THE STATE GOVERNMENT IN THE STATEHOUSE

The House of Representatives is part of the legislative branch of government.

The Senate is the other part of the state's bicameral (two-part) legislature; the senators and representatives write the state's laws.

The governor is the head of the executive branch of the state government. One of the governor's responsibilities is to make sure the laws of the state are enforced.

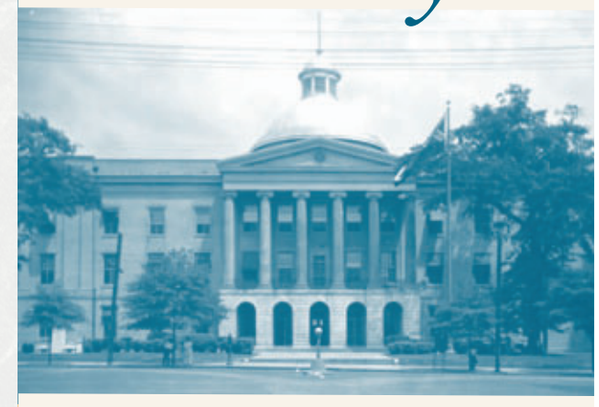
The Supreme Court, called the High Court of Errors and Appeals from 1832 to 1868, is the highest court in the state. It reviews the decisions of the state's lower courts.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History
www.mdah.state.ms.us

Discover the Old Capitol.

Hear the many stories this building can tell . . . about history, architecture, politics, and people.

Pathways *through* History



The Old Capitol was completed in 1839 and was the seat of state government until 1903 when the New Capitol was completed. The building was first abandoned, then converted into state offices, and later restored as a museum. The first museum opened in 1961 and closed in 2005 after the building was damaged in Hurricane Katrina. This museum opened in 2009 after the building was thoroughly repaired and restored.

KEY TO FLOOR PLAN

The exhibits begin on the first floor and continue on the third floor. Take the elevator or the stairs to the third floor and then you may use the stairs at the front of the building to walk down to the second floor.

Restrooms are located on the 2nd floor in the North Corridor.

Orientation film

History Comes Alive

Short on time?

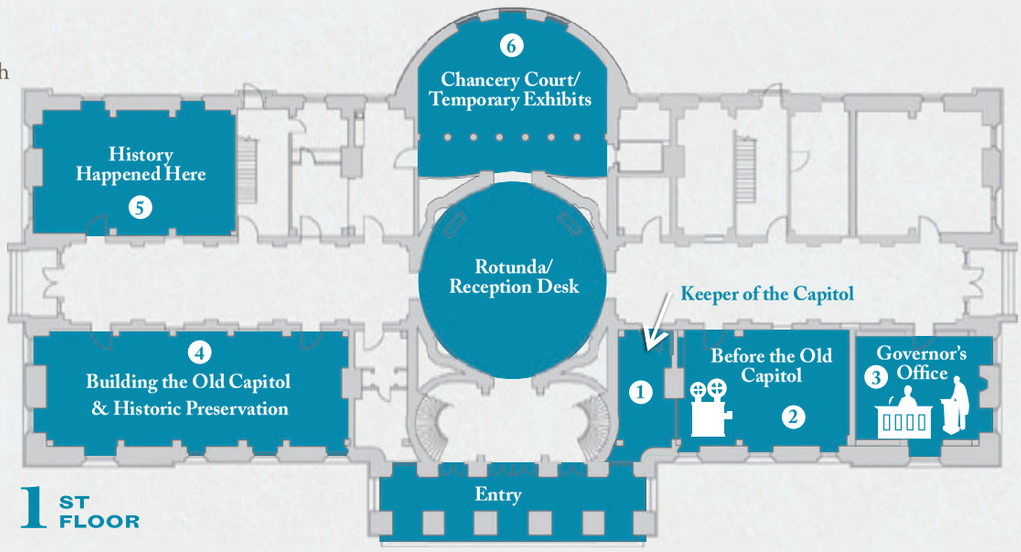
Don't miss these highlights:

- **Orientation film in "Before the Old Capitol" (first floor)**
- **"Building the Old Capitol" (first floor)**
- **House Gallery (third floor)**
- **Senate Chamber (second floor)**
- **The story of the 1890 Constitution in "Government & the Constitutions" (second floor)**

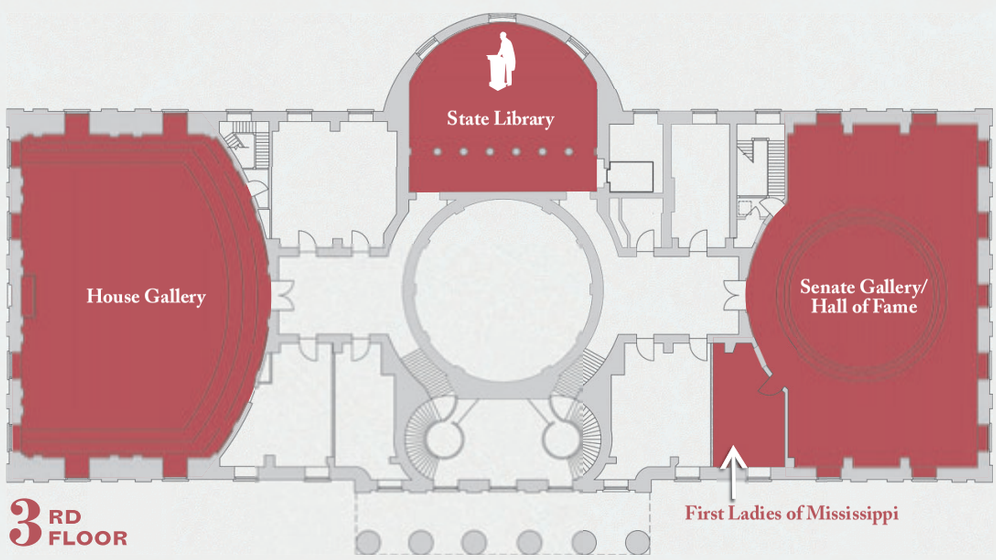
Numbers indicate the order in which rooms should be visited, starting with 1, Keeper of the Capitol.

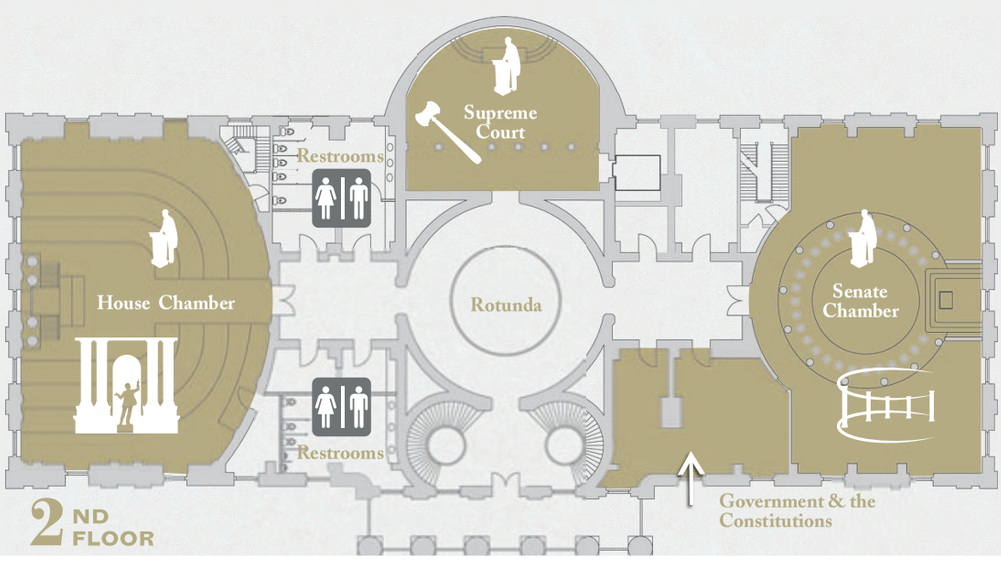
Orientation Film
The orientation film is shown every 15 minutes in the "Before the Old Capitol" room on the first floor.

History Comes Alive
Hear how Mississippi's governors have responded to the needs of their constituents. This short program runs continuously in the Governor's Office.



History Comes Alive
"Laws of the Land" is a short program in the State Library that explores some of the laws enacted in the Old Capitol.



History Comes Alive

- Hear speeches of state representatives and discover their importance in the House Chamber. This two-part program runs on the hour and half hour.
- Listen as senators debate important legislation in the Senate Chamber. This program runs continuously.
- Argue a case before a panel of justices in the Supreme Court. Listen as the judge gives his decision.