

# Ohio Statehouse History

**Student/Class Goal**  
Introduce students to the lesser-known facts as well as myths that surround the Ohio Statehouse as part of a study of Ohio history.

**Outcome** (*lesson objective*)  
Students will organize factual information from material they have read by constructing a timeline, identifying main ideas and supporting details, and determining if statements presented are fact or fiction about the Ohio Statehouse.

**Time Frame**  
2-3 hours

**Standard** *Read with Understanding*

**NRS EFL 2-5**

Purpose	Benchmarks	Word Knowledge	Benchmarks	Comprehension	Benchmarks
Purpose for reading	3.1, 4.1, 5.1	Decoding skills		Strategy use	3.11, 4.11, 5.11
Select text		Word parts		Text structural elements	
		Context clues		Genres	
		Reference materials		Literary analysis	2.14, 3.14
		Word relationships		Drawing conclusions	2.15, 3.15, 4.15, 5.15
		Content vocabulary	3.8, 4.8, 5.8	Making connections	2.16, 3.16, 4.16, 5.16
		Figurative language			
		Fluency			

**Materials**  
Ohio Statehouse Glossary  
*Knowledge Rating* chart  
Ohio Statehouse History Articles  
*Statehouse History Timeline* Handout  
*Statehouse Fact or Fiction* Handout

**Learner Prior Knowledge**  
A glossary and knowledge rating chart have been included to support students unfamiliar with these terms. Students should also be familiar with using primary and secondary sources to answer questions about Ohio History.

**Instructional Activities**  
Step 1 – The [Knowledge Rating](#) strategy should be introduced to the students and modeled (use the example: cornerstone on the chart) so they will understand the steps involved in the process. This strategy helps students comprehend expository text found in different subject areas. Students begin with a list of vocabulary words and corresponding columns on the *Knowledge Rating* chart. Before reading, students analyze each word and note whether the term is familiar. If the student knows the meaning of the word, a short definition is written in the appropriate column.

This pre-reading activity sets the stage for further clarification of the words through discussion or reading. Next, students skim the text to locate the words in context. The location of the word is noted for later reference (with highlighters, removable sticky strips, underlining, etc.). It is permissible to have the students highlight a form of the word, if the exact word is not found first. After reading the text completely, the words are revisited in context, and definitions are noted for each word. Students can work in pairs or small groups to compare and share. Such active participation in processing vocabulary is necessary to understand the text and to help students construct meaning.

Step 2 – Students read silently one of the selected articles about the Ohio Statehouse History, then turn their article over. The teacher asks students what they remember; recalled information is written on the board. Provide a post-reading task such as writing a summary or preparing an outline. Students then return to the material, looking for additions, deletions, and corrections necessary in light of the task. Discussion resumes with students suggesting possible additions, deletions, or corrections and offering reasons for their choices. The group decides if and how the information on the board should be changed. Pairs of students organize the information on the board and complete the post-reading task. Pairs share their products with each other, again offering reasons for their choices, where appropriate.

**TEACHER NOTE** After students are accustomed to using the [Manzo's Guided Reading](#) strategy, they can work in groups without the teacher's direct involvement. One person in each group should serve as recorder. Teachers might also like to set up a [Jigsaw](#) using three groups, one for each article.

Step 3 - Identify the dates on the *Statehouse History Timeline* handout, students can work in pairs or triads. Now that you have identified the dates of the events, make a time line that places the events in chronological order. Resources with more information about creating timelines include: [Explore and Create Timelines](#), [Student Materials Timeline](#), [Create a Timeline](#), [MS Office Excel](#), [Free Timeline](#).

Step 4 - Many myths surround the Ohio Statehouse. The following is a list of statements about the Ohio Statehouse; some are fact; some are fiction. Read the statements and circle the numbers of the statements that you believe are true on the *Statehouse Fact or Fiction* handout.

For this activity, the true statements are: 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and the fiction statements are: 1, 2, 4, 6.

Stories behind the myths:

- The Ohio Statehouse was not designed to have a copper dome. It did, however, have a copper roof. The roof was replaced (unknown date), and was not used to help finance or arm Civil War soldiers or the efforts of the Union troops.
- Kate Chase was the daughter of Salmon Chase. Mr. Chase rose through the political ranks in Ohio and eventually served as U.S. Secretary of Treasury under President Lincoln. Kate was said to be beautiful and somewhat of a flirt. In (unknown date) Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Mary, were visiting the Ohio Statehouse on a political campaign. Part of the festivities was a ball in the Statehouse. Kate and Lincoln danced together, and it is said to have made Mary quite jealous. One of the ongoing myths is that Lincoln and Kate Chase are still sometimes seen dancing together in the rotunda.

**TEACHER NOTE** The *Fact or Fiction* handout could also be used as a pre-reading activity. Teachers would create a chart with columns for pre-reading predictions and during/post-reading confirmations. Numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12 are especially good for this Anticipation Guide activity.

#### **Assessment/Evidence** *(based on outcome)*

Vocabulary chart  
Main idea post-reading task  
Timelines  
Fact or Fiction responses

#### **Teacher Reflection/Lesson Evaluation**

*Not yet completed.*

#### **Next Steps**

Additional lessons on Ohio History can be explored. Students might also like to research additional myths about their local communities or explore other Ohio history topics.

#### **Technology Integration**

Knowledge Rating Scale [http://literacy.kent.edu/eureka/strategies/knowledge\\_ratings.pdf](http://literacy.kent.edu/eureka/strategies/knowledge_ratings.pdf)  
Ohio History Thematic Collection [http://literacy.kent.edu/eureka/tradebooks/thematic\\_coll.html](http://literacy.kent.edu/eureka/tradebooks/thematic_coll.html)  
Manzo's Guided Reading <http://literacy.kent.edu/eureka/strategies/manzo.pdf>  
Jigsaw Groups [http://literacy.kent.edu/eureka/strategies/jigsaw\\_groups09.pdf](http://literacy.kent.edu/eureka/strategies/jigsaw_groups09.pdf)

**TEACHER NOTE** These activities could be developed into a webquest using the three articles and the following websites:

The Ohio Statehouse <http://www.statehouse.state.oh.us/> or <http://www.ohiostatehouse.org/>  
Capital Timeline <http://www.ohiostatehouse.org/Education/CapitolTimeline.aspx>  
Ohio Statehouse General History <http://www.ohiostatehouse.org/Information/AboutTheStatehouse/GeneralHistory.aspx>  
The Ohio Statehouse Wikipedia [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio\\_Statehouse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio_Statehouse)  
The State of Ohio <http://ohio.gov/>  
From a Territory to the State of Ohio <http://www.ohiohistoryteachers.org/02/05/ts.pdf>  
Ohio is More Than 200 Years of History! (pg 17-19) <http://www.ohiohistoryteachers.org/02/05/05tc.pdf>  
Explore and Create Timelines <http://www.xtimeline.com/index.aspx>  
Student Materials Timeline <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/timeline/>

Create a Timeline [http://www.ourtimelines.com/create\\_tl\\_2c.html](http://www.ourtimelines.com/create_tl_2c.html)

MS Office Excel <http://www.microsoft.com/education/en-us/teachers/how-to/Pages/timeline.aspx>

Free Timeline <http://www.free-timeline.com/timeline.jsp>

**Purposeful/Transparent**

Teacher is using explicit instruction for strategies introduced in this lesson, giving students the opportunity to practice and gain reading methods that can be used in future reading experiences. The teacher is using a topic of local relevance for students who want to know more about Ohio history.

**Contextual**

A study of the Ohio Statehouse is of particular interest to students, but additional history content can also follow this lesson format by varying website articles.

**Building Expertise**

Gaining vocabulary is important for students to be effective readers. This lesson provides vocabulary development of some tier two and content-specific words for student mastery.

## OHIO STATEHOUSE GLOSSARY

- act** – A bill that has passed through both houses and is awaiting the decision of the governor to make it a law or not.
- amendment** – A change to a constitution.
- bicameral** – A term that defines a legislature as having two houses.
- bill** – A proposal for a law that must be approved by the House and Senate before it can become an act then a law.
- campaign** – A series of activities that move toward a result. To run for office.
- capital** – The name of the center of government for a state. In Ohio, capital cities were Chillicothe, Zanesville, then Columbus.
- capitol** – The building in which state government work is done. The statehouse.
- citizen** – A person who by birth or choice is a member of a state or nation.
- coat of arms** – A symbol of a state; another name for a state seal.
- constitution** – A document of fundamental principles that govern the way a state or nation is to be run.
- cornerstone** – A ceremonial stone placed in the exterior wall of a building. It is inscribed with a date and sometimes contains objects in its hollow center.
- district** – A portion of a country, state, or city that is set aside for electing its own officials, maintaining laws, providing schools, etc.
- election** – Choosing by vote.
- General Assembly** – The legislature or legislative branch of state government that makes the laws.
- government** – A rule of authority over a city, district, state, nation.
- governor** – The executive head of a state of the United States.
- Great Seal of Ohio** – An authentic emblem that officially represents a government; a Coat of Arms. If embossed or stamped onto a paper, it makes the document official.
- House of Representatives** – The lower branch of the law-making body of a state or the national government.
- Imperium in Imperio** – A state motto that once appeared on the state seal 1866-1868; it means “An Empire within an Empire.”
- Justice** – A judge on the Ohio Supreme Court
- law** – A bill that has passed through the legislature and has become a rule [law] through action or inaction of the governor.
- legislature** – A group of persons who have the duty and power to make laws; the General Assembly.
- majority party** – The political party that has the most members.
- minority party** – The political party that has the fewest members.
- oral history** – The telling of a historical time by a person who experienced the events.
- political party** – An organized group of citizens who agree on certain issues. Today the most common political parties are the democrat, independent, and republican parties.
- Senate** – The upper branch of the law-making body of a state or nation.
- statehouse** – The building that is the center of government for the state; the capitol.
- Supreme Court** – The judicial branch of government. It interprets the laws.
- time capsule** – A hollow case or area in which objects of a date in time are placed for the future. A cornerstone is sometimes a time capsule.
- vote** – A formal means of choosing when combined with other votes, selects an outcome.

## Knowledge Rating Chart

**Directions** Read the words in the first column. Place a check in one of the next three columns to indicate your understanding of each word. For each word checked "Can define" write a short definition in the "Pre-reading" column.

Vocabulary Words	No idea of meaning	Have seen this word	Can define	Pre-reading	Post-reading
<i>EX. cornerstone</i>					
1. capital					
2. capitol					
3. constitution					
4. General Assembly					
5. government					
6. statehouse					
*					

\*During your reading, if you find an unfamiliar word, you can add it to your list.



## Ohio History Matrix *(last updated March 2011)*

Author	Title	Level*	Type**	Century	Daily Living	Famous Ohioans	Settling Ohio	Underground Railroad/Slavery
Adler, D.	<i>A Picture Book of Jesse Owens</i>	Medium	Bio	20th		x		
Ayres, K.	<i>North by Night</i>	Medium	HF	19th	x			x
Bial, R.	<i>Underground Railroad</i>	Difficult	NF	19th				x
Blos, J.	<i>A Gathering of Days</i>	Medium	HF	19th	x			x
Fleischman, P.	<i>The Borning Room</i>	Medium	HF	19th	x			x
Freedman, R.	<i>Wright Brothers</i>	Difficult	Bio	19th/20th		x		
Gaines, E.	<i>Freedom Light</i>	Medium	NF	19th				x
Giblin, James Cross	<i>The Boy Who Saved Cleveland</i>	Medium	HF	18th	x	x		
Hamilton, V.	<i>The Bells of Christmas</i>	Medium	NF	19th	x			
Hendershot, J.	<i>In Coal Country</i>	Easy	HF	20th	x			
Hendershot, J.	<i>Up the Tracks to Grandma's</i>	Easy	HF	20th	x			
Lester, J.	<i>Long Journey Home</i>	Medium	HF, SS	19th	x			
Lyon, G.E.	<i>Who Came Down That Road?</i>	Easy	HF	All	x		x	
Maurer, Richard	<i>The Wright Sister</i>	Medium	Bio	19th/20th		x		
Meltzer, M.	<i>Langston Hughes</i>	Difficult	Bio	20th		x		
Rappaport, D.	<i>Freedom River</i>	Medium	Bio, NF	19th	x			x
Sanders, S.	<i>Aurora Means Dawn</i>	Easy	HF	19th	x		x	
Sanders, S.	<i>Warm as Wool</i>	Easy	HF	19th	x		x	
Sandler, M.	<i>Inventors</i>	Difficult	NF, Ref	19th/20th		x		
Turner, A.	<i>Shaker Hearts</i>	Easy	NF, Poetry	18 <sup>th</sup> /19th	x			
Willis, P.	<i>Danger Along the Ohio</i>	Medium	HF	18th			x	
Wills, C.	<i>A Historical Album of Ohio</i>	Medium	NF, Ref.	18 <sup>th</sup> /20th		x	x	x

**\*Level**

Easy (Levels 2 or 3)  
 Medium (Levels 3 – 5)  
 Difficult (Levels 5 – 6)

**\*\*Type**

Bio=biography  
 HF=historical fiction  
 NF=nonfiction  
 SS=short stories  
 Ref=reference



## OHIO STATEHOUSE HISTORY

In 1783 Ohio, not yet a state, was a vast wilderness. This wilderness was known as the Northwest Territory. It also included the land that became Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota. Colonists from what was then the United States were settling this area of frontier. As more colonists came to the Ohio Valley, the need for rules became necessary. Congress recognized the need and established the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 which created a territorial government for the area "...northwest of the river Ohio..."

Soon thereafter, the territory was divided into smaller areas with the intention of becoming states. The Enabling Act of 1802 set the guidelines for future statehood in the Northwest Territory.

With approximately 5,000 free males of full age (21) living within the boundaries of the Ohio territory in 1802, it was eligible to become a state. Chillicothe was capital of the eastern half of the Northwest Territory. A Constitutional Convention was held in Chillicothe, and Ohio's first constitution was written.

Ohio's statehood began on March 1, 1803, when the legislature met for the first time in Chillicothe, then the capital of Ohio. For political reasons, the capital was moved to Zanesville in 1810. In 1812, the capital returned to Chillicothe where it remained until 1816. The capital was moved for the last time when it was placed in the new town of Columbus, located on the east side of the Scioto River, opposite Franklinton.

A brick structure had been built on lands donated by several prominent citizens of Franklinton. It served as the statehouse or capitol building. However, it became apparent to the legislators that the building was not big enough for the growing government of Ohio. On January 26, 1838, The Ohio General Assembly passed an act calling for the construction of a new Statehouse.

Construction began in the spring of 1839. Prison labor was used to do much of the masonry. The cornerstone was dedicated on July 4, 1839 by Governor Jeremiah Morrow. A great celebration in honor of the event was held in the streets of Columbus.

However, problems soon arose. In 1840, the General Assembly repealed the Statehouse Act and construction came to a halt. The foundation, which had been laid, was covered over with dirt. For the next eight years the General Assembly deliberated over the continuation of the construction of the new statehouse.

In 1848, the legislators appropriated money for the statehouse project. Work was restarted with over 100 convicts and 30 masons working on the project.

By 1852, the legislators believed that a constitution was needed to readdress several issues. The new constitution was adopted. That same year, the functioning statehouse burned to the ground and government had to use temporary quarters.

In 1854, \$1,000,000 was appropriated to finish and furnish the interior rooms of the new statehouse. A copper roof was also completed.

By 1857, the statehouse had reached completion enough to hold its first legislative session. More than 5,000 Ohioans celebrated at a Grand Jubilee.

The statehouse was not considered completely finished until 1861. It had taken over 22 years and nine architects to complete at a cost of \$1,358,121.45. At the time of its completion, it was the largest of all state capitols and second in size only to the capitol in Washington, D.C.



## General History

The Ohio Statehouse is situated on a 10-acre parcel of land that was donated by John Kerr, Lyne Starling, John Johnston and Alexander McLaughlin, four prominent landholders in the Franklinton area on the west side of the Scioto River. The initial design was arrived at through a design competition. Construction actively began on July 4, 1839 with the ceremonial laying of the cornerstone. The structure would be completed much later, in 1861. Prison labor from the Ohio Penitentiary was used to construct the foundation and ground floors of the building. Objections from skilled tradesmen, who felt they were losing out on good-paying jobs, brought about changes in hiring practices for the remainder of the construction.

The Statehouse is built in the Greek Revival style, a type of design based on the buildings of Ancient Greece and very popular in the U.S. during the early and mid-1800s. Because the city-states of Ancient Greece were the birthplace of democracy, the style had great meaning in the young American nation. Greek Revival was simple and straightforward and looked nothing like the Gothic Revival buildings popular in Europe during the same period. The broad horizontal mass of the Statehouse and the even and regular rows of columns resemble such buildings as the Parthenon in Athens. It is a masonry building, consisting largely of Columbus limestone. The limestone was taken from a quarry on the west banks of the Scioto River. The stone of the Statehouse foundation is more than 18 feet deep.

During the course of the Statehouse's construction, 22 years would pass, but it would not be a period of non-stop work. Construction would cease during the harsh winter months, and as the project would exceed its budget, there would often be halts in construction as new funding was arranged. The longest gap in construction came about when the legislation making Columbus the state capital was due to expire. There was an eight-year lapse (1840-1848) when no work was done on the Statehouse. The completed basement and foundations were actually filled in with soil and Capitol Square was used as a pasture.

There would be seven architects of the building. One of the most notable Statehouse architects was Ohio-born Nathan B. Kelley who lived and worked most of his life in Columbus. In contrast to the simple and straightforward exteriors of the building, Kelley used a great deal of ornament and detail on the building's interiors. Kelley took these steps because he felt an important building such as the Statehouse should look and feel imposing and impressive. He was fired because the commissioners overseeing the project felt these extra flourishes were both too expensive and too lavish for the original design of the building.

Nathan B. Kelley was responsible for many of the architectural improvements of the Statehouse as well. It was Kelley who discovered that the Statehouse had been planned without any heating or ventilation system. He corrected this problem by building brick walls inside the building that he referred to as "air sewers" that would function like ductwork in a modern heating system, moving air throughout the building. The system is based on forced ventilation, which pushes air through the building, a common modern concept but ahead of its time in Kelley's day. The system was so efficient that attempts of "renovators" to seal off these ventilation ducts would be largely unsuccessful because the covers eventually blew off.

The Statehouse was opened to legislators and the public in 1857 when legislators began meeting in their respective chambers and most of the executive offices were occupied. The Statehouse was finally completed in 1861.

The Statehouse has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior (1978). This honor recognizes the long history of the building and the continued role it will have in the life and lawmaking of the state of Ohio. During the restoration project in the early 1990s, original graffiti sketched by some of the Ohio Penitentiary prisoners was uncovered. One sketch is a profile of a man's face with the word "Badger" scrawled above it. By searching records at the Ohio Historical Society, the restoration team was able to locate information about Ephraim Badger, who was imprisoned from 1846-1849 for burglary. His record states that he was pardoned in 1849 "for service to the state."

### Restoration Begins

As all seven of the architects originally intended, the Ohio Statehouse should not only serve as an edifice of government, but it should also be a showcase of our culture and heritage as Ohioans and Americans.



The Capitol Square restoration master plan was released in October 1989. A very important reason to renovate was the mere fact that the buildings on Capitol Square had fallen into a terrible state of disrepair and, in many cases, were unsafe.

### **Not to Code**

Neither the Statehouse nor the Senate Building conformed to 20th-century building codes. In fact, neither building had a fire sprinkler system. Wiring and other mechanical delivery systems were left exposed. The electrical system was inadequate for the demands of modern office equipment and computers. Asbestos was present in the buildings. The roofs leaked. Many rooms lacked safe exit routes, and there were numerous dead-end corridors, in which people could become trapped in the event of an emergency.

### **Small Office Space**

In addition, most of the changes that had been made over the years destroyed the historic and aesthetic qualities of the structures. Several two-story spaces were subdivided with intermediate floors. There were as many as seven floors in the Statehouse where there used to be three. Most rooms were "renovated" with drop ceilings, which often times hid skylights and other original decorative work. In some rooms, the ceiling had been dropped as many as three times.

The Statehouse's steam heating system was inefficient because it was designed for large rooms which had been partitioned into numerous smaller ones. To cool the building in the summer months, there were 96 separate air-conditioning systems in the Statehouse and Senate Building. Occasionally, these units exhausted into other rooms, which in turn needed two or more air-conditioning units to keep cool. In the Statehouse, every time additional office space was needed, rooms were subdivided until a building originally designed to hold 53 rooms contained 317.

### **The Grounds**

The Capitol Square grounds, a 10-acre public park that surrounded the Statehouse, displayed cracked pavement, dying trees, no access for the disabled and inadequate facilities for special events.

## Ohio Statehouse



The **Ohio Statehouse**, located in Columbus, Ohio, is the house of government for the state of Ohio. The Greek Revival building houses the Ohio General Assembly and the ceremonial offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, and Auditor.

### History

### Design and construction

When the state government relocated to the new city of Columbus during 1816, it occupied a modest two-story building on the corner of High and State Streets. This early capitol had chambers for the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate, but the rapid growth and expansion of government functions resulted in overcrowding. Efforts to relieve the cramped quarters with additional small buildings were ineffective, and it soon became apparent that the government would require a larger facility.

During 1838, Ohio's government announced a competition to select the design for a new Statehouse. This strategy was not unusual at the time, as important public buildings such as the U.S. Capitol had resulted from similar contests. From about fifty entries, three winners were selected: first prize was awarded to Henry Walter of Cincinnati, the second to Martin Thompson of New York, and the third to painter Thomas Cole, also of New York. However, the organizing commission responsible for choosing the winners was unable to agree on a final design for construction.

When the cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1839, the commission was still without a final design. Consultation with New York architect Alexander Jackson Davis resulted in a composite design that merged some major features of the three winning entries, but it was rejected as being too expensive. Henry Walter, the first-place winner of the design contest, was chosen to supervise construction of the new capitol, and he began working on another composite design that was based largely on the design of third-place winner, Thomas Cole. It seems likely that Henry Walter was chosen to receive the first premium basically because he was an Ohioan, and though the entry submitted by Cole may have been more favored by the commission overseeing the design process, his status as an "outsider" may have been a problem. Cole had a personal friendship with one of the commissioners, a man named William A. Adams who was from Steubenville. Also, Cole's nephew, William Henry Bayless, coincidentally a Steubenville native, was apprenticed in the office of Alexander Jackson Davis.

Work on the building's foundation and lower level had only just begun when the Statehouse project encountered the first of many difficulties. The legislation that made Columbus the official capital city of Ohio was set to expire. While various factions within the government engaged in debate over relocating the capitol to another city, construction of the Statehouse was stopped. Open excavations were refilled with earth, and Capitol Square became open pasture for livestock.

The Statehouse remained neglected until February, 1848, when William Russell West and J.O. Sawyer of Cincinnati were appointed architects and general supervisors of the project. By May construction had resumed. Unfortunately, a cholera epidemic began in Columbus, prompting

widespread flight to the countryside by residents. Once the epidemic subsided, work on the Statehouse continued steadily, interrupted only by intermissions during the harsh Ohio winters. Comparing plans of the various architects it is apparent that perhaps the most striking change, and one that has endured in the finished building, was the fact that West and Russell eliminated the rounded dome that all previous designers had suggested for the building, instead replacing it with a low conical roof.

Fire consumed the old two-story capitol building during 1852, which created a new urgency to complete the Statehouse project as government offices were forced to relocate to various buildings around Columbus. While some suspected arson, the exact cause of the fire remains a mystery to this day. With the Statehouse exterior nearing completion by 1854, Columbus architect Nathan Kelley was hired to supervise the design and construction of the building's interiors. One of his major tasks would be to provide a system for heating and ventilation in the building, which had not been considered previously. An innovative steam heating system was constructed, with warmed air moved through the building in what Kelley called "air sewers"-- small passages made of bricks that linked the various floors of the building. With great fanfare, the new Statehouse opened to the public on January 7, 1857, and soon thereafter the Ohio General Assembly convened in their new chambers. By now, most of the building was completed, with the notable exception of the rotunda. Although actual work on the building was proceeding smoothly, government officials were deeply dissatisfied with Mr. Kelley, citing problems with his working methods and aesthetic choices.

Isaiah Rogers, a well known architect based in Cincinnati at the time, was recruited to supervise the final stages of the Statehouse's construction. During his tenure, Rogers oversaw completion of the building's interior and coordinated work on the distinctive rotunda and its enclosing cupola. One of the building's most distinctive exterior features is the low, conical roof atop the cupola, positioned where many viewers expect to see a dome. In the long span between beginning construction on the Statehouse and its completion, the "finished" design changed many times and various proposals included a round dome atop the building. Rogers, in deciding not to use a dome, was actually reverting to a design scheme by architects West and Sawyer. In the end, the building featured a low conical roof that some critics would deride as "a Chinese hat." Construction of Capitol Square, including its buildings, grounds, and landscaping, was finally completed during 1861.

## **Changes and expansion**

As the function of State government changed and expanded, changes and expansions occurred at the Ohio Statehouse. Originally, the building was the main location for all aspects of state government. As more offices and work rooms were required, large spaces would be subdivided into smaller areas. The most prominent example was the conversion to offices of the four open courts that occupied areas on the interior of the building. These open areas were from top to bottom of the structure and were intended to admit light and fresh air to the inner reaches of the building. The advent of electric lighting coupled with the need for space meant that levels of offices would come to occupy these large open areas. The fifty-four rooms the building originally held increased to 317 rooms by 1989.

During 1901, the Supreme Court was relocated to a separate building on the east side of Capitol Square to alleviate crowding, and to give the court the prestige of its own building. The new building, named the Judiciary Annex, was constructed of the same Columbus limestone as the Statehouse. Neoclassical on the exterior, the interior spaces, especially the grand central staircase are Beaux Arts in style. The building was the work of Cincinnati architect Samuel Hanaford, and was completed in two years at the cost of \$375,000. By comparison, the Statehouse itself took 22

years from start to finish and cost approximately \$1.3 million. The difference in cost and time to completion indicates differences in how the buildings were constructed. The Statehouse is more akin to a castle or cathedral, with thick load bearing walls of stone. The Annex was a modern building with a metal girder skeleton and was planned for the use of electric light. The building retains many of its original light fixtures, while those in the Statehouse are reproductions of the gas lights that were removed to make room for electrical appliances during the 1890s.

## Restoration

The two buildings became crowded, and decay from frequent usage and inadequate poor maintenance was evident. Both buildings survived despite proposals made to either demolish one or both buildings, or remodel them substantially. During 1989, a massive project commenced to restore the buildings to the splendor their original builders envisioned as well as make them useful and practical government buildings. Original furniture was sought for return to the building when possible, and modern reproductions of long gone items such as carpets and light fixtures were created. The large scale light fixtures in the House and Senate were based in large part on surviving period fixtures in the Vermont State House, which was being restored at the same time. The Atrium, which connected the Statehouse with the Judiciary Annex, was completed during 1993. After the renovation, the Judiciary Annex became the Senate Building.

## Description



The Statehouse in downtown Columbus

The Ohio Statehouse is located on **Capitol Square**, a 10 acre (40,000 m<sup>2</sup>) plot of land donated by four prominent Columbus landowners. The Statehouse is upon foundations 18 feet (5 m) deep, built in part by prisoners sentenced to labor.

The Statehouse features a central recessed porch with a colonnade of a forthright and primitive Greek Doric mode, built of Columbus limestone that was quarried on the west

banks of the Scioto River. A broad and low central pediment supports the windowed astylar drum, referred to as a Cupola, which contains an oculus that lights the interior rotunda.

Unlike many U.S. state capitol buildings, the Ohio Statehouse owes little to the architecture of the United States Capitol. It was designed and built before the U.S. Capitol was enlarged to its present form, with the large white dome that would become ubiquitous on government buildings in America.

The Ohio Statehouse has been termed a supreme example of Greek Revival style. It is not patterned on one single building, but is a combination of stylistic elements from Greek sources, melded with contemporary needs and functions. The cupola shows direct influence by the Tholos of Delphi, a circular temple built about 360 BC. The Parthenon of Athens is also an influence. No ancient Greek building would have contained windows, but they were a major part of Greek Revival for a more practical reason: before electric light, sunlight was the major source of illumination.

The ceremonial offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, and Auditor are located on the first floor of the building. The relocation of the Governor's working office to the Vern Riffe

Center for Government and the Arts, located across High Street from the Statehouse, was originally a temporary action taken while the historic building was undergoing an extensive restoration and upgrading. At the completion of the project the Governor, George Voinovich preferred the larger, more modern space and did not return to the Statehouse office except for occasional ceremonial use. Voinovich's successor Bob Taft used the historical Governor's Office in a similar way. Former Governor Ted Strickland, however, stated during his 2006 election campaign his intention to use the Statehouse office on a regular basis. Strickland considered the presence of the Governor in a building where the Legislature also works as both symbolic and practical examples of how the parts of government relate to each other.

The Ohio General Assembly chamber is on the second floor. Although in general its appearance is similar to its original appearance, it has been modernized in many ways. Modern information and communication capabilities have been added.

The Atrium, which connects the Statehouse with the Senate Building, is a large open space which hosts government functions and ceremonies as well as various meetings and events. It is constructed of the same limestone as the two adjoining buildings.

### **Art works and monuments**

The Statehouse contains many large scale art works both within the walls and on the grounds of the building. There are a great number of portraits of Governors and Lt. Governors contained in hearing rooms and offices throughout the building, and in public spaces there are several large scale artworks that memorialize individuals or events significant to the state or the nation. Ohio artist Howard Chandler Christy is represented with two paintings that depict the Signing of the Treaty of Greenville, a seminal event in state history, and a painting that honors another Ohio native, Thomas Edison. President Abraham Lincoln visited the building during three different occasions, and a large marble bust erected after his death memorializes him and also depicts the Union victory at Vicksburg.

On the grounds of the building a large statuary group by Hermon MacNeil is dedicated as a monument to Ohio Governor and U.S. President William McKinley. The floor of the Statehouse Rotunda is composed of almost 5,000 individual pieces of marble, all cut and fitted by hand. The design at the center of the floor traces the development of the United States: the 13 stones in the center represent the original colonies; the three rings symbolize areas of territory that enlarged the nation; surrounding the rings is a star burst with 32 points, one for each of the states in the Union when the floor was laid down; and surrounding the entire design is a gray band representing the U.S. Constitution.

### **Ohio Statehouse Museum Education Center**

The Ohio Statehouse functions both as a working government building that contains the activities of a legislature and governor's office, and as a museum. During calendar years 2007 and 2008 almost 70,000 visitors participated with organized tours of the building each of the years. The tours, exhibits and other public education activities are organized by the Ohio Statehouse Museum Education Center, a non-partisan entity funded and staffed by the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board, the government agency that is the manager of the physical structure.

Tours are available every day the building is open, and are provided at no cost. Tours for casual visitors, tourists or small groups are given on the hour seven days a week, and groups larger than ten persons can schedule throughout the day between the hours of 9:30 am and 3:15 pm weekdays.

The staff of the Ohio Statehouse Museum Education Center were assisted by more than 90 volunteers. Tour content could be tailored to the age range and interest level of each group. The largest demographic group of visitors were fourth graders who were learning both state history and government process in their classrooms, but tours targeting political process, Ohio Presidential history and Art and Architecture were also available. One of the most notable tour programs available at the Ohio Statehouse was named "The Portals of History", which used the building as a stage to introduce characters from the state's history. As a tour group made their way through the building, they encountered living history presenters portraying notable individuals from the past.

## References

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## STATEHOUSE HISTORY TIMELINE

Review the information in the above stories about the Ohio statehouse and date the following events.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Chillicothe is capital for the first time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ General Assembly meets in new statehouse.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ohio becomes a state.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chillicothe is capital for the second time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Statehouse Act is repealed, construction stopped.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Congress passes the Enabling Act.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ohio writes a new constitution.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Northwest Ordinance is enacted by Congress.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Zanesville became state capital.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Capitol Square restoration master plan was released.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Columbus' original statehouse burned down.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Capital is moved to high bank of Scioto River.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ohio statehouse is officially completed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ First Act is passed to build new statehouse.

### Answers

- Chillicothe is capital for the first time. (March 1, 1803)
- General Assembly meets in new statehouse. (1857)
- Ohio becomes a state. (1802)
- Chillicothe is capital for the second time. (1812)
- Statehouse Act is repealed, construction stopped. (1840)
- Congress passes the Enabling Act. (1802)
- Ohio writes a new constitution. (1852)
- The Northwest Ordinance is enacted by Congress. (1787)
- Zanesville became state capital. (1810)
- The Capitol Square restoration master plan was released. (October 1989)
- Columbus' original statehouse burned down. (1852)
- Capital is moved to high bank of Scioto River. (1816)
- Ohio statehouse is officially completed. (1861)
- First Act is passed to build new statehouse. (January 26, 1838)

## **STATEHOUSE FACT OR FICTION**

1. The reason the Ohio Statehouse does not have a copper dome is that Ohio wanted to save money during the Civil War and instead, spent the money on Civil War troops.
2. The copper dome of the rotunda was removed and melted down to make ammunition for the soldiers of the Civil War.
3. Prison laborers laid the Ohio Statehouse's foundation.
4. The ghosts of Kate Chase and Abraham Lincoln are still seen dancing together in the Ohio Statehouse rotunda.
5. Abraham Lincoln lay in state in the rotunda of the Ohio Statehouse and his funeral procession passed through Columbus.
6. The Ohio Statehouse rotunda was used as a Civil War hospital ward.
7. The original ventilation system and water closet system were connected and eventually the Ohio Statehouse began to take on a particular odor.
8. The Ohio Statehouse is considered to be one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the United States.
9. There was a breakout of malaria that can be directly traced to the Ohio Statehouse.
10. There are three buildings that actually make up the Ohio Statehouse complex.
11. Due to neglect and abuse of the Ohio Statehouse, the buildings were close to being condemned in 1980.
12. Livestock used to be allowed to graze on the Statehouse lawn.