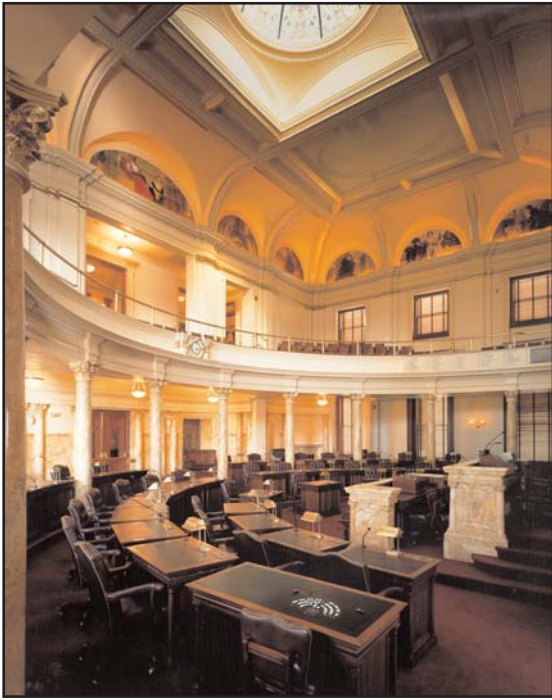


The State House Today



The restored Senate chamber (above) and General Assembly chamber (right) reflect the specialized work of craftspeople.



The State House South Addition (right) provides office work space for the Legislature.

For more than two hundred years, the New Jersey State House has proudly served as the seat of our State government. While occupants have come and gone, it remains home to the State Legislature, the Governor's office and other Executive branch offices. In addition to quartering our elected officials, the State House stands as an impressive historical monument, rich in tradition and style. In fact, part of the original 1792 structure still exists, making our state capitol the second oldest in continuous use.

A long renovation project began in 1987, which addressed structural, mechanical and electrical deficiencies in the State House, restored the legislative portion of the building and added legislative office space, known as the South Addition. Next, the State House Annex was renovated and a pedestrian tunnel and multi-level parking garage constructed. A public-private partnership allowed for the golden dome and interior rotunda space to be refurbished. A Welcome Center, cafeteria and landscaped "Plaza" are the most recent improvements.

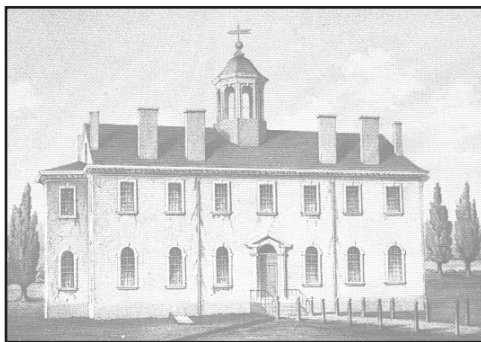
Hundreds of craftspeople and workers participated in these efforts, including carpenters, painters, electricians and plasterers, who dedicated months – in some cases, years – to the restoration and construction projects. Craftspeople specializing in such areas as stained glass restoration, gilding, millworking and decorative molding painstakingly recreated original details of the chambers, rotunda and Annex.

Under the New Jersey Arts Inclusion Act, state artists were commissioned to create artworks to commemorate this new chapter in the capitol's history. John Goodyear's marble bas-relief in the South Addition lobby depicts famous lawgivers of the ages. Marquetry walls by artist Hiroshi Murata incorporate architectural details in an intricate design of inlaid wood. A water sculpture by Clyde Lynds is a lively focal point for the Plaza. Many other impressive works are found throughout the complex.

Memorabilia related to the history of the State House and Legislature are displayed in an exhibit space on the third floor. Additional exhibits are contained in the Welcome Center. Daily tours of the State House are available Monday through Saturday.

Today, the New Jersey State House is a building all residents can be proud of. Visitors are encouraged to tour the building and learn more about its historical past. As home of our state democratic process, it will continue to serve the citizens of New Jersey as they come to participate in the shaping of public policy.

The State House Through the Years

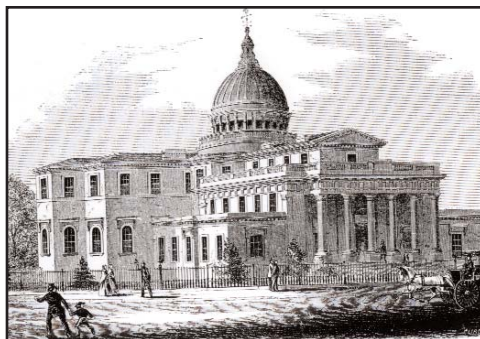


The New Jersey State House, 1792
Portions of the original structure are incorporated into the present building.

The New Jersey State House was originally built in 1792 by Jonathan Doane. The site was approximately 3.75 acres and cost 250 English pounds, which is about \$400 today. The building was two and one-half stories high and consisted of seven bays radiating off a center hall. A bell-tower was situated in the center of the roof. The legislative chambers were located on the first floor—Senate (then the Legislative Council) in the west and General Assembly in the east. The Governor's and judicial offices occupied the second floor.

State government grew steadily for many decades while the State House remained unaltered. Then, in 1845, a major addition was constructed under the direction of John Notman, a well-known Philadelphia architect. He created a one, two and three-story stepped office wing on the north side of the original building, facing what is now State Street. The new entrance had a two-story porch and six fluted Doric columns. A grand rotunda with a stairhall connected the old and new

North Facade, c.1845
The addition was linked to the original structure by the new dome.



wings. This area was capped by a spherical dome and cupola. A two-story portico with pairs of Corinthian columns and a classical pediment was added to the river-side facade.

In 1865, the river-side portico was extended 68 feet. Another major building campaign began in 1871, when Samuel Sloan, also a Philadelphia architect, was commissioned to modify the northern State Street wing and design new wings for both legislative houses. These two wings flanked the 1865 southern extension. While little detail is known for certain about the final structure, it is believed that the new wings both contained a two-and-one-half-story chamber surrounded by a gallery, offices and caucus rooms. The old Senate chamber was modified to accommodate the Governor's office, while additional offices were created in the former Assembly chamber.

Early in the morning of March 21, 1885, a fire broke out and raced through the empty building, totally destroying the State Street wing. Lewis Broome of



North and Northeast Facades, c.1905
Major reconstruction took place after a devastating fire in 1885.

Jersey City was selected to plan the reconstruction. He designed the building in a simplified Second Empire style with three stories and limestone facing. He also added a new rotunda and dome that were more proportional to the scale of the building.

Twenty years after Sloan's new Assembly wing was erected, it was replaced by a larger wing of late Victorian style. James Moylan, an Assemblyman, was the architect. Due to space limitations, Moylan decided to rotate the wing so that it paralleled the building's center wing. Accompanying this work was an addition to the west end of the original 1792 structure, which created private offices for the Governor and judges. A third floor was also added to the south end of the center wing. In 1900, the wing was extended 95 feet, ending at the edge of a water power canal, known as the Sanhican Creek. The addition was designed by the architectural firm of Karr, Poole and Lum. George Poole, one of the firm's principals, was also an Assemblyman.

South and East Facades, c.1912-17
The building remained nearly unchanged until current renovations began in 1986.



In 1903, under the direction of Merchantville architect Arnold Moses, the Senate wing was reconstructed in American Renaissance style to mirror the Assembly quarters. The wing was enlarged using classical forms and rich materials, particularly in the decorative interior and exterior treatments.

The original 1792 east wing was replaced with a four-story office section in 1906. The front area was extended on the east side in 1911. Similar work was done on the front west side the next year. In the decades following, no major structural changes occurred, aside from the modernization of the main corridor in the late 1950's.

The effort of all these years was nearly lost in the 1960's when a master plan called for the demolition of almost the entire building. Luckily, the plan was never executed. With today's new respect for historic buildings, the focus has turned to preserving and restoring the structure. This is evidenced by the on-going efforts to restore the building to the grandeur of its former years.