzo on the foyer floor. On opposite walls are paintings by Austin artist W. H. Huddle depicting, on the west wall, the surrender of Santa Anna after the battle of San Jacinto, and, on the east wall, Davy Crockett, well-known hero of the Alamo. Flanking the entrance to the rotunda are marble statues by Texas sculptor Elisabet Ney, of Stephen F. Austin, Father of Texas, and Sam Houston, Commander in Chief during the Texas Revolution. A copy of the Texas Declaration of Independence, signed March 2, 1836, appears behind a wrought iron and glass enclosure on the right. Similarly displayed on the left is a copy of the Ordinance of Secession signed February 1, 1861.

ROTUNDA

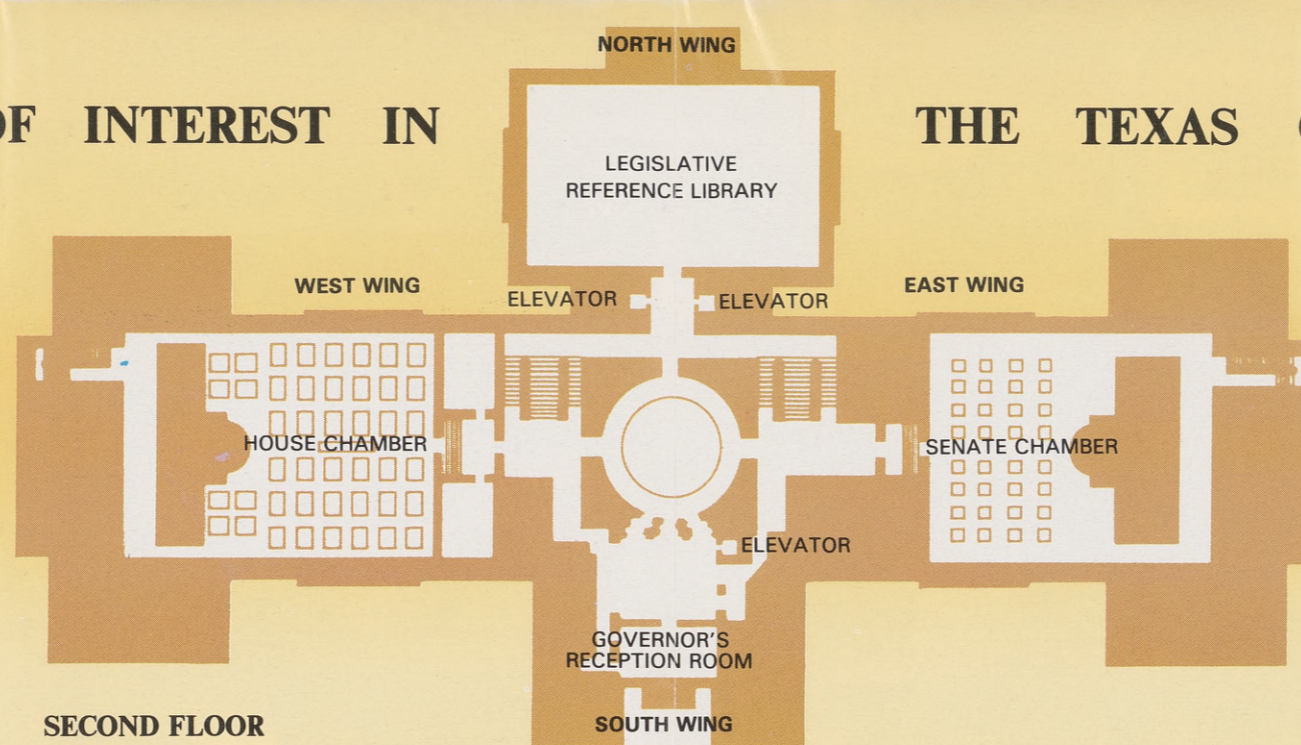
In the center of the building is the circular open rotunda rising to the top of the dome. Four floors of the Capitol open on it. The circular steps appearing in the very upper portion of the dome are not open to the public. Portraits of the five Presidents of the Republic of Texas and the past Governors of the State of Texas are displayed on the walls of the first, second, third and fourth floors. A bust of Texas' only

woman governor, Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson, occupies a pedestal on the main floor.

In the center of the rotunda floor is a composite terrazzo design of the "Seals of the Nations." The Seal of the Republic of Texas, with its Lone Star, forms the center of the giant pattern. Tangent to this circle and between the points of a larger star are the coats of arms of each of the five nations of which Texas has been a part.

In colorful stonework is depicted the Great Seal of the United States. Next, clockwise, is the Seal of the Confederacy that pictures an equestrian statue of George Washington at Richmond. The most active design is Mexico's seal displaying the famed eagle and snake of Mexican legend. France is represented by the dignity of the fleur-de-lis from the coat of arms of the Bourbon kings of France. For the Kingdom of Spain, a seal depicts the lions and castles of Leon and Castile. The overall design can be appreciated more fully by views from upper balconies of the rotunda.

Executive and legislative branches of state government, along with support services, are housed in the Capitol. Other state offices are in surrounding buildings of the Capitol complex. Directories of Capitol offices are on the east and west walls of the north hall.



SECOND FLOOR

Visitors are welcome to the Governor's Reception Room in the south wing. The six flags that have flown over Texas are displayed behind glass in the walls. The governor's and his staff's working offices are on the right and left of the reception room.

The House of Representatives, in the west wing, is the chamber for 150 members elected for two-year terms and presided over by the Speaker. Votes are cast electronically. Totals appear on a miniature panel on the desk of the Speaker and on large panels on the front wall of the chamber. Members of the press have their own box to the Speaker's left. Bills are read at the podium directly in front of the Speaker. Directly behind the Speaker's rostrum is enshrined the original San Jacinto battle flag. The Speaker of the House has his offices and living quarters to the left rear of the chamber. The Chief Clerk has offices on the right.

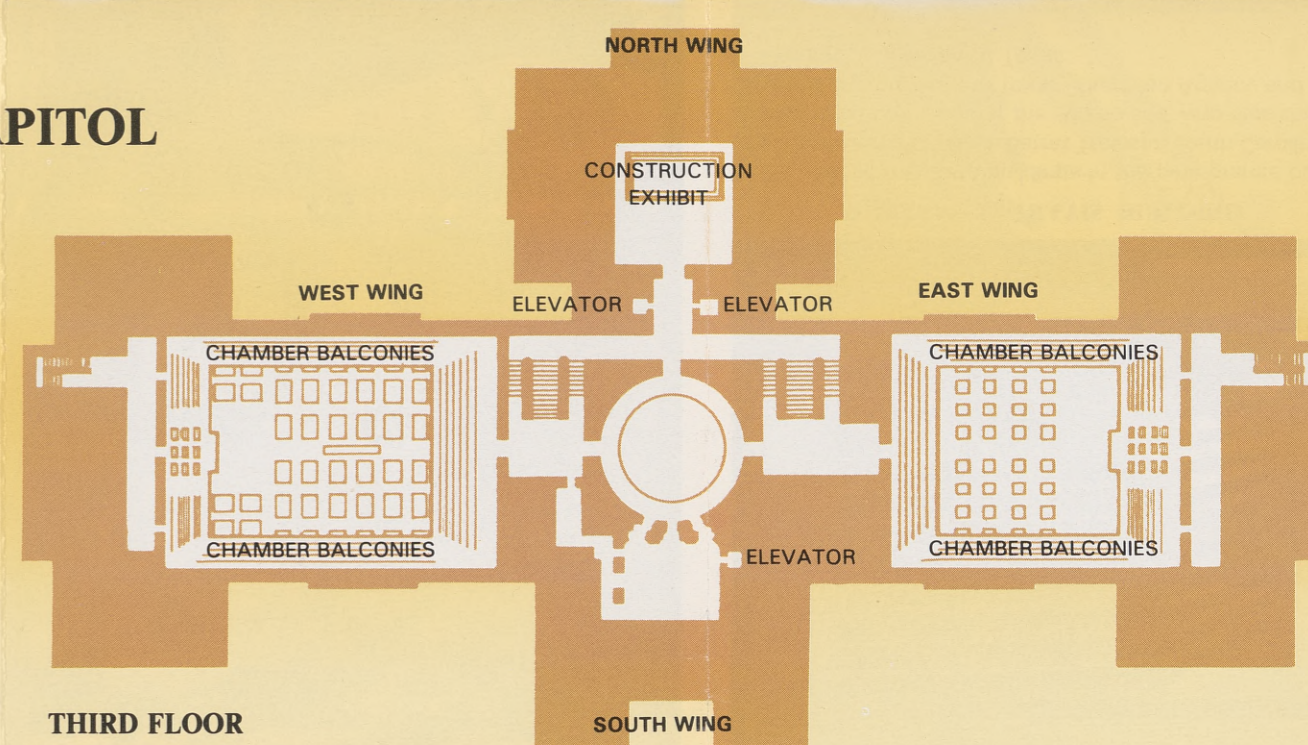
Visitors are not allowed on the House floor during sessions without special permission. They are welcome in the House Reception Room and in the third-floor visitors' balcony.

The Senate, in the east wing, is the hall of deliberation for the 31 members elected for four-year terms. The Lt. Governor presides over the Senate. His office

and living quarters are to the right rear of the Senate chamber. An office for the Secretary of the Senate is to the left rear of the main chamber. Of the many paintings in these chambers, most historical interest centers on the two giant scenes at the right and left of the Senate entrance entitled "Dawn at the Alamo" and "The Battle of San Jacinto." Forty years of the lifetime of the artist, H. A. McArdle, were required to complete research and painting of the two huge pictures.

During sessions, visitors are not permitted on the Senate floor without permission, but proceedings may be viewed from the third-floor visitors' balcony.

For the convenience of Texas legislators, a reference library is maintained in the north wing of the second floor. All House and Senate journals and legislative bills from 1900 to the present are here. Reports and studies of state agencies and legislative committees are available for immediate reference. Newspaper clippings concerning political and governmental actions date back to 1920. Microfilm of many large daily Texas newspapers, including one daily record from 1880, provides a detailed history of Texas government activities. The library is open to the public.



THIRD FLOOR

During sessions of the legislature, visitors may view proceedings of both the Senate and House of Representatives from the chamber balconies. Entrance to the House balcony is west of the rotunda. Entrance to the Senate balcony is in the east wing. Pictures of past members of both the Senate and House are displayed on walls of the respective

balconies.

An exhibit in the north wing of the third floor shows historic photos of the Capitol under construction, antique tools, samples of stone and masonry, plaster molds, and details of the Capitol's elaborate hand-carved woodwork. There is also a composite antique Capitol office with authentic furnishings.

PUBLIC VISITING HOURS

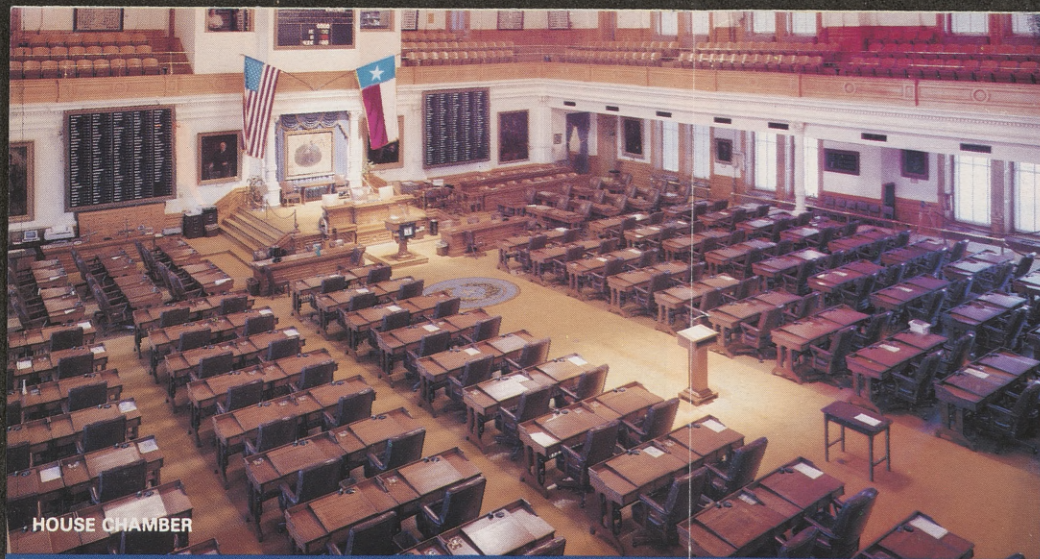
Capitol: Open 24 hours daily. Free guided tours daily 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tourist Information Center in south foyer staffed daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Governor's Reception Room open to visitors 8 a.m. to noon, and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Texas Archives and Library Building: Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Old Land Office Museum: Open 9 a.m. to noon, and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Museums maintained by Daughters of the Republic of Texas and Daughters of the Confederacy.

Governor's Mansion: Open for tours Monday through Friday 10 - 11:40 a.m. Closed state holidays and during various official functions. Groups of more than 15 persons need reservations. Call 463-5517 for group reservations and confirmation of tour schedules.

Free Tourist Parking: Although public parking in the Capitol Complex is severely limited, a "State Visitor Parking" lot is provided midway in the 1500 block of Congress Avenue (north of the Capitol), #35 on the aerial view. Two-hour limit.



HOUSE CHAMBER



SENATE CHAMBER



SAM HOUSTON



GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION ROOM



DOMES INTERIOR



ROTUNDA FLOOR



CORRIDOR

CAPITOL FACTS

Construction of the Capitol was begun in 1882, completed in 1888. Covering three acres of ground with some 8.5 acres of floor space, the building at the time was said to be the seventh largest in the world.

Design—classic in architecture, shaped as a Grecian cross.

Dimensions

Length—585 feet, 10 inches, including steps.
Width—299 feet, 10 inches, including steps.
Height—309 feet, 8 inches from basement floor to the top of the statue, 16 feet above the dome. The Goddess of Liberty was raised to position February 26, 1888. The dome stands seven feet higher than that of the National Capitol.

Construction Materials

Exterior walls—15,000 carloads of Texas pink granite quarried 50 miles northwest at Marble Falls, transported by a specially built railroad and ox teams.

Interior and dome walls—Texas limestone.

Woods—wainscoting is oak, pine, cherry, cedar, walnut, ash and mahogany with aggregate length of about seven miles.

Door and window frames—oak and pine, excepting those in the Governor's Reception Room that are of cherry.

Roof—copper, 85,000 square feet.

Flooring—original: hand-blocked clay tile, glass and wood. Present halls and rotunda: terrazzo laid in the 1930s. All terrazzo colors are from Texas rock aggregate except the blue in the U.S. Seal, which was imported from Italy.

Weight of cornerstone—16,000 pounds in the rough.

In order to maintain the immaculate appearance of the giant building, painting and maintenance crews are continually at work in some portion of the 273,799 square feet of available space. The most dramatic maintenance task is painting the interior of the Capitol dome. Every seven years, scaffolds are erected that reach 260 feet from the star on the rotunda floor to the top of the dome.

ELEVATORS

Elevators serving the upper floors of the Capitol are on the east side of the south entrance arcade and on the west side of the north arcade, and near entrances to the east and west wings.



In the Capitol's south foyer is a complete Tourist Information Center for the Capitol complex as well as the entire state. Operated by the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation and staffed by trained travel counselors, the center functions similarly to 11 other Texas Tourist Bureaus throughout the state. Open daily, the bureaus provide free tourist information, maps, and descriptive literature to enhance the pleasure of all Texas travelers.

TEXAS CAPITALS

Prior to annexation of Texas as the 28th U.S. state on December 29, 1845, Texas history records 14 capitals under flags of Mexico and the Republic of Texas.

The Texas Congress chose Austin as the permanent capital of the Republic in 1839. The first of four capital buildings was a rustic frame structure at the corner of 8th and Colorado Streets (site of the present Austin Municipal Building). It served some 14 years until a graceful structure called the Colonial Capitol was erected on the present Capitol grounds in 1852. That building's size eventually proved inadequate for the growing business of the state. Its destruction by fire in 1881 impelled action on long-envisioned plans for a monumental new building.

In the interim, a temporary Capitol was built at 11th and Congress Avenue in 1881. It served until the present Capitol was completed in 1888. The following year, that temporary building also burned. Its foundations are #19 on the aerial view.

THE PRESENT CAPITOL OF TEXAS

The Texas constitution adopted February 15, 1876, embodied a provision for the sale of public land to finance a new state capital. The builders accepted as payment 3,000,000 acres of land in 10 counties of the Texas Panhandle.

Original plans called for construction with Texas limestone. But following laying of the cornerstone on March 2, 1885, doubt arose concerning the uniform quality of limestone from then-available quarries.

In a fortunate result, owners of Granite Mountain at Marble Falls in Burnet County offered building stone, free of charge, to the state. The structure was completed with the superb pink granite that makes the Texas Capitol so distinctive. It was dedicated on May 16, 1888, and occupied in September of the same year.

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CAPITOL COMPLEX

To assist in locating specific points, the numbered sites below correspond to those on the pictorial view (right) of the Texas Capitol area.

BUILDINGS

1. Texas State Capitol
2. Texas Supreme Court Building
3. John H. Reagan State Office Building
4. Stephen F. Austin State Office Building
5. William B. Travis State Office Building
6. Employees Retirement System Building
7. Lyndon B. Johnson State Office Building
8. Texas Employment Commission Buildings
9. Sam Houston State Office Building
10. Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives & Library Building
11. State Insurance Building
12. State Insurance Building Annex
13. 1916 State Office Building (under restoration)
14. Old Land Office Building Museum
15. Dewitt C. Greer State Highway Building
16. Ernest O. Thompson State Office Building
17. Texas Governor's Mansion

SITES OF INTEREST

18. Twin Cannons
19. Mineral Water Fountain
20. U.S. Bicentennial Fountain
21. Foundations of 1882-88 Temporary State Capitol

STATUES AND MEMORIALS

22. The Alamo Memorial
23. Confederate Memorial
24. Volunteer Firemen
25. Terry's Texas Rangers, CSA
26. Statue of Liberty
27. Texas Cowboy
28. Memorial to World War II Dead
29. Spanish American War, "The Hiker"
30. Texas 36th Division "T Patch"
31. The Ten Commandments
32. Veterans of World War I
33. Disabled American Veterans
34. Hood's Texas Brigade, CSA

FREE VISITOR PARKING

35. Mid-1500 block Congress Ave.



LORENZO DE ZAVALA STATE ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY BUILDING

This is the permanent repository for Texas historical documents and archival collections—from family genealogies to treaties of the Republic. It is built of the same Texas pink granite featured throughout the Texas Capitol complex.



WILLIAM B. TRAVIS BUILDING

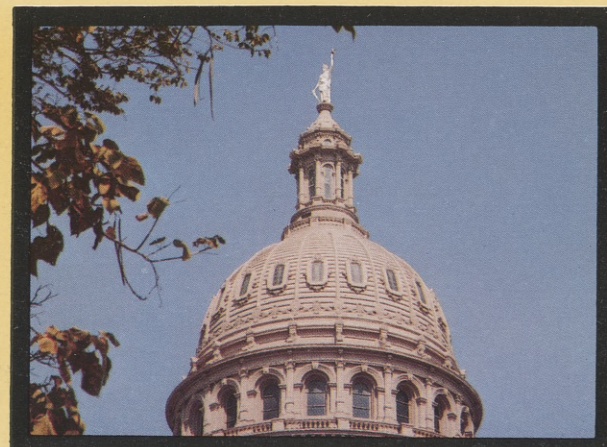
Newest of the state buildings in the pink granite complex is named for William Barret Travis, a South Carolinian who shared command at the Alamo and who died there. The building houses the Texas Education Agency and the Railroad Commission of Texas.



GOVERNOR'S MANSION

Oldest of Capitol complex structures is the Governor's Mansion built in 1856, a superb example of Neoclassic, or Greek Revival style. The Governor and his family occupy a private apartment on the second floor. Other elegant rooms and antique furnishings may be viewed on regularly scheduled public tours. See "Public Visiting Hours" in the floor-plan section on the reverse side of this folder.

CAPITOL DOME

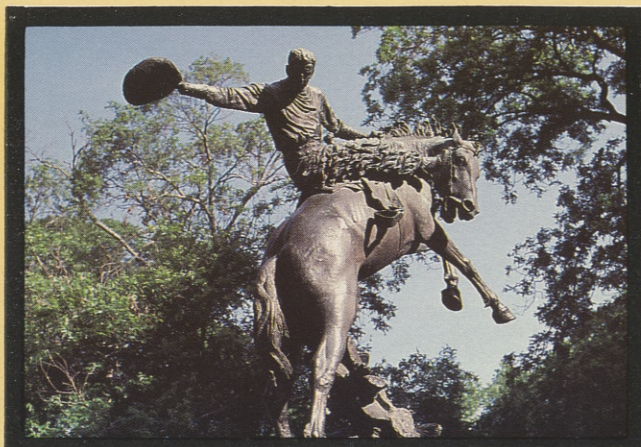


CAPITOL GROUNDS

The 25.96 acres of original Capitol grounds are a green sanctuary in downtown Austin. Immaculate lawns are shaded by some 50 species of Texas trees—oak, palm, elm, pecan, walnut, sycamore, cottonwood, mesquite,

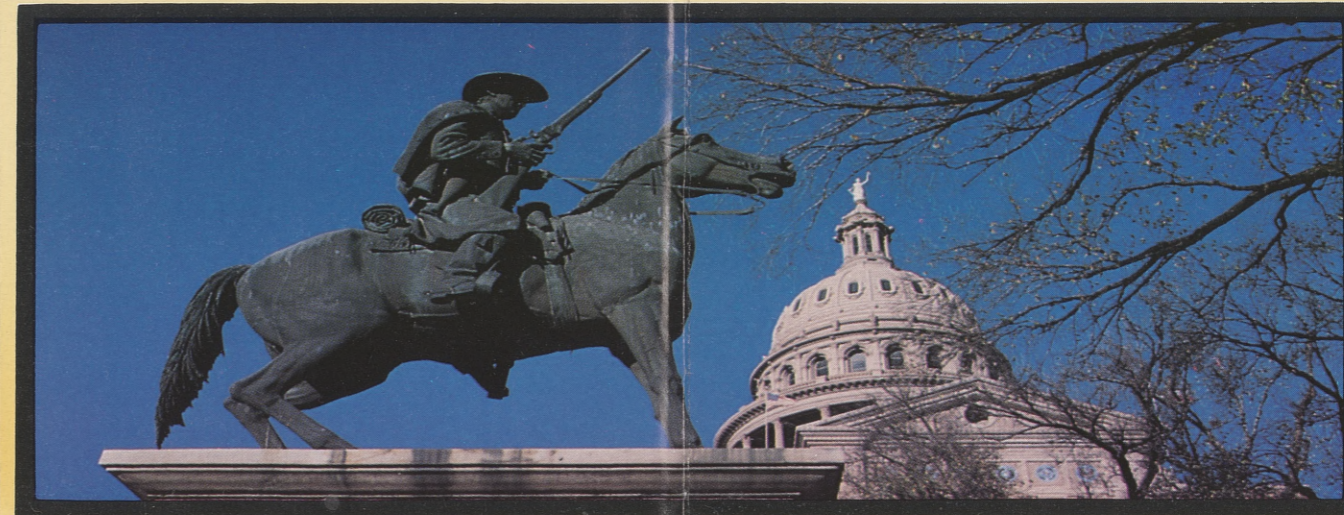
TEXAS COWBOY

The lively bronze statue of a typical Texas cowboy astride a bucking horse was presented to the state in 1925 by its sculptor, Constance Whitney Warren, of Paris, France.



CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL

Saluting Texas' stand with the Confederacy (which Sam Houston opposed), the memorial to Confederate dead was erected in 1901. The five bronze figures represent the CSA Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, Navy, and Confederate President Jefferson Davis.



TERRY'S TEXAS RANGERS

Symbolizing the valiant spirit of Texas Rangers in their military configuration is an equestrian statue dedicated to Terry's Texas Rangers who served the Confederacy during the American Civil War. Erected in 1907 on a base of

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

Erected in 1951, this bronze figure titled "The Hiker" honors veterans of the Spanish-American War. Teddy Roosevelt organized and trained his "Rough Riders" regiment in San Antonio, Texas, in 1898.



TWIN CANNONS

Stubby twin cannons flanking the Capitol's south portico date from the earliest days of the Texas Republic. They saw action both in the Texas battle for independence, and two decades later during the Civil War.



OLD LAND OFFICE BUILDING MUSEUM

Completed in 1857, the Old Land Office building reflects a Romanesque architectural style adapted from the German-immigrant designer's homeland. Today, the Daughters of the Confederacy Museum on the first floor exhibits relics from the Civil War period. On the second floor, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Museum is devoted to frontier and pioneer artifacts.

CAPITOL GARDEN

