

GUIDE TO THE Kansas State Capitol



REAL PLACES. REAL STORIES.



AD ASTRA PER ASPERA
Kansas
Historical Society

SW 8th and SW Van Buren • Topeka • 785-296-3966
kansascapitol.org

Welcome to the Kansas State Capitol!

This classically-inspired building is Kansas' most important architectural treasure as well as the working offices for the governor and legislators. Completed in 1903, the Capitol is 17 feet higher than the U. S. Capitol in Washington, D. C. Restored to its early 20th-century appearance, the Capitol features a dramatic array of art, sculpture, and colorful Kansas history within its walls and on the grounds.

The Kansas State Capitol Visitor Center is the gateway to the Capitol. The visitor center includes the Capitol Store, information desk, classroom, auditorium, and exhibits.

Historic tours highlight the events that happened in the building and provide details on the architectural history. Dome tours provide a unique bird's-eye view of Topeka.

Enjoy your visit!



Visitor Center

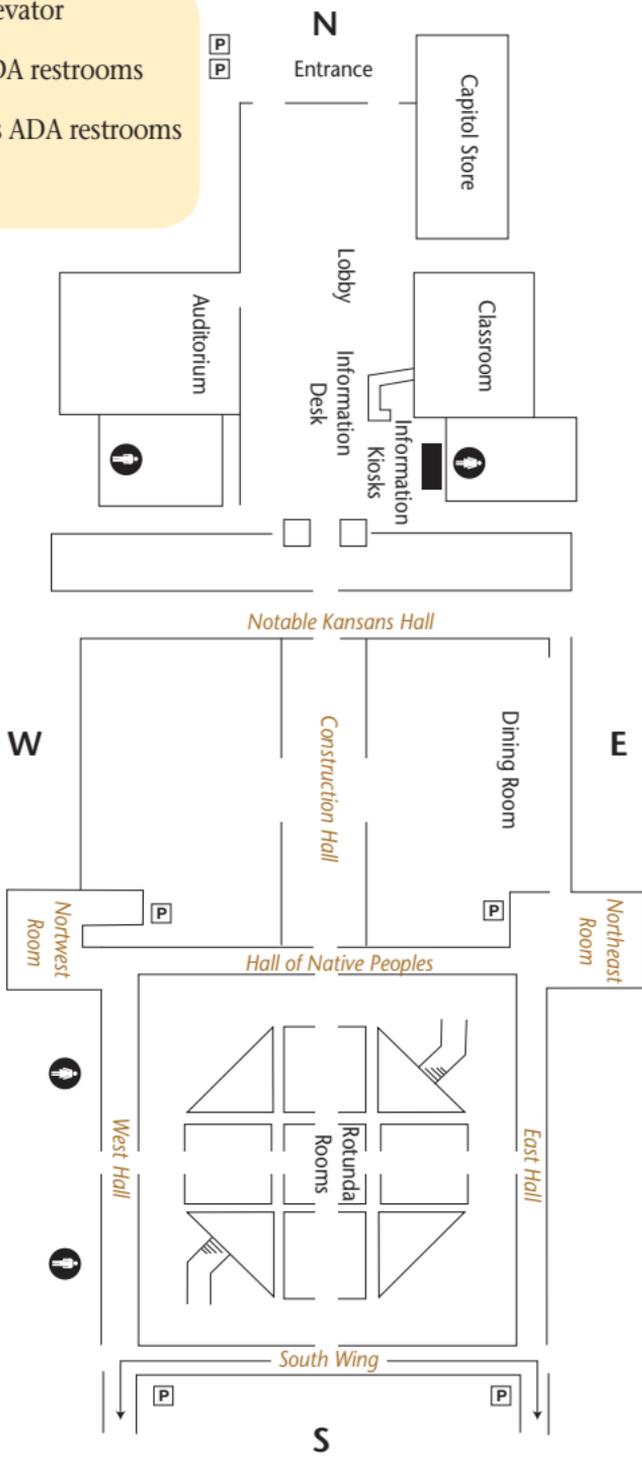
Lobby

The 105 counties in Kansas are depicted in stone on the lobby floor. The map is placed to accurately reflect true north.

Auditorium

Photographs reflect the diversity of the state's heritage and Old World traditions that continue in Kansas today.

- Public elevator
- Men's ADA restrooms
- Women's ADA restrooms
- Stairs



Notable Kansans Hall

For the state's sesquicentennial in 2011 a panel of historians selected 25 Kansans who made a significant impact on the state and the nation.

Construction Hall

Images of workers building the Capitol and their stonemason tools.

Dining Room

Current photographs depicting the Kansas landscape.

Northwest Room

Promotional posters and photographs from the carnival that C. W. Parker Amusement Company brought to the Capitol grounds in 1904.

Northeast Room

Photographs of exterior views from the dome in 1904 and current views from the same perspective. A dome window is also on display.



Hall of Native Peoples

Photographs of native peoples with a Kansas connection.

Rotunda Rooms

Exhibits include John Brown's sword, the Kansas Constitution, and photographs of the Legislative War of 1893.

East and West Halls

Twelve events that changed Kansas and the nation.

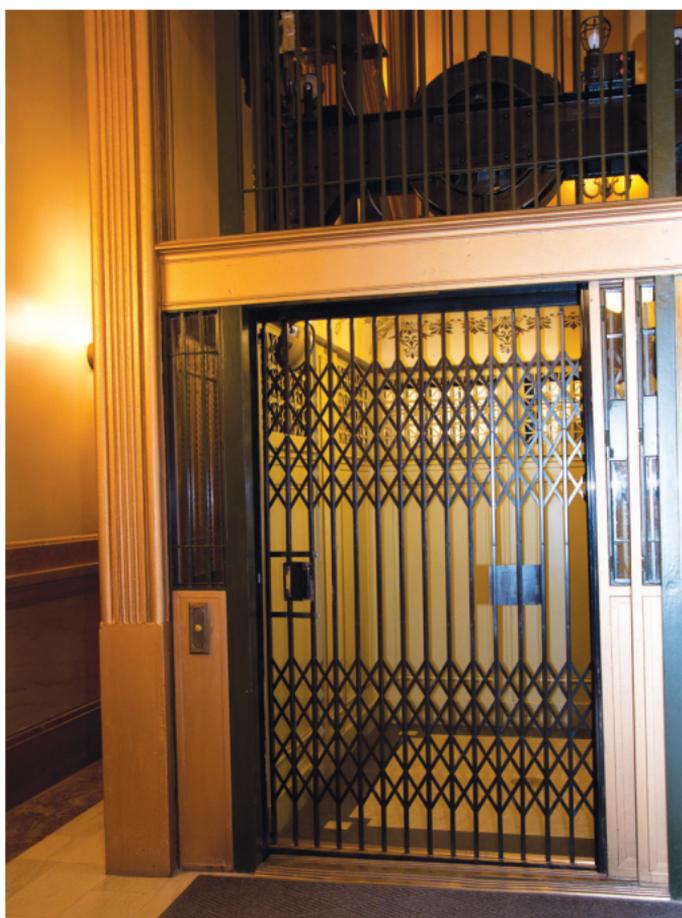
South Wing

Historic promotional posters encouraging citizens to support the local fairs.

First Floor

Cage Elevator

Installed in 1923, visitors can ride the elevator from first to fifth floor.

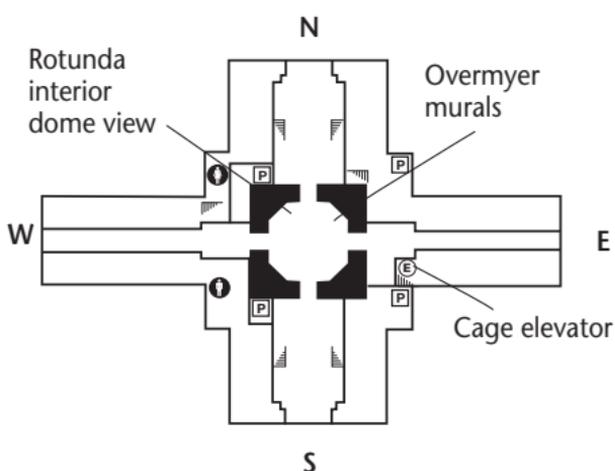


Rotunda Murals

Illustrator, artist, and muralist, David H. Overmyer, of Topeka, painted significant events in Kansas history.

Interior Dome View

The inner dome is composed of 256 glass panels. The 900-pound chandelier is a replica of the original fixture, which was donated in 1942 to the World War II scrap metal drive.



Second Floor

East and West Wing Murals

John Stuart Curry, from Dunavant, created *Tragic Prelude*, featuring abolitionist John Brown, and *Kansas Pastoral*, which depicts the life of the homesteader.



Governor's Ceremonial Office

The walnut ceremonial desk was made by students at the School for the Deaf in Olathe in the 1930s. Items on display are chosen by the sitting governor.

Secretary of State's Ceremonial Office

The office features a fireplace, hand-carved oak details, oak floor, and a washbasin that was installed in 1896.

Rotunda Murals

Lumen Martin Winter, from the Larned area, painted notable Kansas events.

Rotunda Statues

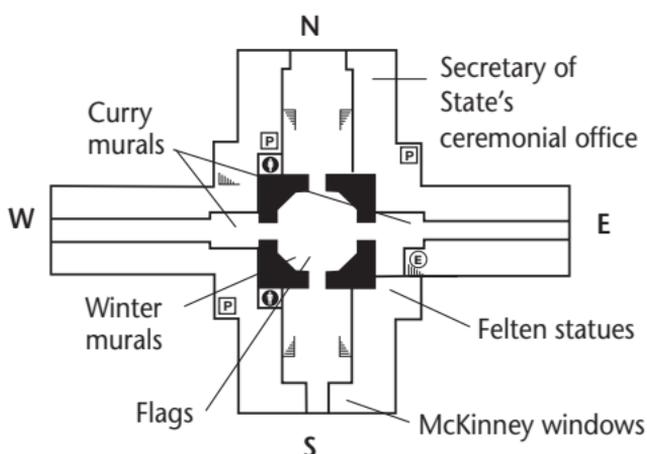
Peter F. Felten, Jr., from Hays, used limestone to create figures of Dwight D. Eisenhower, Arthur Capper, Amelia Earhart, and William Allen White.

Stained Glass Windows

Created by Topeka artist Patrick McKinney, the windows were a gift to the state by the Kansas Chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1976.

Flags in Rotunda

Representing nations or states that have claimed all or portions of Kansas: United Kingdom, the French Monarchy, the French Republic, Mexico, Spain, Texas, United States, and Kansas.



Third Floor

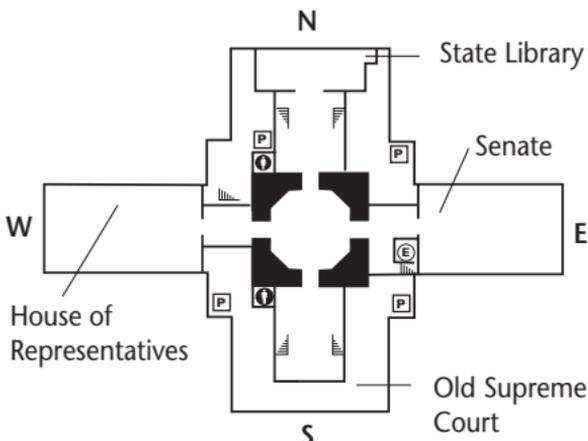
House of Representatives

Representative Hall features marble, gold leaf, and pink columns made from a faux marble process. Allegorical murals are painted on the ceiling, along with the names of 10 prominent figures from the Kansas Territory era.



State Library

Located on the third and fourth floors, the library features hand-carved white oak wainscoting, polished brass sunflowers, intricate stenciling and a glass floor designed to maximize the flow of light.



Senate

The Senate chamber features several types of marble, the original native Kansas wild cherry wood desks, and massive hand-cast columns with ornate circular grills that once encouraged air circulation.



Old Supreme Court

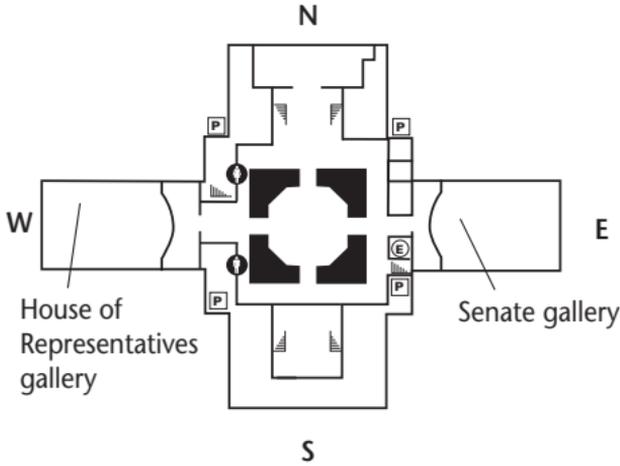
The former Kansas Supreme Court chamber witnessed many significant cases including the 1925 ruling that made Kansas the first state to outlaw the Ku Klux Klan. The chamber has been restored to its original appearance with stenciling, bench, and railings.



Fourth Floor

House and Senate galleries

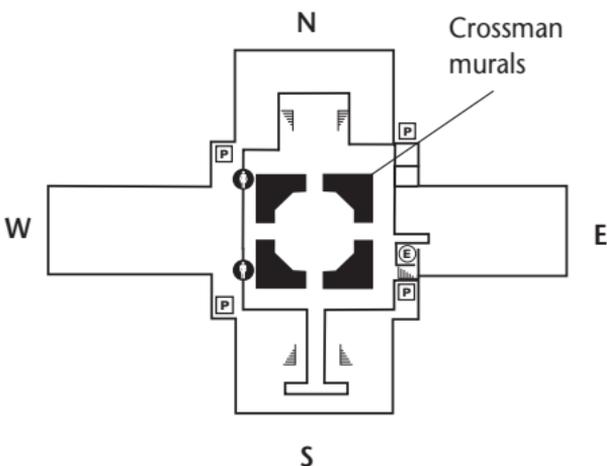
The public can view the Senate in session from the east wing gallery and the House of Representatives from the west wing gallery.



Fifth Floor

Dome

In 1902 the firm of Crossman and Study from Chicago painted the four allegorical murals and designed the semi-relief statues and state seals located below the paintings.



Dome Tour

The spectacular guided tour of the dome is breathtaking—literally—with 296 steps and no elevators. The climb to the top includes a series of straight, steep, narrow, spiral, and irregularly spaced landings and stairs.

To ensure the safety of all visitors, please follow these guidelines.

- Proceed slowly and single file up and down the stairs; stay with the group at all times
- Leaning on railings is not permitted; do not drop items over railing
- Large-heeled shoes are not permitted
- Do not write on any dome surface
- Inform guides at any point if a group member does not wish to proceed

Not recommended for children younger than four; women who are pregnant; persons with heart, back, neck, knee, acrophobia (a fear of heights), breathing problems, or a disability that requires them to walk with a cane or walker. Rest areas and restrooms are not available on the tour route.



Guidelines

Because several hundred people work in the Capitol, please help to maintain an office-like work environment.

Schedule visits with legislators through their individual offices. Contact information is available through Legislative Services at 785-296-2391 or find your legislator at kslegislature.org. Photographs can be taken in any part of the building except when legislators are meeting in the House, Senate, or a committee meeting room.

All visitors must enter and exit through the visitor center or the underground parking garage entrance on 8th Avenue.



Capitol Square, Markers, and Memorials

1 Statue of Liberty replica – Donated by the Boy Scouts of America in 1950 in honor of the 40th anniversary of scouting in America.

2 Kansas Law Enforcement Memorial – Bears the names of Kansas law enforcement officials who have lost their lives in the line of duty since Kansas statehood.

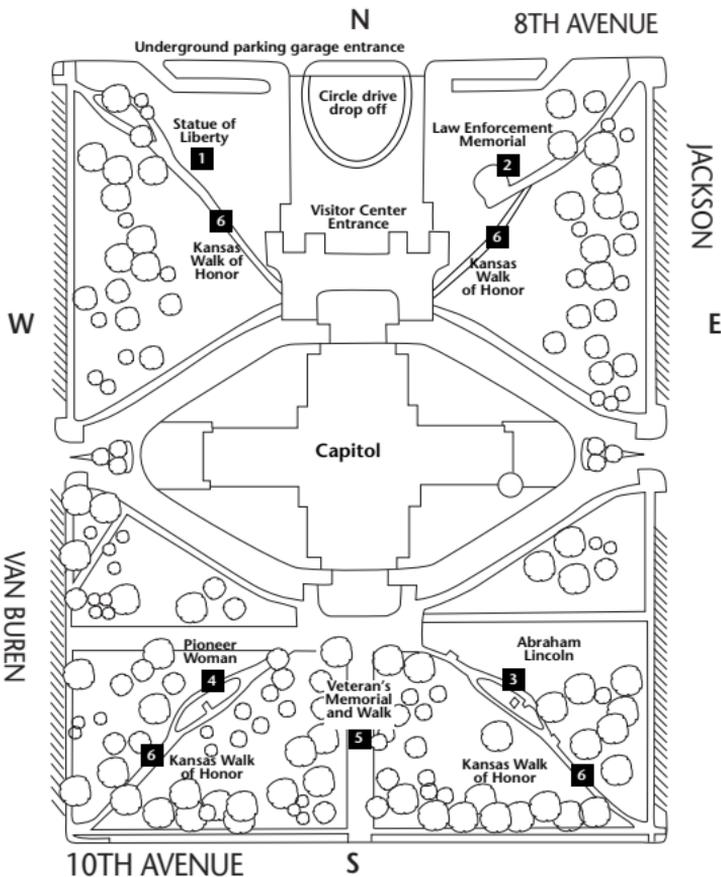
3 Abraham Lincoln statue – Created by sculptor Robert Merrell Gage from Topeka.

4 Pioneer Women memorial – Created by Robert Merrell Gage.

5 Kansas Veterans Memorial and Walk – Modeled after the obelisk erected at the Freedom’s Foundation in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

6 Kansas Walk of Honor – Features people who have contributed on a state or national level and have significant connections to Kansas.

Find an interactive Capitol complex map at kshs.org/capitol_grounds



Kansas State Capitol

Building hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturday

Closed Sunday and state holidays.

Visitors can take a self-guided tour of the building, or they can join a group tour. The size of group tours is 20 to 25 people per guide. Larger groups will be divided and assigned additional tour guides. Inform the guide of any special needs before the tour so that changes can be made to accommodate special requests. Capitol tour guides must accompany all visitors to the dome.

Historic Tours:

January – May

Monday – Friday: 9, 10, 11 a.m., 1, 2, and 3 p.m.

June – December

Monday – Friday: 9 and 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m.

Dome Tours:

Monday – Friday: 9:15, 10:15, and 11:15 a.m.,
12:15, 1:15, 2:15, and 3:15 p.m.

Tour reservations at 785-296-3966; capitol@kshs.org

Hours for historic tours and dome tours are subject to change. Please call ahead or check kansascapitol.org.

The Capitol Store is open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Monday – Friday.

The Kansas State Capitol Visitor Center is operated by the Kansas Historical Society, a state agency. The Capitol Store is operated by the Kansas Historical Foundation.

Kansas Historical Society • 6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615 • 785-272-8681 • kshs.org