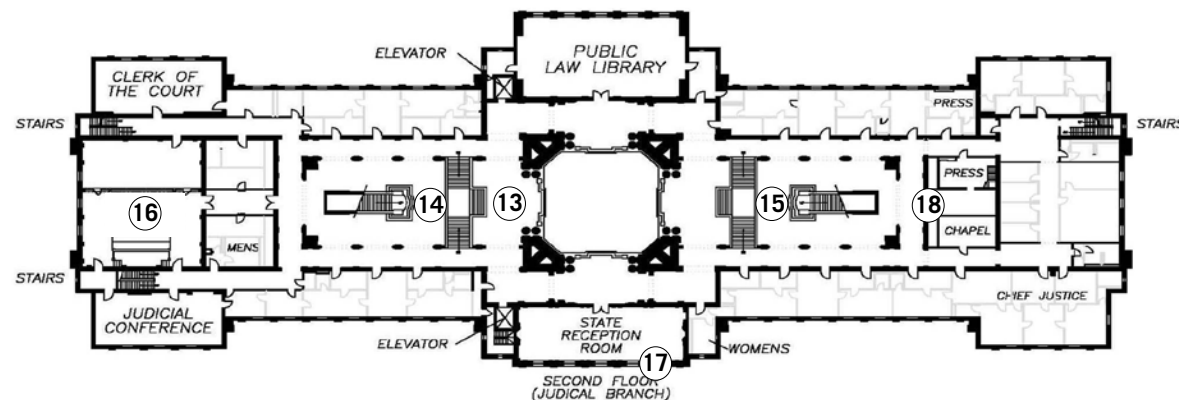
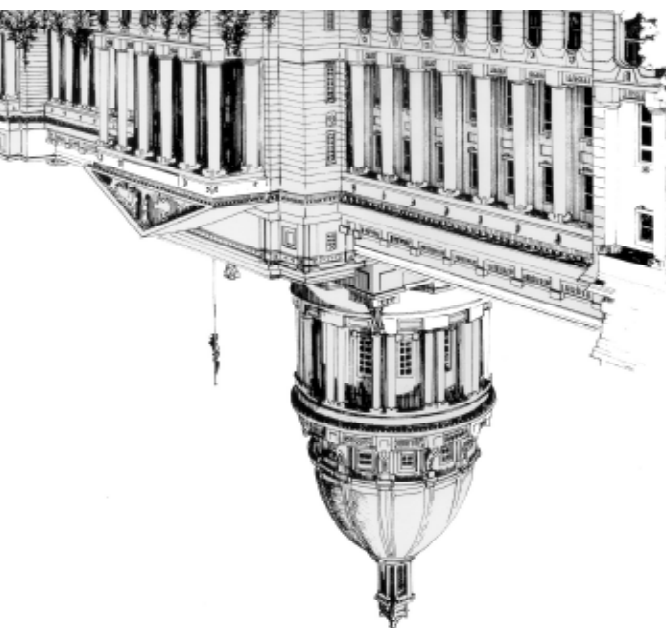


**KENTUCKY STATE CAPITOL**  
*A Self-Guided Tour of the*



**SECOND FLOOR – JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**13** From the top of the steps on the second floor, observe the view of the nave, or **Main corridor**.

This spectacular space is over 300 feet long. It is lined with 36 huge, one piece columns made of Vermont granite. Note the colorful art skylights and grand staircase.

Also from here you can see the murals in the lunettes on either end of the nave. Painted by Gilbert White, the murals depict moments in the early history of Kentucky.

**14** The one over the East wing is a representation of Daniel Boone's first view of the Bluegrass region, or "beautiful level of Kentucky," in 1769.

**15** The mural to the West shows Boone and Richard Henderson concluding the Treaty of Watauga in 1775 which allowed the Transylvania Company to purchase much of the land that is Kentucky from the Cherokee Indians.

On the second floor of the Capitol you will notice many paintings. These are **portraits of Justices of the Kentucky Supreme Court** and judges of the former Court of Appeals.

**16** **Supreme Court.** Feel free to enter the room when court is not in progress.

With its Hoduran mahogany paneling and Dutch metal leafed ceiling lacquered to resemble bronze, it is one of the most impressive and dignified spaces in the Capitol.

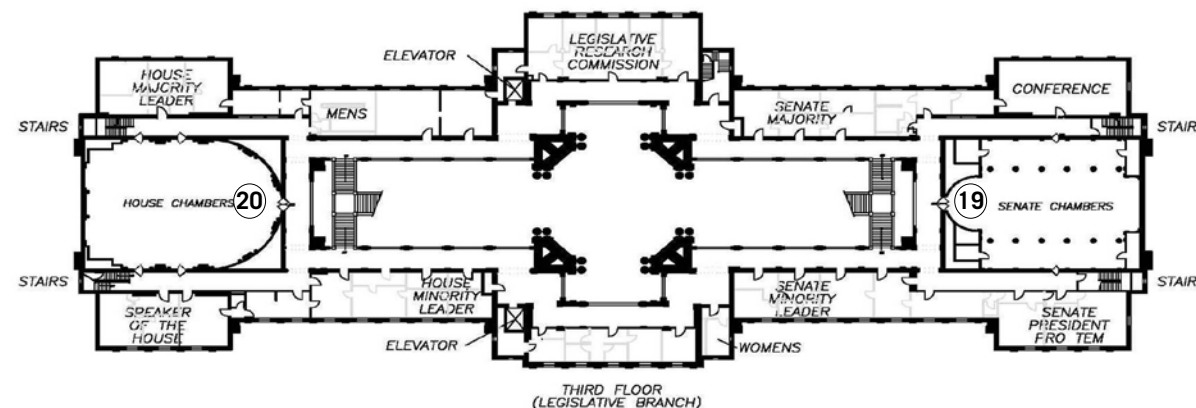
**17** **State Reception Room.** (Please help us in preserving this room by remaining on the carpet runner.)

Perhaps the most elegant room in the Capitol, the state reception room was intended as a place for special events and as the reception area for the governor's office, originally next door. Inspired by grand salons in European palaces, the room was restored in 1995 to its original grandeur. The placement of the mirrors on either end of the room creates the illusion of an infinite view, like that in the Hall of Mirrors of the Palace of Versailles in France.

**18** Stepping outside of the State Reception Room, a small **chapel**, **press offices**, and the **office of the Chief Justice** (not open for tours) are on the West end of this floor.

**The Legislative Branch of Kentucky State Government:**

Like most states, Kentucky has a bicameral legislature - that is, one with two components. The "lower" and larger body is the House of Representatives; the "upper," smaller body is the Senate. The Speaker of the House presides over that chamber, and the President of the Senate chairs deliberations there. Other legislative officials include the House and Senate majority and minority leaders. Together, the House and Senate are known as the Kentucky General Assembly. The General Assembly meets in regular session for sixty working days in even years, and for thirty working days in odd years. The governor of Kentucky can call Special Sessions to address specific issues. Legislative chambers and offices occupy the third floor of the Capitol.



**THIRD FLOOR – LEGISLATIVE FLOOR**

**19** **Senate chamber** (on the West end of the building) . You may enter the Senate if the chamber is not in use.

Raised galleries allow the public to view the Senate's deliberations during legislative sessions. There are desks for thirty-eight senators, who also have individual offices in the Capitol Annex.

Please proceed to the other end of the third floor - the East end.

**20** **House of Representatives.** You may enter the House chamber if it is not in use.

The House of Representatives, like the Senate, also includes spectator galleries and desks for members. However, with 100 members, the size of the House requires some additional features. Votes are recorded electronically and displayed on panels on either side of the Speaker's desk. Each member of the General Assembly has a desktop computer.

At times the Capitol may be under repairs to ensure that it remains a proud symbol of Kentucky. Portions of the building may be closed to tours. Please accept our apology for any inconvenience.



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**Why is Kentucky called a "Commonwealth"?**

In this country, "commonwealth" is another word for "state". The term implies a commitment to the "commonweal," or common good of the people. Several states (Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, in addition to Kentucky) call themselves commonwealths. Since Kentucky was formed from Virginia, our state's founders decided to use the term too.

**Capitol vs. Capital.** A capitol is a building used as a headquarters of a government. A capitol houses legislative chambers and may also have courtrooms and government offices. A capital is a city that is the seat of government of a state or nation. This building is a capitol. Frankfort is a capital.

**State Song (adopted by legislature 1986)**

"My Old Kentucky Home" by Stephen Foster

*The sun shines bright in My Old Kentucky Home,  
 'Tis Summer, the people are gay;  
 The corn-top's ripe and the meadow's in the bloom  
 While the birds make music all the day  
 The young folks roll on the little cabin floor,  
 All merry, all happy and bright;  
 By 'n' by hard times comes a knocking at the door  
 Then My Old Kentucky Home, good night*

*Chorus  
 Weep no more my lady  
 Oh weep no more today;  
 We will sing one song  
 for My Old Kentucky Home  
 For My Old Kentucky Home,  
 far away*

## Welcome to the Capitol of Kentucky!

Kentucky's Capitol is the fourth permanent building to serve in this capacity since the Commonwealth was given statehood in 1792. After a 1904 ground breaking and six years of construction, the first session of the legislature was held in this building in January 1910, Frank Mills Andrews, a distinguished and award-winning architect, designed the Capitol in the neoclassical Beaux Arts style.

The building is almost 403 feet long and 180 feet deep. The exterior base is made of Vermont granite, but most of the exterior is Bedford limestone. Seventy columns surround the building. The covering of the dome is terra cotta, and the top of the lantern is 215 feet above the level of the terrace.

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*Gray wall-mounted directional signs throughout the building will aid you in finding your way around the Capitol.*

## CAPITOL GROUNDS & CAMPUS

On the East end of the Capitol grounds is the **Executive Mansion**, home of Kentucky's governors while they are in office. Designed in 1912 by the G.C. and E.A. Weber firm of Fort Thomas, Kentucky, the building's exterior resembles Queen Marie Antoinette's Petit Trianon villa at Versailles. The formal garden in front of the building was planted as part of an extensive renovation of the mansion and its grounds during the early 1980s.

Several commemorative trees have been planted on the Capitol grounds in honor of distinguished people. Small plaques mark the grounds in commemoration of Arbor Day during the Wilkinson and Jones administrations. Among them are **Kentucky Coffee trees**, the State Heritage Tree. Strict regulations govern the planting of commemorative trees on the Capitol grounds.

For more information about the Capitol, the grounds, and the Executive Mansion, or to schedule a guided tour, call the Tour Desk at (502) 564-3449.



Executive Mansion

## The Executive Branch & Constitutional Officers of Kentucky State Government

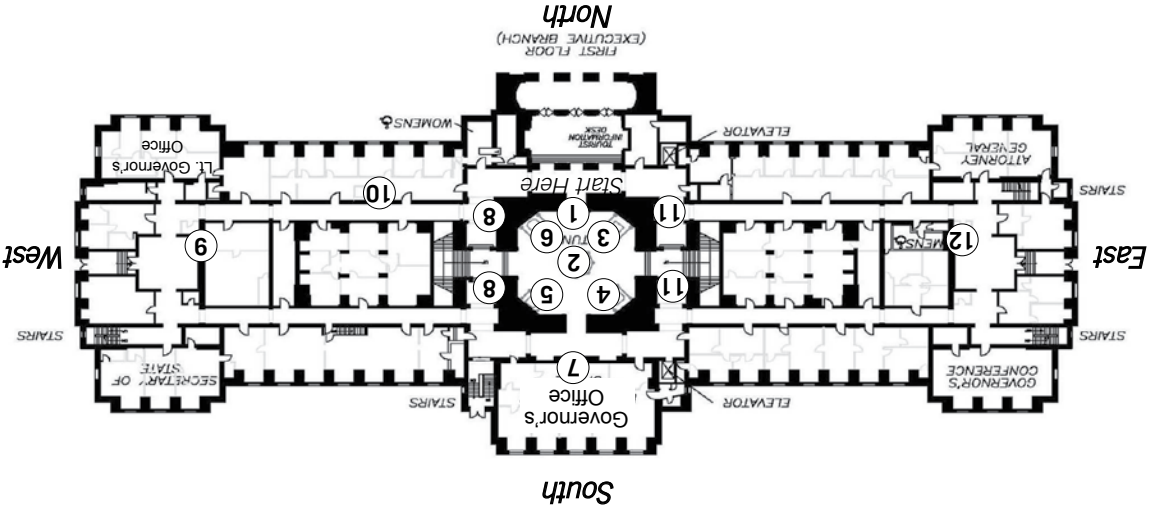
The Governor is Kentucky's chief executive officer. The Governor oversees most state agencies and the great majority of state employees. The Office of the Governor occupies much of the first floor and basement of the Capitol. For most of the 20th Century, Kentucky Constitution in 1992, governors can be elected to two four-year terms. That amendment also removed the duty of presiding over the Senate from the Lieutenant Governor.

Other occupants of the lower floors of the Capitol are the Secretary of State and the Attorney General. These are among the Kentucky positions known as the "constitutional officers," because the state constitution mandates their election.

The large office building in the rear is the **Capitol Annex**, dedicated in 1952. Its design and Bedford limestone exterior mimic the appearance of the Capitol. At the West end of the Annex is the **Kentucky Floral Clock**. Built in 1961 with financial help from the Garden Clubs of Kentucky, the giant clock is 34 feet across. The minute hand, which is 20.5 feet long, makes a sudden sweep once every minute. Plantings change with the seasons. At the other end of the Annex is the **Rose Garden**. Also

**1910 Technology** - Several features of the building remain that were "high tech" when it was new, but which seem outdated and quaint now. Look for small round brass fixtures in the walls about eight inches from the floor - they are connections to the centralized vacuum-system installed during construction of the building. You may also notice the glass-covered chute that allow letters to be dropped from the building's upper floors into a large brass mailbox near the front entrance.

**Symbols** - Symbols of power and justice decorate the building. Most were taken from classical Greek and Roman architecture. You will find fasces (axes bundled in sticks), eagles, and torches. There are even swastikas - the crooked crosses made infamous by the Nazis. But these swastikas are only a classical decorative motif. They were put here and in many public buildings long before the swastika took on its modern-day, sinister meaning.



## FIRST FLOOR - EXECUTIVE BRANCH

1 The rotunda is highlighted by an imposing dome which is 180 feet above you.

The statues in the rotunda are:

2 **Abraham Lincoln** - President of the United States during the Civil War, he was born near Hodgenville, Kentucky, in 1809.

3 **Henry Clay** - A frequent candidate for president, Clay was Kentucky's most celebrated 19th-century statesman. His efforts to avert conflict between the North and South earned him the nickname, "The Great Compromiser."

4 **Jefferson Davis** - Born in Fairview, Kentucky, in 1808, Davis was the only president of the Confederate States of America.

5 **Ephraim McDowell** - A pioneer in abdominal and gynecological surgery during the frontier era, McDowell is remembered for a daring 1809 operation in which he successfully removed a large tumor from the abdomen of Jane Todd Crawford.

6 **Alben Barkley** - Known as "The Veep," Barkley capped his long political career by serving as vice president of the United States under Harry Truman. Called "the first working vice-president in U.S. history," Barkley died while concluding a speech in 1956.

7 Directly through the rotunda is the **Office of the Governor of Kentucky** (Normally not open for tours.)

8 These cases hold changing displays of interest to Capitol visitors.

Busts or plaques of these notable Kentuckians can be found near the West Entrance:

- **John Sherman Cooper** - once called "the ablest Republican" in the United States Senate, Cooper represented Kentucky in that body for twenty years between 1946 and 1973.
- **Harland Sanders** - Through the innovative Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise he created, "Colonel" Sanders helped spread the fame of Kentucky all over the world.
- **Thelma Stovall** - Her long career of public service included repeated terms as Kentucky Secretary of State and State Treasurer. In 1975, she became the first woman elected Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky.

"**Kentucky Women Remembered**" exhibit, which includes portraits of influential Kentucky women. Near the entrance of the building, you will find a commemorative needlepoint tapestry with panels for each of Kentucky's 120 counties.

**Kentucky First Ladies miniatures** exhibit. Each First Lady of Kentucky is represented by a porcelain doll wearing a fashionable gown from the historical period of the presiding governor.

Bust of **Governor A.B. "Happy" Chandler** is located near the East Entrance. He was elected as governor in 1935 and again in 1955. He also served in the United States Senate and as National Commissioner of

*See reverse side for the second and third floor*