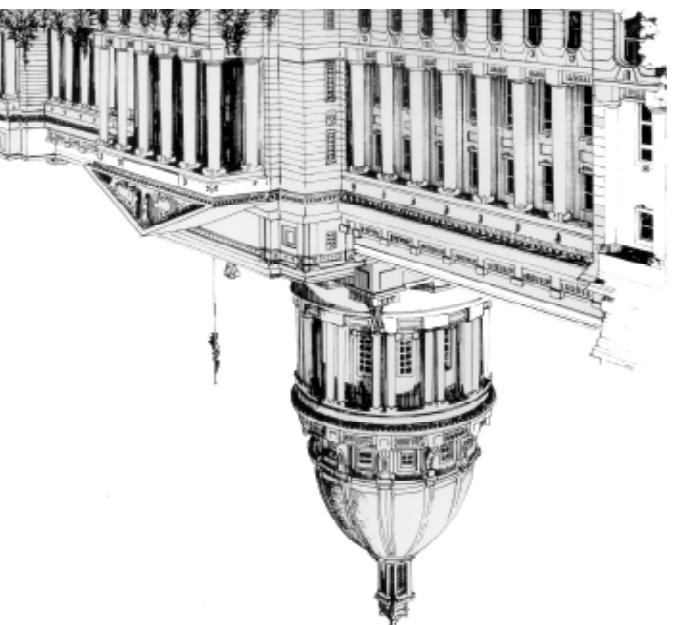


**STATE CAPITOL**  
**KENTUCKY**  
*of the*  
**A Self-Guided Tour**

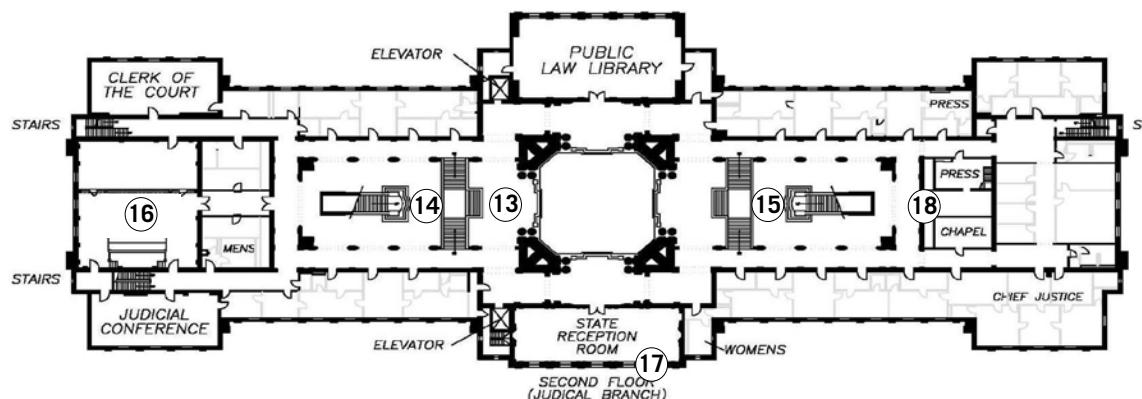


At times the Capitol may be under repairs to ensure that it remains a proud symbol of Kentucky. Portions of the building may be closed to tours. Please accept our apology for any inconvenience.



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### 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.

### 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.

- 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.)

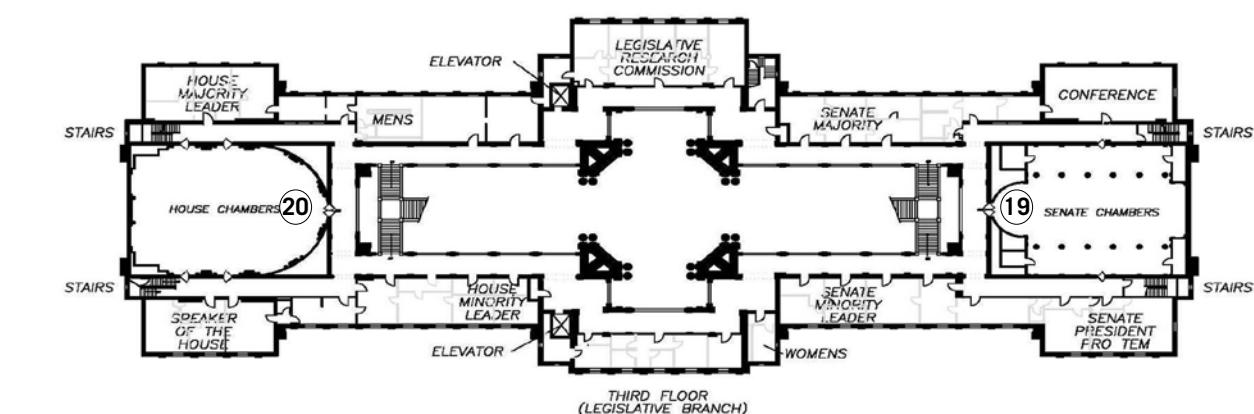
Perhaps the most elegant room in the Capitol, the state reception room was intended as a place for special events and as the reception area for the governor's office, originally next door. Inspired by grand salons in European palaces, the room was restored in 1995 to its original grandeur. The placement 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.

**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.

### 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.

### State Song (adopted by legislature 1986)

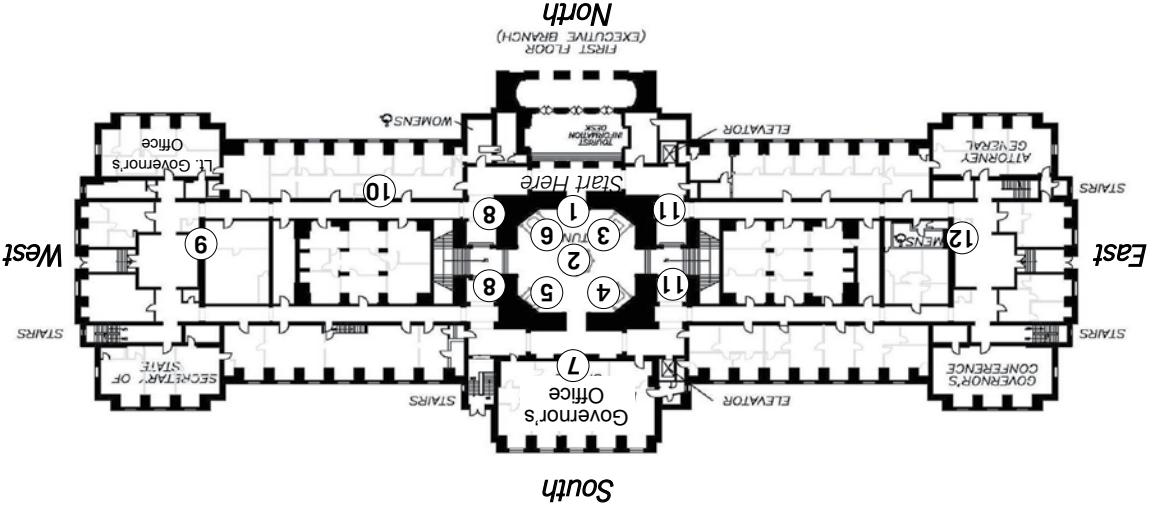
"My Old Kentucky Home" by Stephen Foster

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!



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 the West

**Harland Sanders** - Through the Kentucky in that body for twenty years between 1946 and 1973.

**Thelema Stovall** - Her long career of public service included repeated terms as Kentucky Secretary of State and as Kentucky Treasurer. In 1975, she became the first woman elected Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky.

**Kentucky Women Remembred** - exhibit, which includes portraits of influential Kentucky women. Near the entrance of the building, you will find a commemorative Kentuckiana's 120 counties.

**Kentucky First Ladies miniatures exhibit**. Each First Lady of Kentucky is represented by a porcelain doll wearing a fashionista 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

Senate and as National Commissioner of Attorney General. These cases hold changing displays of interest to Capitol visitors.

**Office of the Governor of Kentucky** (Normally not open for tours.).

**Barley** died while concluding a speech in 1956.

Barley's wife, Vice-President Harry Truman, called "the First Lady of the First Floor" and base ment of the Capitol. For most of the 20th Century, agencies and the great majority of state employees. The Governor oversees most state

**Alben Barkley** - known as "The Deep,"

tumor from the abdomen of Jane Todd Crawford.

remembered for a during 1809 operation during the frontier era, McDowell is abdominal and gynecological surgery

**Ephraim McDowell** - A pioneer in America.

Kentucky, in 1808, Davis was the only president of the Confederate States of

**Jefferson Davis** - Born in Fairview, Sanders helped spread the fame of

Kentucky all over the world. Sanders helped create, "Colonel", franchise Fried Chicken

**Harland Sanders** - Through the Kentucky in that body for twenty years between 1946 and 1973.

**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".

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

The statues in the rotunda are:

**FIRST FLOOR - EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**North** (EXECUTIVE BRANCH)

**West**

**East**

**South**

**Stairs**

**Elevator**

**Governor's Office**

**CONFERENCE ROOM**

**SECRETARY OF STATE**

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**CONFERENCE ROOM**

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