

Capital Steps Passport

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Maine State House, Augusta, ME 04330



Year completed:** 1832

Architectural style: Greek Revival

FYI: The portico and front and rear walls are all that remain of the original, 1832 structure (designed by architect Charles Bullfinch). A major remodel in 1909–1910 enlarged the wings of the building and replaced the building's original dome with a more elongated one.

New Hampshire State House, 107 North Main Street, Concord, NH 03303



Year completed:** 1819

Architectural style: Greek Revival

FYI: The stately eagle installed on top of the New Hampshire State House's dome may look gold, but it's actually brass. The original was removed for preservation and is on display at the New Hampshire Historical Society. A new, gold-leafed eagle was put in its place around 1969.

Vermont State House, 115 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633



Year completed:** 1859

Architectural style:
Renaissance Revival

FYI: The senate chamber still has its original furnishings, plus working gas lamps, and a “gasolier”—a gaslight chandelier that was rediscovered elsewhere in 1979, refurbished, and reinstalled in the chamber.

New York State Capitol, State St. and Washington Ave, Albany, NY 12224



Year completed:** 1899

Architectural style: Italian Renaissance/French Renaissance/Romanesque

FYI: The Western staircase inside New York's capitol has been dubbed the "Million Dollar Staircase," because it cost more than a million dollars to build—in the late-1800s, no less. The 444 steps took 17 years to complete, and more than 500 stonecutters and carvers earned \$5 a day to work on the project. The staircase's main feature is

77 carvings of faces, which include prominent Americans such as Abraham Lincoln and Susan B. Anthony, as well as images of the carvers' friends and relatives.

New Jersey State House, Trenton, NJ 08608



Year completed:** 1792
(original structure)

Architectural style:
Various

FYI: The New Jersey State House has always been a work in progress. The original building was first completed in 1792, and a few extensions were added shortly after. In 1885, a fire destroyed a portion of the State House, which was rebuilt in the Second Empire style with a new rotunda and dome. In the

1890s, a Victorian-style addition was made to the Assembly wing. Then in 1903, the Senate wing was renovated in the American Renaissance style. A four-story office was added three years later; it finally reached its present size in 1911, and so on...

Pennsylvania State Capitol Building, North 3rd Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120



Year completed:** 1906

Architectural style: American Renaissance

FYI: Architect Joseph Huston may have designed the building in the American Renaissance style, but he borrowed heavily from Europe. The capitol's grand staircase was modeled after the Paris Opera House, and the building's dome is a one-third-scale copy of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

West Virginia State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25317



Year completed:** 1932

Architectural style: Italian Renaissance

FYI: West Virginia's Capitol dome—gilded in 23.5-karat gold leaf—is a whole five feet taller than the nation's capital building in Washington, D. C.

Ohio State Capitol, 1 Capitol Square, Columbus, OH 43215



Year completed^{}: 1861**

Architectural style: Greek Revival

FYI: Keep an eye out for trilobites and other local fossils— the limestone used to build the statehouse came from Ohio, and many fossils are embedded in it.

Kentucky State Capitol Building, 700 Capitol Avenue, Frankfort, KY 40601



Year completed: 1910

Architectural style: Beaux-Arts

FYI: Inside the building, two oil murals by artist T. Gilbert White depict Kentucky's most famous frontiersman, Daniel Boone. One shows Boone and his party as they first discover the area; the second shows him at the Treaty of Sycamore Shoals, purchasing the land that eventually became the state.

Tennessee State Capitol, 600 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37243



Year completed:** 1859

Architectural style: Greek Revival

FYI: Tennessee's capitol is the final resting place for the nation's 11th president— tomb of President James K. Polk is located on the grounds. (The capitol's architect, William Strickland, is also entombed above the building's cornerstone.)

Indiana Statehouse, Indianapolis, IN 46204



Year Completed:** 1888

Architectural style:
Renaissance Revival

FYI: Many capitol buildings feature a dome or rotunda, but the Indiana Statehouse has three: a rotunda, topped by a smaller dome, with an even smaller sphere at the very top. The room inside the middle dome is painted white so the colors of the stained-glass windows reflect on the walls.

Michigan State House, Lansing, MI 48933



Year completed:** 1879

Architectural style: Neo-Classical

FYI: Don't let the faux marble pillars and walnut wainscoting trick your eyes—decorative painting techniques cover up the fact that the capitol building was made with more inexpensive materials, such as cast iron and pine.

Illinois State Capitol, Springfield, IL 62756



Year completed:** 1888

Architectural style: Greek

FYI: Before it became the site of the capitol, the location—the highest in Springfield—was proposed as a burial place for Abraham Lincoln. Mary Todd Lincoln wanted him buried in the Oak Ridge Cemetery instead.

Wisconsin State Capital, 2 E Main St, Madison, WI 53703



Year completed:** 1917

Architectural style: Beaux-Arts

FYI: Wisconsin, the statue that tops the capitol's dome, was designed by Daniel Chester French—the same artist behind Honest Abe's figure in the Lincoln Memorial. The 15-foot-tall, three-ton lady wears a helmet, on top of which sits a badger, the state's animal.

Minnesota State Capitol, St Paul, MN 55155



Year completed:** 1905

Architectural style: Beaux-Arts

FYI: Famed architect (and Minnesotan) Cass Gilbert designed the capitol—before he blueprinted the United States Supreme Court building.

South Dakota State Capitol, 500 E Capitol Ave, Pierre, SD 57501



Year completed:** 1910

Architectural style: Neo-Classical

FYI: Search the mosaic tile floor carefully. Rumor has it that each of the 66 Italian tile artisans who built the floor was given a blue tile to act as a stand-in a signature. To this day, not all of them have been found.

North Dakota State Capitol, Bismarck, ND 58501



Year completed:** 1934

Architectural style: Art
Deco/International

FYI: Although not the tallest structure in North Dakota (that honor goes to the 2,063-foot-tall KVLV-TV tower in Blanchard, the tallest manmade structure in the United States), the capitol does have the best publicly available view in the state on its 18th-floor observation deck—it's about ten times shorter than the Blanchard tower.

Montana State Capitol, 1301 E 6th Ave, Helena, MT 59601



Year completed^{}: 1902**

Architectural Style: Neo-Classical

FYI: When the Capitol underwent an expansion in 1909, a conscious decision was made to feature art by Montana-based artists, including Charles M. Russell (his Piegans sold at auction for \$5.6 million in 2005) and Edgar S. Paxson (known for painting Custer's Last Stand), among others.

Washington State Capitol, 416 Sid Snyder Ave SW, Olympia, WA 98504



Year completed:** 1928

Architectural style: Neo-Classical

FYI: Washington's capitol has good taste—Lewis Comfort Tiffany designed all of the fixed lighting in the building. This includes the ornate chandelier in the rotunda, which is made of bronze and weighs 10,000 pounds (including its chain).

Oregon State Capitol, 900 Court St NE, Salem, OR 97301



Year completed:** 1938

Architectural style: Modern Greek

FYI: The capitol contains many nods to the pioneers who made the long journey west. At the building's entrance, you'll find marble sculptures of a covered wagon and Lewis & Clark with Sacagawea—and on the backs of those sculptures, you'll find maps of the Oregon Trail. A bronze sculpture of The Oregon Pioneer tops the rotunda.

California State Capitol and Capitol Museum, L St & 10th St, Sacramento, CA 95814



Year completed:** 1874

Architectural style: Neo-Classical

FYI: Look for Minerva. You'll find the Roman goddess pictured in the Great Seal, on tile groupings on the floor, peering down from arches leading to the second-floor rotunda walkway, and the pediment in the building's exterior. According to myth, Minerva was born fully grown, the way California became a state without first being a territory.

Nevada State Capitol, Carson City, NV 89701



Year completed: 1871

**Architectural style: Neo-Classical
Italianate**

FYI: After Nevada became a state, the constitutional convention made a provision that no state capitol would be built until after three legislative sessions, in case future leaders wanted to move the center of government away from Carson City. A ten-acre site set aside for the building remained empty. In his book *Roughing It*, Mark Twain describes the empty plaza as a useful spot for “public auctions, horse trades, mass meetings, and likewise for teamsters to camp in.”

Idaho State Capitol, 700 W Jefferson St, Boise, ID 83720



Year completed:** 1912

Architectural style: Neo-Classical

FYI: The Idaho State Capitol has the nickname “The Capitol of Light” for the way architect John E. Tourtellotte used shafts, skylights, and reflective marble to illuminate the interior of the building. Today, it’s the only capitol building heated by geothermal water.

Utah State Capitol, Salt Lake City, UT 84103



Year completed:** 1916

Architectural style: Neo-
Classical

FYI: The inside of the capitol's rotunda is a series of paintings that form a cyclorama of 19th-century life in Utah. The Works Progress administration funded the project

Wyoming State Capitol, Cheyenne, WY 82001



Year completed:** 1890

Architectural style: Corinthian

FYI: There are several species of stuffed (as in taxidermy) animals Wyoming State Capitol, including a mounted Bison that once weighed 3,000 pounds.

Colorado State Capitol, 200 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80203



Year completed^{}: 1894**

Architectural style: Neo-Classical

FYI: In the capitol's rotunda, 16 stained glass windows depict the state's "Hall of Fame," which includes figures such as frontiersman Kit Carson and Alexander Majors, co-founder of the firm that established the Pony Express.

New Mexico State Capitol, Santa Fe, NM 87501



Year completed:
1966**

**Architectural style:
New Mexico
Territorial/Greek
Revival**

**FYI: New Mexico's
Capitol is the only
one housed in a
completely round
building, earning it
the nickname "The
Roundhouse." When
seen from above, the
shape is meant to
evoke the Zia sun
symbol.**

Arizona State Capitol, 1700 W Washington St, Phoenix, AZ 8500



Year completed:** 1900

Architectural style:
Classical Revival

FYI: The building, once home to the territorial government, is now a museum dedicated to the history of Arizona. The governor's office and state House and Senate floors are located in other buildings in the same complex off Wesley Bolin Plaza.⁷

Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701



Year completed:
1888**

**Architectural style:
Renaissance Revival**

FYI: Texas's capitol building claims to be the largest of the state capitols in terms of square footage—and it's even taller than the national capitol in D.C.

Oklahoma State Capitol, Oklahoma City, OK 73105



Year completed:
1917**

**Architectural style:
Classical Revival and
Renaissance**

**FYI: No, that's not a
cell phone tower
directly abutting the
capitol building.
Oklahoma's state
capitol is actually
surrounded by oil
wells.**

Kansas State Capitol, 300 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, KS 66612



**Year
completed**:
1903**

**Architectural
style: French
Renaissance**

**FYI: In 1901,
sculptor J.H.
Mahoney won a
design contest
for his 16-foot
statue of Ceres,
the Roman
goddess of
agriculture, to
be placed on
top of the
capitol dome.
People balked
at both the price**

**and the idea of a pagan goddess topping the capitol, so the dome went unadorned until
2002. After a new competition was held, Richard Bergen's bronze "Ad Astra"—a
sculpture of a Kansas warrior—was installed.**

Nebraska State Capitol, 1445 K Street, Lincoln, NE 68509



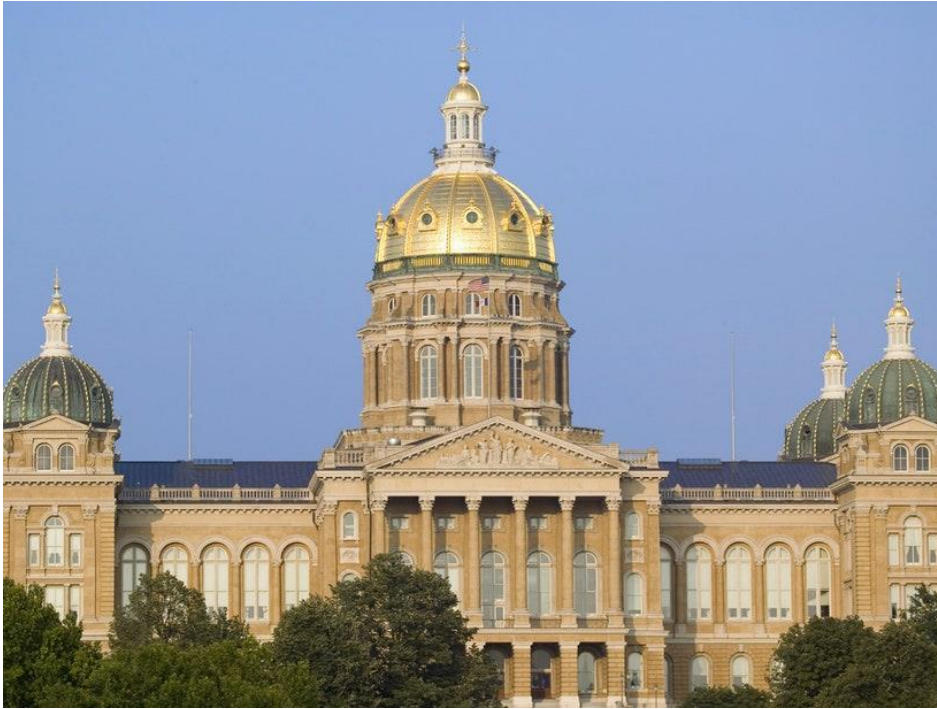
Year completed:** 1932

Architectural style:
Streamline Moderne

FYI: Don't forget to look down. Hildreth Meire's mosaics decorate both the ceiling and the floor of the building. Although Meire worked on the National Academy of Science in Washington D.C. and St.

Bartholomew's Church in New York City, she called the Nebraska capitol her crowning achievement.

Iowa State Capitol, 1007 E Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50319



Year completed: 1886

**Architectural style:
Renaissance**

FYI: The Iowa State Capitol has something for fashion lovers as well as history buffs: glass cases inside the first floor of the capitol building display 43 dolls—one for each governor's wife—wearing a replica of the dress she wore to the inaugural ball.

Missouri State Capitol, Jefferson City, MO 65101



**Year
completed**:
1918**

**Architectural
style: Classical
Revival**

**FYI: The first
floor of the
capitol houses
the Missouri
State Museum,
with exhibits
detailing the
state's cultural
and natural
history. But
that's not the
only place to find
interesting
artifacts. In the**

buildings and around the grounds, look for James Earle Fraser's 13-foot statue of Thomas Jefferson, Karl Bitter's bronze relief of the signing of the Louisiana Purchase Treaty, a frieze by Alexander Stirling Calder (father of the famed mobile-maker of the same name), and Thomas Hart Benton's murals of everyday Missouri life.

Arkansas State Capitol, 500 Woodlane Street, Little Rock, AR 72201



Year completed:
1915**

**Architectural style:
Neo-Classical**

FYI: Don't forget to look up. The rotunda of the capitol is an 18-foot-tall, 12-foot-wide brass chandelier made by Mitchell Vance and Company. Keep an eye out for decorative elements, such as an eagle perched on top of the Liberty Bell.

Mississippi State Capitol, 400-498 N West St, Jackson, MS 39201



Year completed:** 1903

Architectural style: Beaux-Arts

FYI: There are 750 lights in the capitol's rotunda alone. That makes it easy to see the figure of Blind Justice, as well as scenes of two Indians, a French explorer, and a Confederate general.

Louisiana State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA 70802



Year completed: 1932

Architectural style: Art Deco

FYI: You approach the capitol via a grand, 48-step staircase—one stair for every state in the union (with an amendment for Alaska and Hawaii). But don't let that be the highest you get on your visit. The Louisiana State Capitol has an observation deck on its 27th floor, 350 feet above ground. (It is the tallest state capitol building, after all.)

Florida State Capital, 402 S Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32301



Year completed: 1977

**Architectural style:
New Classicism**

FYI: The current 22-story state capitol towers over its predecessor, a Classical Revival building completed in 1845 that is now the Florida Historic Capitol Museum. Try to spot it from the new capitol's observation deck, located on the 22nd floor, 307 feet in the air.

Alabama State Capitol, 600 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36130



Year completed:** 1851

Architectural style: Greek Revival

FYI: A bronze star marks the spot where Jefferson Davis, newly named president of the Confederate States of America, gave his inaugural address.

Georgia State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334



Year completed: 1889

Architectural style: Neo-Classical/Renaissance Revival

FYI: The Georgia Capitol Museum, the on-site museum dedicated to the history of the state, has existed within the Capitol walls for just about as long as the building has been around. It moved into its fourth-floor headquarters in 1890.

South Carolina State House, 1100 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC 29201



Year completed:** 1907

Architectural style: Greek Revival

FYI: On the outside of the capitol, six bronze, star-shaped markers denote the spots where the building was hit with artillery during General Sherman's Civil War march.

North Carolina State Capitol, Raleigh, NC 27601



Year completed:
1833**

**Architectural
style: Greek
Revival**

**FYI: The North
Carolina State
Capitol boasts two
impressive
statues of George
Washington.
Outside on the
grounds sits a
bronze statue
cast from a mold
of Jean-Antoine
Houdon's statue
of George
Washington in**

Richmond, Virginia. At the focal point in the rotunda, there's a copy of a statute that stood at North Carolina's previous state capitol until 1831. The original Italian sculptor, Antonio Canova, carved George with a Roman general's uniform and haircut—and he's writing in Italian.

Virginia State Capitol, Richmond, VA 23219



Year completed:
1788 (though many
extensions were
added later)**

**Architectural style:
Palladian**

**FYI: Even though it
dates back to the
18th century, the
current state capitol
is Virginia's seventh
state house—not
counting the
collection of private
homes, meeting
houses, college
assembly halls, and
churches the
assembly would**

meet in between the destruction of one capitol and the building of the next.

Maryland State House, 100 State Cir, Annapolis, MD 21401



Year Completed:
1797**

**Architectural Style:
Georgian**

FYI: The Maryland State House has been holding government meetings for more than two centuries. The Continental Congress actually met in the building's Old Senate Chambers in 1783 and 1784.

Delaware Legislative Hall: The State Capitol, Legislative Avenue, Dover, DE 19901



Year completed: 1933

**Architectural style:
Georgian Revival**

FYI: In addition to the current government building, you can visit The Old State House in Delaware. The Georgian-style building was the seat of government from 1791 until 1933, when operations moved to their current digs.

Connecticut State Capitol, 210 Capitol Ave, Hartford, CT 06106



**Year completed:
1879**

**Architectural style:
High Victorian
Gothic**

**FYI: An 18-foot
bronze statue of a
winged woman,
titled The Genius of
Connecticut,
resides in the
capitol rotunda. It's
a replacement for
the statue that
once sat at the top
of the capitol dome
but was donated to
WWII efforts in
1938 (the metal**

**was needed). Lasers scanned the original plaster model to make a mold for the new
version.**

Rhode Island State House, 82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903



Year completed:
1904**

**Architectural
style: Neo-
Classical**

**FYI: The lobby of
Rhode Island's
State House holds
two Civil War-era
cannons; one was
used in the Battle
of Gettysburg, the
other in Bull Run.
The Gettysburg
Gun, as it's
called, still has an
iron cannonball
lodged into it,
melted into place**

**from the heat of a Confederate shot that hit it. (Until the 1960s, it also contained the
gunpowder.)**

Massachusetts State House, Boston, MA 02108



**Year
completed**:
1779**

**Architectural
style: Federal**

**FYI: The
gleaming dome
of the
Massachusetts
State House
was not always
metal. The
original wooden
topper leaked,
so it was
remodeled and
covered in
copper by a
noteworthy**

company: Paul Revere and Sons.

Just for fun:

Alaska State Capital, 120 4th Street, Juneau, AK 99801



Year
completed^{**}:
1931

Architectural
style: Art
Deco

FYI: The
limestone
and marble
used to
construct the
building's
facade is also
native to
Alaska—it
hails from the
Prince of
Wales Island.

Hawaii State Capitol, 451 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813



Year
completed**:
1969

Architectural
style: Hawaiian
International

FYI: The eight
columns in the
front and back
of the building
are supposed
to represent
the eight
islands of
Hawaii, and the
curved walls of
the legislative
houses recall
the state's
volcanoes.