

Capitols

as

National Historic Landmarks



Resource Guide prepared by the National Historic Landmarks Program 2009 Revised 2021

Capitols as National Historic Landmarks

Resource Guide prepared by the National Historic Landmarks Program 2009 Revised 2021

Front Cover. Massachusetts State House. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith [LC-DIG-highsm-12099].

Contents

Introduction	3
Capitols and Architectural Significance	4
Capitols Included in Architectural Surveys	(
Inventory—Capitols Designated NHLs	
NHL Criterion 4 Designations (Architecture)	8
NHL Criterion 1 Designations (History)	25
Architecture and History Designations (NHL Criteria 4 and 1)	36
Potential NHL Capitols Study List (NHL Criterion 4)	43

Introduction 3

Introduction

Capitols are among the most prominent building types found across the United States. The architectural succession of a state's capitols can be a telling narrative of its settlement, wealth, geographic location, aspirations, and regional or national standing. The great majority of current state capitols were either constructed or were subject to major additions or renovations during the period between the Civil War and World War I. Rising industrial and agricultural wealth, large increases in population, well-honed feelings of civic pride and competition, new building technologies and transportation systems allowing for the movement of structural and finish materials, and professionalization in the field of architecture all converged in these decades, resulting in some of the nation's finest public buildings. The cultural contexts embodied by the architecture and building type are deepened by the activities that go on in a capitol. Most of these activities are unremarkable, and concern only essential business; however, at times decisions made by a legislative body are of exceptional historical significance to the nation.

Since 1960, thirty-five capitol buildings in the United States have been designated as National Historic Landmarks. This figure includes twenty current state capitols and fifteen "former" capitols—a descriptor that takes in older state capitols as well as colonial, tribal, and territorial capitols. Of these thirty-five, seventeen have been designated for architecture alone, eleven for history, and seven for both history and architecture. A number have been designated for reasons related to the country's political history. For example, the Maryland State House (NHL, 1960) is significant for its role in key events of the Revolution and the formation of the nation, and the Wyoming State Capitol (NHL, 1987) marks the first major jurisdiction in the United States where women attained full suffrage. While political history has been a profitable approach for arguing national significance, it should be stressed that no capitol has been designated based specifically on its function as a statehouse or as a symbolic representation of the federal system of government.

Beginning in 1960, the Secretary of the Interior designated eleven capitols as NHLs in the first years of the active program. Of these, ten were designated for history or a combination of history and architecture. In contrast, during the second decade (1970-79) only four of the fifteen designated capitols were found to possess national significance based on non-architectural historical contexts. The earliest nominations generally required a less rigorous process of documentation and the period seems to have been characterized by a tendency to cite the historical significance of a current or former capitol. The history represented by these NHLs overwhelmingly tended to be related to the Revolution and the Early National Period, and the Civil War, contexts that echoed the consensus narratives driving much of the nation's political and military history. Of the ten capitols designated NHLs since 1980, the three designated for history alone reflected a move away from the dominance of political history in the field to emphasize previously unrecognized areas such as women's history, African American history, and public health history. Looking to the future, it is doubtful that national significance can be effectively argued for every capitol in the United States based on historical contexts and determining the NHL eligibility of a capitol for history will have to be made on a case-by-case basis.

Capitols and Architectural Significance

Because they are generally among the highest profile buildings in a capital city or, at times, an entire state, and often designed by noted architects or firms, arguing the national significance of capitols based on architecture has at times been relatively straightforward. Still, the practical and symbolic functions of these buildings, and the long and occasionally labyrinthine construction histories, make demonstrating national significance and accurately documenting physical integrity a daunting process.

Of the thirty-five capitol NHLs, twenty-four have been identified as having some degree of architectural importance to the nation. Most of the high-style trends impacting architecture in America during the past three centuries are represented by those designated.

Style	Capitol	City, State	Date Built	NHL Date
Georgian	Old Colony	Newport, RI	1739-1741	1960
	State House			
Neoclassical	Virginia State	Richmond, VA	1785-1790	1960
	Capitol			
Federal	Massachusetts	Boston, MA	1795-1798	1960
	State House			
Greek Revival	Tennessee State	Nashville, TN	1845-1859	1971
	Capitol			
Gothic Revival	Old Louisiana	Baton Rouge,	1849	1974
	State Capitol	LA		
Romanesque	New York State	Albany, NY	1867-1869	1979
and French	Capitol			
Renaissance				
Revivals				
High Victorian	Connecticut	Hartford, CT	1872-1880	1970
Gothic	State Capitol			
Renaissance	Wisconsin State	Madison, WI	1906-1917	1992
Revival	Capitol			
Moderne, Art	Nebraska State	Lincoln, NE	1922-1932	1976
Deco	Capitol			

Despite this varied sampling, most of the architecturally significant capitol NHLs emerged out of two specific traditions: the Greek Revival and the Neo-classical traditions derived from the Renaissance period. Both of these classically-based traditions readily convey strength and confidence through architectural form, even on a modest scale. The simple and staid character of the Greek Revival presents a solid and imposing public face, appropriate for a state's primary governmental building. It was also an extremely flexible design mode that could increase a building's presence through the simple introduction of a columned portico. Eight of the capitol NHLs have been identified as nationally significant examples of Greek Revival architecture (an additional three Greek Revival capitols have also been designated for historical reasons).

Important public buildings, topped first with cupolas and then small domes, began appearing late in the colonial period; however, the difficulty and expense of raising even a modest dome kept most of them small in scale and visually subservient to the rest of the building. The midnineteenth century expansion of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC, firmly established a new standard for public buildings where the dome became a dominant feature of the design. The increase of dome size was made possible by structural iron and steel, which, during the last decades of the nineteenth century, could be delivered to any capital city via the transcontinental railroad network. Gilded Age technology, wealth, and civic competition unleashed a period of capitol construction that will likely never be experienced again in the United States.

Between the Civil War and World War I, more than a score of new capitols having prominent domes were completed, and many existing capitols were significantly modified with new wings, larger domes, and extensive remodeling. Without exception, these capitols embody French academic Beaux-Arts planning principles and nearly all are representative of a strain of monumental classicism sometimes characterized as American Renaissance. The general similarity between this generation of capitols is striking, and underscores both the obvious influence of the U.S. Capitol Building, as well as the speed with which the form of a dominant dome became strongly symbolic of democracy in the United States. The likeness of architectural form and details is easily comprehended, yet the scale of these buildings, and a period aesthetic sensibility that did not always value restraint, translated into designs with variable degrees of individual success. Four domed capitols inspired by the Italian Renaissance have been designated as NHLs. Two of the four, the Texas State Capitol (NHL, 1986) and the Michigan State Capitol (NHL, 1992), were designed by Elijah E. Myers, who was both an early advocate of the U.S. Capitol as a model and, arguably, the most skilled in applying it to state capitol commissions. In addition to these works by Myers, the Wisconsin State Capitol by George B. Post & Sons (NHL, 2001), and the Pennsylvania State Capitol, an especially sophisticated integration of art and architecture (NHL, 2006, updated 2013), were designated as superb examples of the type.

Capitols Included in Architectural Surveys

All of the state capitols that are commonly included in surveys of American architecture are already NHLs. These are:

Capitol	City, State	Style	Date Built	Architect	NHL Date
Old Colony	Newport, RI	Georgian	1739-1741	Richard	1960
(State) House	_	_		Munday	
Virginia State	Richmond,	Neoclassical	1785-1790	Thomas	1960
Capitol	VA			Jefferson	
Massachusetts	Boston, MA	Federal	1795—1798	Charles	1960
State House				Bulfinch	
Ohio	Columbus,	Greek	1838-1861	Various	1977
Statehouse	OH	Revival			
Tennessee	Nashville,	Greek	1845-1859	William	1971
State Capitol	TN	Revival		Strickland	
Old Louisiana	Baton Rouge,	Gothic	1849	James Dakin	1974
State Capitol	LA	Revival			
Nebraska	Lincoln, NE	Art Deco,	1922-1932	Bertram	1976
State Capitol		Moderne		Grosvenor	
				Goodhue	

Intriguingly, except for the U.S. Capitol itself, the domed, Renaissance Revival state capitols have been largely ignored in most general architectural histories of the United States, undoubtedly in part because of their physical similarity. The omission likely also stems from established academic narratives for the architecture of the period, which tend to focus on the impact of new technologies, for example in the realization of skyscrapers and exposition buildings, or on different types, such as houses. By the end of the nineteenth century the visual importance of government buildings, which, along with churches, had traditionally been by far the most prominent edifices in a city or town, also began to be challenged by such new types as railroad stations and institutional buildings like schools and libraries.

Inventory—Capitols Designated NHLs

This list includes current and former state capitols, colonial capitols, and tribal and territorial capitols. Pennsylvania's extant colonial statehouse, Independence Hall in Philadelphia, is not included in this list because it is not a National Historic Landmark, but rather the centerpiece of Independence National Historical Park.

The buildings, listed here in alphabetical order by state, are grouped according to designation for architectural significance (Criterion 4), significance to historical events (Criterion 1), or both architectural and historical significance (Criteria 4 and 1).

As specified in the Criteria for National Historic Landmarks (36 CFR § 65.4), properties designated for Criterion 1 are "associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained."

Those properties designated for Criterion 4, individually or in combination with Criterion 1, will "embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for the study of a period, style or method of construction, or that represent a significant, distinctive and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction."

NHL Criterion 4 Designations (Architecture)

Colorado State Capitol, Denver, Colorado

NHL 2012 (Denver Civic Center); 1886-1908, Elijah E. Myers, Frank E. Edbrook Architects; Renaissance Revival

The Colorado State Capitol was designated as a component of the Denver Civic Center complex that includes several Renaissance Revival style buildings united by a landscape design completed by Edward H. Bennett. The civic center complex is an important example of the City Beautiful movement that features the capitol building anchoring one end of the mall. The building is one of three NHL statehouses by Myers, but this one was completed long after his initial involvement by Denver architect Frank Edbrook.



Colorado State Capitol, Denver, Colorado

Photo by Roger Whitacre. NPS photo in NHL Program files, Washington, D.C.

Connecticut State Capitol, Hartford, Connecticut

NHL, 1970; 1872-80, Richard M. Upjohn, High Victorian Gothic

Derived from Venetian Renaissance sources, this building represents a radical departure from Greek and Roman classicism with Gothic ornamentation. As is characteristic of the High Victorian Gothic, briefly popular in the northeastern states, much of the interior received a sumptuous polychromatic treatment.



Connecticut State Capitol, Hartford, Connecticut Photo by Ragesoss. Wikimedia Commons

Old Capitol, Iowa City, Iowa

NHL, 1976; 1840-46, John Rague and Chauncey Swan, Greek Revival

The Old Capitol in Iowa is an outstanding example of a Greek Revival legislative building constructed in a remote frontier setting with a standard pilastered exterior, columned portico, and cupola. The building served Iowa's territorial government, and the statehouse until the capitol moved to Des Moines.

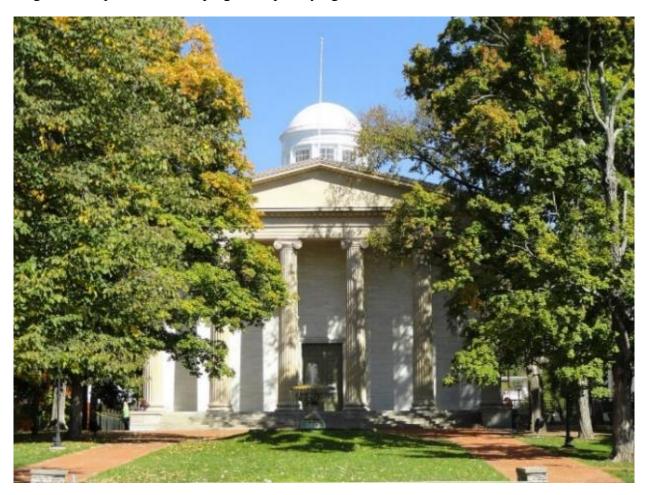


Old Capitol, Iowa City, Iowa
Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith
[LC-DIG-highsm-39905]

Old State House, Frankfort, Kentucky

NHL, 1971; 1829-30, Gideon Shryock, Greek Revival

Jefferson's Virginia statehouse in the form of a classical temple spawned the smaller Kentucky statehouse with its Ionic portico. Constructed of granite, Shryock's interior surpasses the Virginia example with a sweeping U-shaped flying staircase.



Old State House, Frankford, Kentucky Photo by Daderot under Public Domain. Wikimedia Commons

Old Louisiana State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

NHL, 1974; 1847-49, James Dakin; interior rebuilt 1880-82, William Freret, Gothic Revival.

Gothic Revival was very popular for most types of buildings in antebellum America, but Louisiana and Georgia had the only examples for a statehouse. Designed by a prominent New Orleans architect, only the Louisiana example survives. With its Mississippi River setting, the Old Louisiana State Capitol provides a remarkable contrast to the popularity of Greek and Roman inspired designs.



Louisiana State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, photograph by David J. Kaminsky [HABS LA,17-BATRO,6-]

Massachusetts State House, Boston, Massachusetts

NHL, 1960; 1795-98, Charles Bulfinch, Federal

Designed by the preeminent architect of the Federal period and based upon contemporary English precedents, the Massachusetts State House introduced a hemispherical dome surmounting a monumental portico for an American statehouse. Large Renaissance Revival additions visually defer to the original building.



State House and Capitol, Boston, Massachusetts

Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith [LC-DIG-highsm-12099]

Michigan State Capitol, Lansing, Michigan

NHL, 1992; 1872-78, Elijah E. Myers, Renaissance Revival

This is an early example of a state capitol modeled on the U.S. Capitol. Myers was a Midwest architect responsible for more statehouses than any other architect, and whose work is highly characteristic of the lavish ornamentation of the Gilded Age.



Michigan Capitol Building, Lansing, Michigan Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Balthazar Korab Collection [LC-DIG-ppem-00786]

Mississippi State Capitol, Jackson, Mississippi

NHL, 2016; 1900-1903, Theodore Link, Classical Revival

This exceptional early example of Classical Revival architecture is notable for having been constructed in a single three-year building campaign under the direction of one architect and one contracting firm. The building features a large collection of art glass by Louis Millet and decorative scagliola.



Mississippi State Capitol Rotunda

Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith [LC-DIG-highsm-47091]

Nebraska State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska

NHL, 1976; 1922-32, Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue Associates

Stylized stripped classicism and Byzantine ornamentation combine with other influences to create a highly original Art Deco, or Moderne, design. With an interior almost ecclesiastical in character, the Nebraska State Capitol is an exceptional departure from traditional design with its extraordinary skyscraper form in a prairie setting. The interior features mosaics by Hildreth Meiere and sculpture by Lee Lawrie along with Guastavino tiles.



Capitol Building, Lincoln, Nebraska

Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith [LC-DIG-highsm-04814]

New York State Capitol, Albany, New York

NHL, 1979; 1867-99, Fuller & Gilman, substantially revised by H. H. Richardson and Leopold Eidlitz, completed by Isaac Perry, French Renaissance Revival

The influence of several different architects resulted in a unique design among American statehouses. The New York State Capitol is of national significance due to the involvement of two major designers, Richardson and Edlitz, who were responsible for the exceptional interior spaces.



New York State Capitol Senate Chamber

Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith [LC-DIG-highsm-52412]

State Capitol, Raleigh, North Carolina

NHL, 1973; 1833-40, Town & Davis completed by David Paton, Greek Revival

This state capitol represents the popular Greek Revival approach ornamented with pilastered walls, a boldly executed raised portico supporting a pediment, and a low dome centered over a cruciform plan. The desired monumentality is achieved for a relatively small-scale statehouse.



North Carolina State Capitol, Raleigh, North Carolina
Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith
[LC-DIG-highsm-43740]

Ohio Statehouse, Columbus, Ohio

NHL, 1977; 1838-61, Thomas Cole, Henry Walter, Isaiah Rogers, Greek Revival

No statehouse better represents the affinity frontier America had for the image of Greek democracy as a classical temple than the one in Columbus, Ohio. While the long, complex construction history involved several architects, the monumental exterior likely reflects the design of artist Thomas Cole begun by architect Henry Walter and completed by Isaiah Rogers.

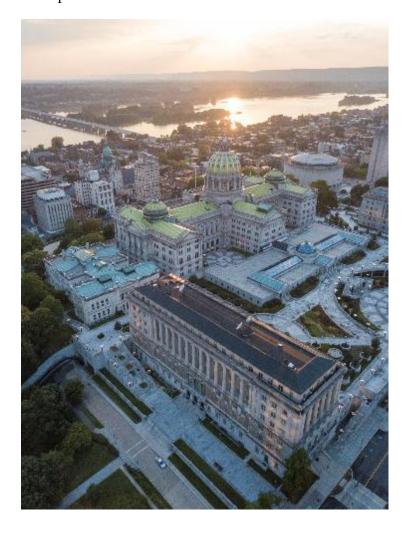


Ohio Statehouse, Columbus, Ohio
Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith
[LC-DIG-highsm-41852]

Pennsylvania State Capitol Complex, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

NHL, 2006, updated 2013; 1902-06, Joseph Huston, Classical Revival.

The statehouse is a major example of Classical Revival architecture and features an important collaboration between the architect, artists, sculptors, and other craftspeople. With a 1916 landscape by Arnold Brunner, the designated property includes later buildings and objects incorporated into the complex.

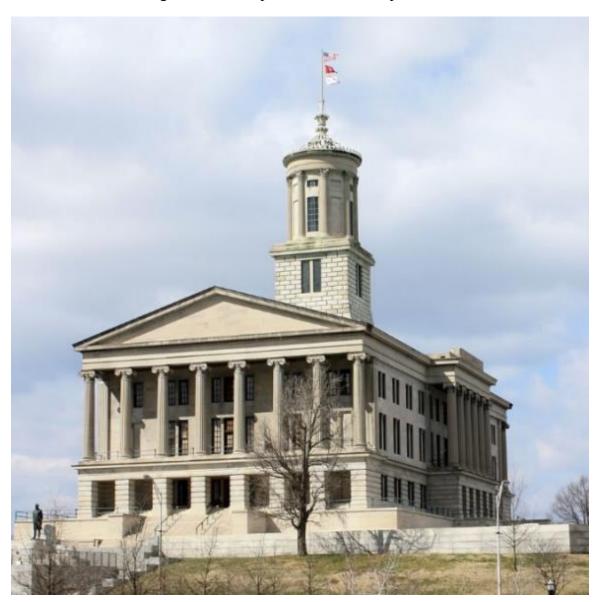


Pennsylvania State Capitol and Office Buildings, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Photo by Toniklemm. Wikimedia Commons

Tennessee State Capitol, Nashville, Tennessee

NHL, 1971; 1845-59, William Strickland, Greek Revival

Designed by one of America's leading antebellum architects, the Nashville capitol employs classical orders in a unique interpretation of Greek Revival. Avoiding a traditional Roman dome, Strickland created a striking tower based upon classical Greek precedents.



Tennessee State CapitolPhoto by Kaldari under Public Domain. Wikimedia Commons

Texas State Capitol, Austin, Texas

NHL, 1986; 1882-88, Elijah E. Myers, Renaissance Revival

When completed, the Texas statehouse was the largest in the country with a dome taller than the United States Capitol. Below the dome is a monumental arched pavilion that adds to the distinctive character of the Texas statehouse.



Texas State Capitol, Austin, Texas
Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith
[LC-DIG-highsm-27831]

Vermont State House, Montpelier, Vermont

NHL, 1970; 1833-38, Ammi B. Young rebuilt 1857-59, Thomas Silloway, Greek Revival

Designed by Ammi Young in a compact, muscular Greek Revival style with a squat dome, Vermont's state house was gutted in a fire. When reconstructed it combined Young's Doric portico with newly fashionable Italian Renaissance treatments, an early example among capitol buildings.



Vermont State House, Montpelier, Vermont

Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith [LC-DIG-highsm-12045]

Wisconsin State Capitol, Madison, Wisconsin

NHL, 2001; 1906-17, George B. Post & Sons, Renaissance Revival

The New York City architects departed from convention to design a monumental building in the form of a St. Andrews Cross with four wings radiating from a central dome.



Wisconsin State Capitol, Madison, Wisconsin
Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith
[LC-DIG-highsm-39976]

NHL Criterion 1 Designations (History)

First Confederate Capitol, Montgomery, Alabama

NHL, 1960; 1851, Greek Revival

Rebuilt after a fire with a monumental portico and dome, the building was designated for its association with a nationally significant event—serving as the first statehouse of the Confederate States of America during the early months of secession.



Capitol Building, Montgomery, Alabama

Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division,
The George F. Landegger Collection of Alabama Photographs in Carol M. Highsmith's America

Old State House, Little Rock, Arkansas

NHL, 1997; 1833-42, Gideon Shryock, Greek Revival.

Although a significant early example of a Greek Revival statehouse, this designation is for the period of 1912-1934 when the building was used as the University of Arkansas Medical School. The designation cites the national significance of its public medical programs in rural areas, particularly the model program for the treatment of malaria.



Old State House, Little Rock, Arkansas Photo by L. Allen Brewer under CC BY 2.0. Flickr.

New Castle Court House, New Castle, Delaware

NHL, 1972; 1730-31, 1765, 1845, Georgian

The New Castle Court House is historically important as the building where local government seceded from both Pennsylvania and the Crown, declaring independence for the new state of Delaware. With its 1845 addition, the courthouse (as it had become) was the location of the important abolitionist trial of Thomas Garett and John Hunn in 1848.



Court House, New Castle, Delaware
Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith
[LC-DIG-highsm-51753]

Iolani Palace, Honolulu, Hawai'i

NHL, 1962; 1879-82, Thomas J. Baker with others, French Renaissance Revival (Second Empire)

Built as the royal palace of the last two rulers of Hawai'i and the site of the formal transfer of power to become an American colony, the Iolani Palace is nationally significant for use as the territorial capitol.



Iolani Palace, Honolulu, Hawai'i Photo by Tom Patterson under Public Domain. Flickr

Louisiana State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

NHL, 1982; 1930-32, Weiss, Dreyfous & Seiferth, Art Deco/Moderne

This 34-story Art Deco building is designated for its association with the controversial governor, Huey Long. Governor Long's power and influence ensured the richly ornamented building was completed relatively quickly. It is also where he was assassinated in 1935.

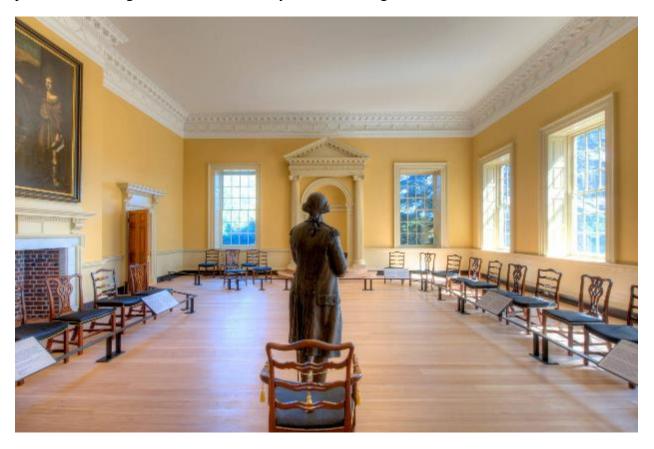


Louisiana State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana Photo by Chrismiceli under Public Domain. Wikimedia Commons

Maryland State House, Annapolis, Maryland

NHL, 1960; 1772-79, dome 1789; Georgian

The statehouse is nationally significant for use by the Continental Congress in 1783-84. The Treaty of Paris ending the Revolutionary War was ratified here, and General George Washington presented his resignation from the military in this building.



Old Senate Chamber, Maryland State House Photo by Bestbudbrian licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Wikimedia Commons

Creek National Capitol, Okmulgee, Oklahoma

NHL, 1961; 1878, Italianate

Constructed for the Creek Indian Council with halls for two legislative bodies and a supreme court, this building served as the capitol of the Creek nation until statehood. Like the earlier building constructed by the Cherokees, it is a symbol of cultural adjustment and compromise.

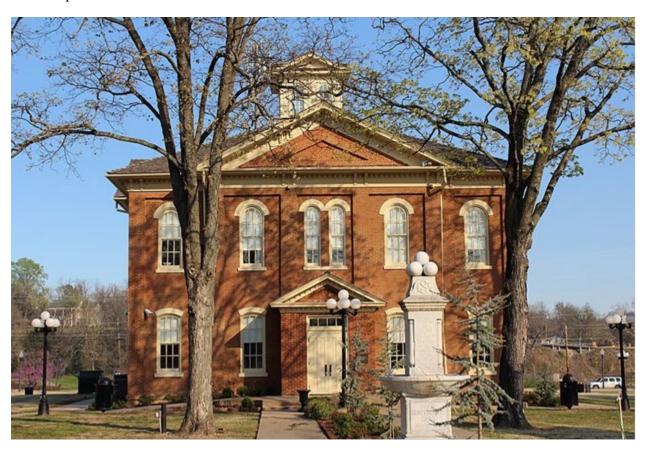


Creek National Capitol, Okmulgee, Oklahoma Photo by Jimmy Emerson, DVM licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0. Flickr

Cherokee National Capitol, Tahlequah, Oklahoma

NHL, 1961; 1867-69, C. W. Goodlander, Italianate

Built as the Cherokee tribal capitol, the building is significant as a symbol of cultural adjustment and compromise.



Cherokee Nation Court House
Photo by Sharon Baker licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Wikimedia Commons

South Carolina State House, Columbia, South Carolina

NHL, 1976; 1851-1860, 1869-1907, John Niernsee, Charles Wilson, Greek Revival

Begun prior to the Civil War and not completed for fifty years, the statehouse was designated for a period of national significance from 1867 to 1877. It was during these years that South Carolina was the only state with a majority Black legislature. That led to a reaction by Whites who created the myth of Republican corruption during Reconstruction, a narrative that was widely accepted nationally.



South Carolina State House, Columbia, South Carolina Photo by Florencebballer under Public Domain. Wikimedia Commons

Old City Hall, Salt Lake City, Utah

NHL, 1975; 1864-66, William H. Folsom, reconstructed on current site in 1961-62, Italianate

Constructed for a city hall and used as the Utah Territorial Capitol (1866-1894), the building is historically important as a focal point in conflicts between Mormon leaders and federal officials.



Old City Hall, Salt Lake City, Utah Photo by Sean O'Neill under CC BY-ND 2.0. Flickr

Wyoming State Capitol, Cheyenne, Wyoming

NHL, 1987; 1886-90, David W. Gibbs & Co., Renaissance Revival

The Wyoming State Capitol was designated as nationally significant for the role the territory and new state played in advancing the cause of women's suffrage. Wyoming is the first state that granted women the right to vote.



Wyoming State Capitol, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith [LC-DIG-highsm-47777]

Architecture and History Designations (NHL Criteria 4 and 1)

Old State House, Hartford, Connecticut

NHL, 1960; 1792-96, Charles Bulfinch, Federal

The building is nationally significant as the location of the Hartford Convention of 1814, an important event in the debate of state vs. federal sovereignty during the War of 1812. It is also an early design by Bulfinch, one of America's premier architects of the Federal style.



Old State House, Hartford, Connecticut Photo by Daderot DSC 04900, Wikimedia Commons

State Capitol Building, Atlanta, Georgia

NHL, 1973; 1884-89, Edbrooke & Burnham, Renaissance Revival

The monumental, yet conventional classicism of this state capitol signified the recovery of Georgia and the emergence of a "New South" after the destruction of the Civil War.



Georgia State Capitol, Atlanta, Northwest view Photo by DXR under CC BY-SA 4.0. Wikimedia Commons

Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois

NHL, 1961; 1837-40, John Rague, Greek Revival

The Old State Capitol is where Abraham Lincoln argued cases before the State Supreme Court, and it is where he gave his House Divided speech declaring his presidential candidacy. The stone building is also architecturally significant for its design. Like the Old Capitol in Iowa City, the building reflects the popularity of the Greek Revival as an inexpensive monumental style for small capital cities.



Old Capitol Building, Springfield, Illinois
Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith
[LC-DIG-highsm-59248]

Old State House, Boston, Massachusetts

NHL, 1960; 1712-13, 1748, Georgian

Serving as the statehouse from 1777 to 1797, this building witnessed many major events leading up to the Revolution. Altered for other uses, public and private, over the years, the building was authentically restored to its Georgian style appearance.



Old State House, Boston, Massachusetts

Photo by TheFSaviator under Public Domain. Wikimedia Commons

Old Mississippi State Capitol, Jackson, Mississippi

NHL, 1990; 1836-40, William Nichols, Greek Revival

Architecturally, the building is significant as a major example of an antebellum statehouse design in the Greek Revival style designed by an important English-trained architect. Historically, nationally significant events here included the passage of the Married Women's Property Act in 1839, and election of Hiram Revels in 1870, the first Black man to serve in the United States Senate. Unfortunately, and more significantly, legislation to disenfranchise Black citizens culminating in state constitution of 1890 was approved by the legislature in the Old Statehouse.



Old Mississippi State Capitol, Jackson, Mississippi Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith [LC-DIG-highsm-46884]

Old Colony (State) House, Newport, Rhode Island

NHL, 1960; 1739-41, Richard Munday, Georgian

This building is nationally significant as one of the most important surviving examples of Georgian public architecture in the United States. Historically, the building served as one of two statehouses from 1776-1900 and was the site of significant events during the Revolution.

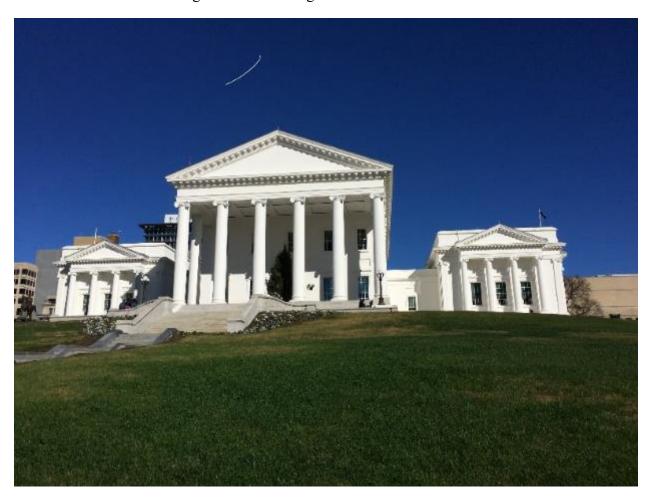


Old Colony House, Newport, Rhode Island Photo by Kenneth C. Zirkel under CC BY-SA 4.0. Wikimedia Commons

Virginia State Capitol, Richmond, Virginia

NHL, 1960; 1785-90, Thomas Jefferson, executed by Samuel Dobie, Classical Revival.

The Virginia State Capitol is architecturally nationally significant as the first public building in the United States based upon a Roman temple, providing a precedent for both public and private buildings based on that form. The Capitol was also designated as historically significant as the location of the Confederate government during the Civil War.



Virginia State Capitol, Richmond, VirginiaPhoto by Roger Reed. All Rights Reserved. Used with Permission

Potential NHL Capitols Study List (NHL Criterion 4)

A brief survey of the current state capitols not already designated as NHLs shows that there are a handful that might be nationally significant based on Criterion 4 for their architectural design. The domed Renaissance Revival state capitols of Minnesota and Rhode Island stand out as having potential for NHL designation based on the renown and prominence of the architects or firms involved. However, a capitol commission's importance within the body of work of a nationally significant architect or firm would have to be substantiated in a nomination for architectural importance.

The Moderne state capitols of North Dakota and Oregon feature an updated take on traditional statehouse forms using stripped-down decoration representative of the 1930s that may make these buildings eligible for consideration as an NHL. For capitols by architects or firms having more of a regional importance, a thorough preliminary evaluation of their work, influence, and the overall character of a capitol's design will be necessary before a study for an NHL nomination should be recommended.

Minnesota State Capitol (1893-1905, Cass Gilbert)



Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul, Minnesota

Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith [LC-DIG-highsm-59668]

Rhode Island State House (1894-1905, McKim, Mead & White)



Rhode Island State House, Providence, Rhode Island Photo by Kumar Appaiah licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0. Flickr

North Dakota State Capitol (1931-1934, Holabird & Root)



North Dakota State Capitol
Photo by Bobak Ha 'Eri licensed under CC BY 3.0. Wikimedia Commons

Oregon State Capitol (1935-1938, Trowbridge & Livingston, New York)



Oregon State Capitol, Salem, Oregon
Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith
[LC-DIG-highsm-50685]

National Historic Landmarks Program National Park Service, Department of the Interior 1849 C Street NW Washington, DC 20240



This National Historic Landmarks Resource Guide, *Capitols as National Historic Landmarks*, was prepared by James A. Jacobs, PhD (2009), with additions by Roger G. Reed (2021). Photo editing by Francesca Maisano, NHL Program intern (2021).

To search for digitized NHL nominations of capitols and statehouses visit: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/search.htm