

the Missouri Senate's Self-Guided Walking Tour



The Missouri State Capitol is a Roman Renaissance–style building completed in 1918. Situated on a high bluff overlooking the wide Missouri River, the building houses the legislative and the executive branches. Two corridors lead to the rotunda, which is 68 feet in diameter. The hallways host a museum displaying the history, artifacts and resources of the Show-Me State. Missouri’s heritage is portrayed in the artwork lining the galleries and hallways, and in the statues and fountains throughout the landscaped grounds.

Please refer to the floor layouts on the following pages for lettered tour stops.

FIRST FLOOR

STOP A - State Seal

The Great Seal of Missouri was designed in 1822 by Judge Robert Wells. The emblem brings together significant symbols reflecting Missouri’s past, present and future. For example, to the left of the eagle is a crescent, which represents Missouri’s potential for growth. The Latin verse near the bottom of the seal is the state’s motto: Let the Welfare of the People be the Supreme Law. The Roman numerals for 1820 indicate the year Missouri began operating as a state, and the large star surrounded by 23 smaller stars signifies Missouri’s 1821 status as the 24th state.



STOP B - State Museum, History Hall

In 1919, the General Assembly designated this exhibit gallery as the “Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall.” Now generally referred to as the “history hall,” this gallery has exhibits depicting Missouri’s past.

STOP C - State Museum, Resources Hall

This gallery was joined with the “Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall” in 1923 to form the Missouri State Museum. The corridor displays Missouri’s natural resources on the south wall, the state’s human resources on the north wall, and in the center, the story of how the two have intertwined.

SECOND FLOOR

STOP D - Works of Art

The second floor has 41 lunettes (half-moon-shaped paintings) that illustrate Missouri’s resources and history. Most of these paintings were installed between 1920 and 1922.

THIRD FLOOR

STOP E - Hall of Famous Missourians

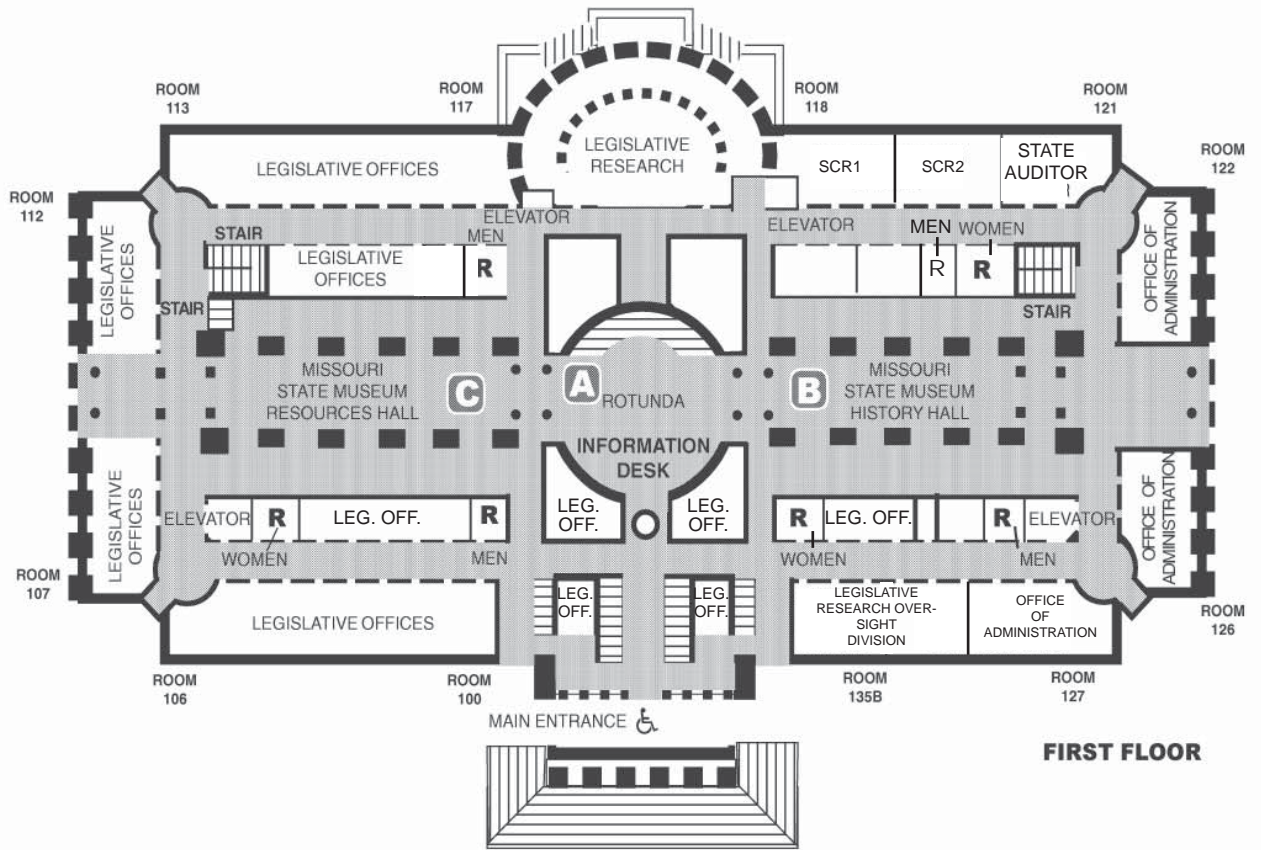


The third floor rotunda contains a growing collection of bronze busts featuring famous Missourians. These men and women have made outstanding contributions in such fields as entertainment, science, literature, art, the military, and business.

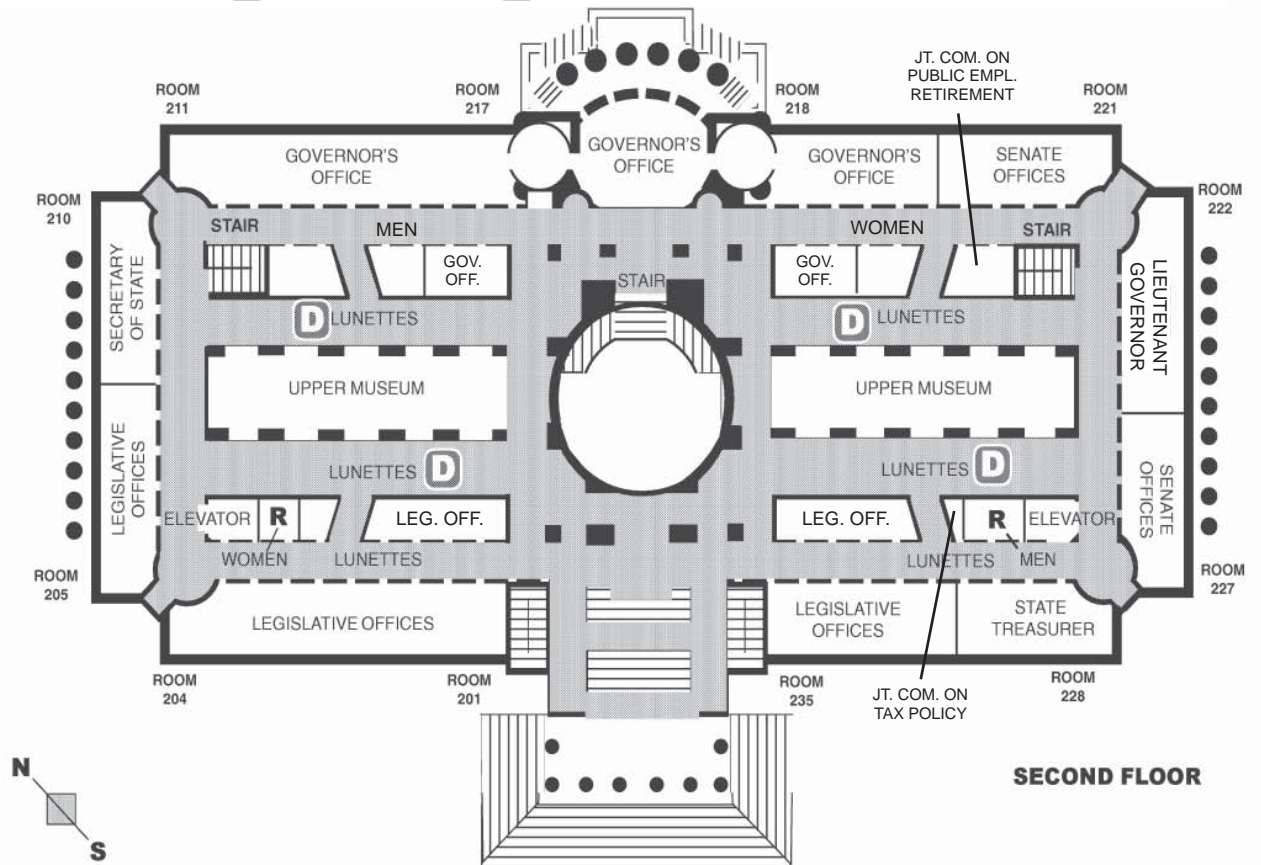
STOP F - House Lounge

In 1935, Missouri-born artist Thomas Hart Benton, nephew of his namesake, Sen. Thomas Hart Benton, was commissioned to paint a mural in the Capitol’s House Lounge. Eighteen months later, Benton unveiled his realistic interpretation of Missouri’s social history, the most famous mural in the Capitol. This was the subject of much criticism at the time because it was deemed *too* truthful, with such depictions as a man being hanged and a woman changing a baby’s diaper.

CAPITOL FLOOR PLAN



R - rest rooms - stairways - corridors - handicapped accessible entrances

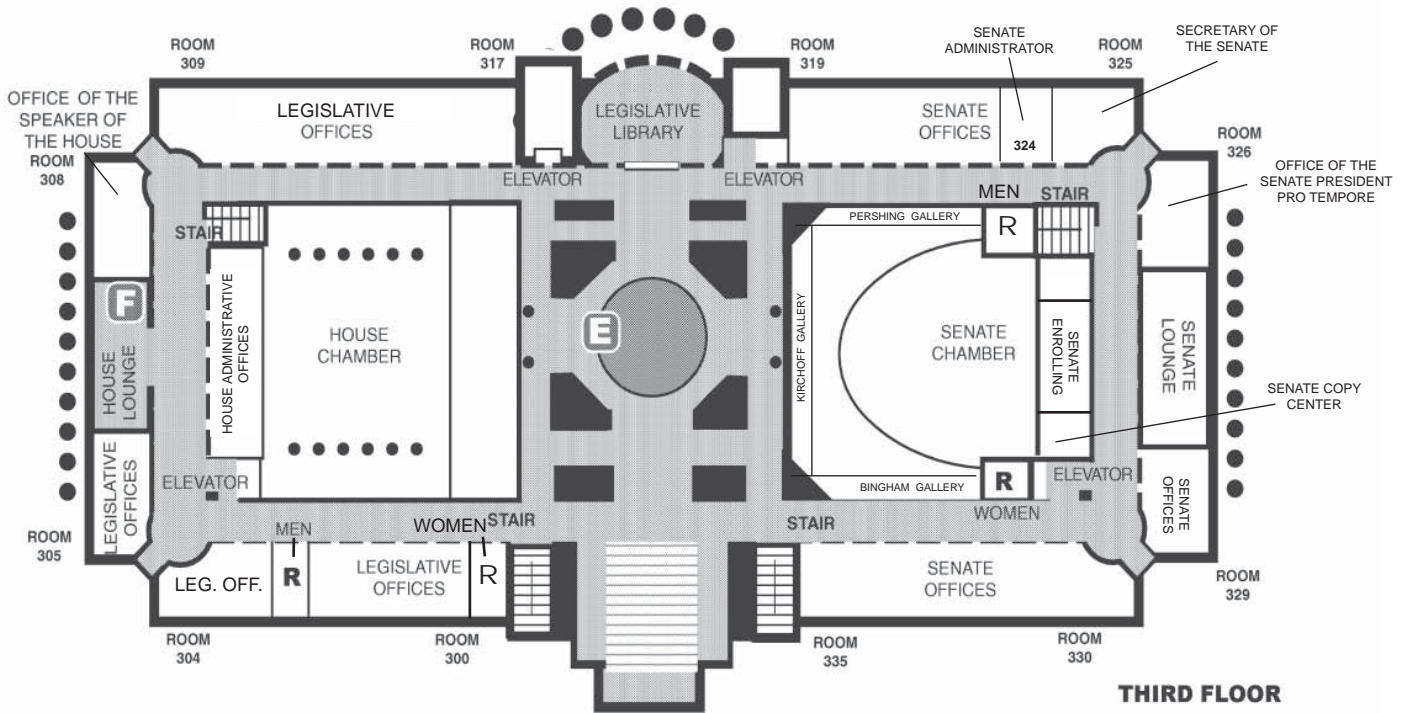


R - rest rooms

▬ - stairways

■ - corridors

♿ - handicapped accessible entrances



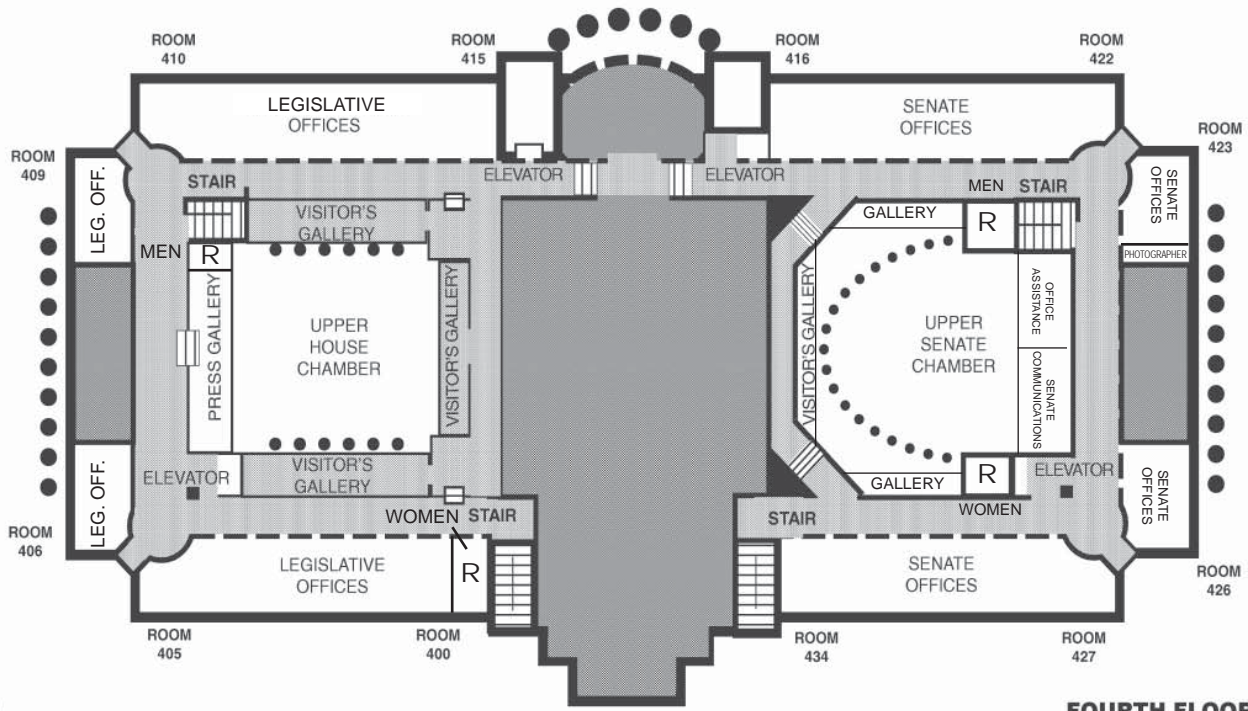
THIRD FLOOR

R - rest rooms

▬ - stairways

■ - corridors

♿ - handicapped accessible entrances



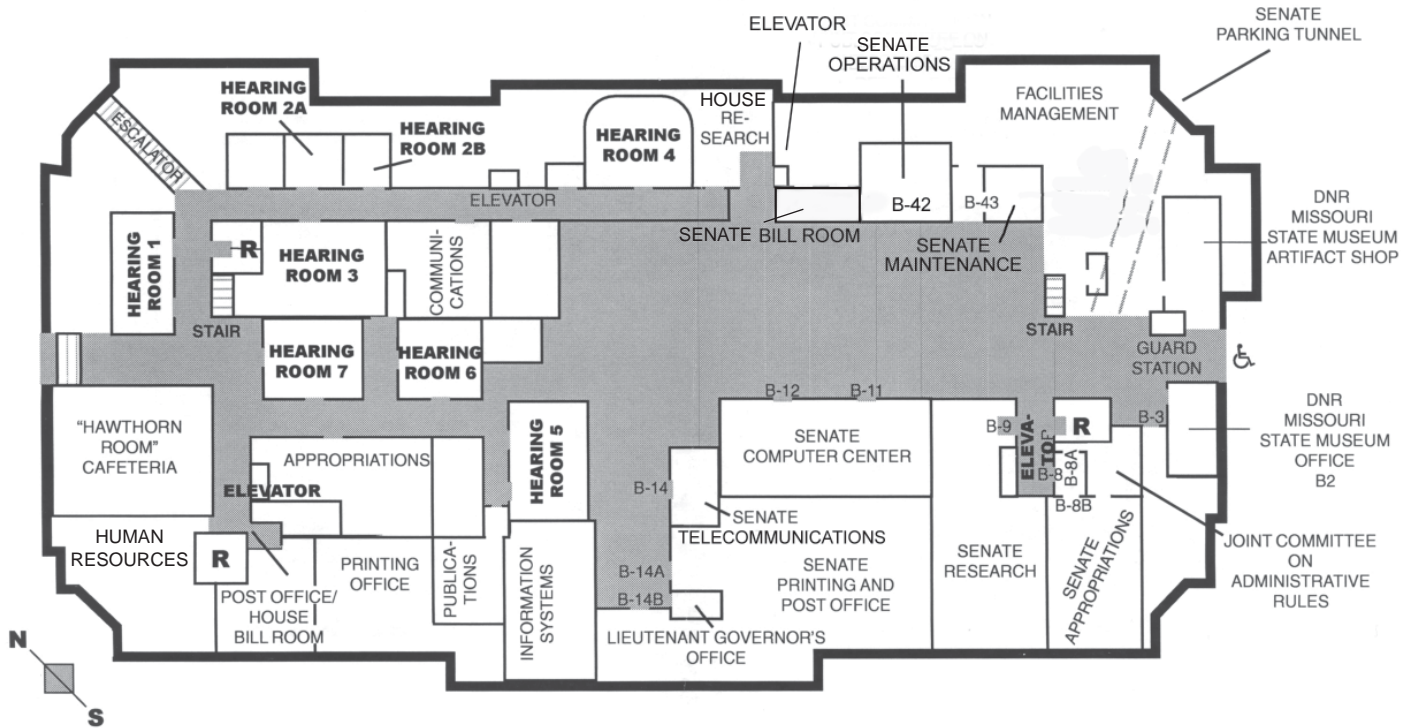
FOURTH FLOOR



CAPITOL BASEMENT

♿ - handicapped accessible entrances

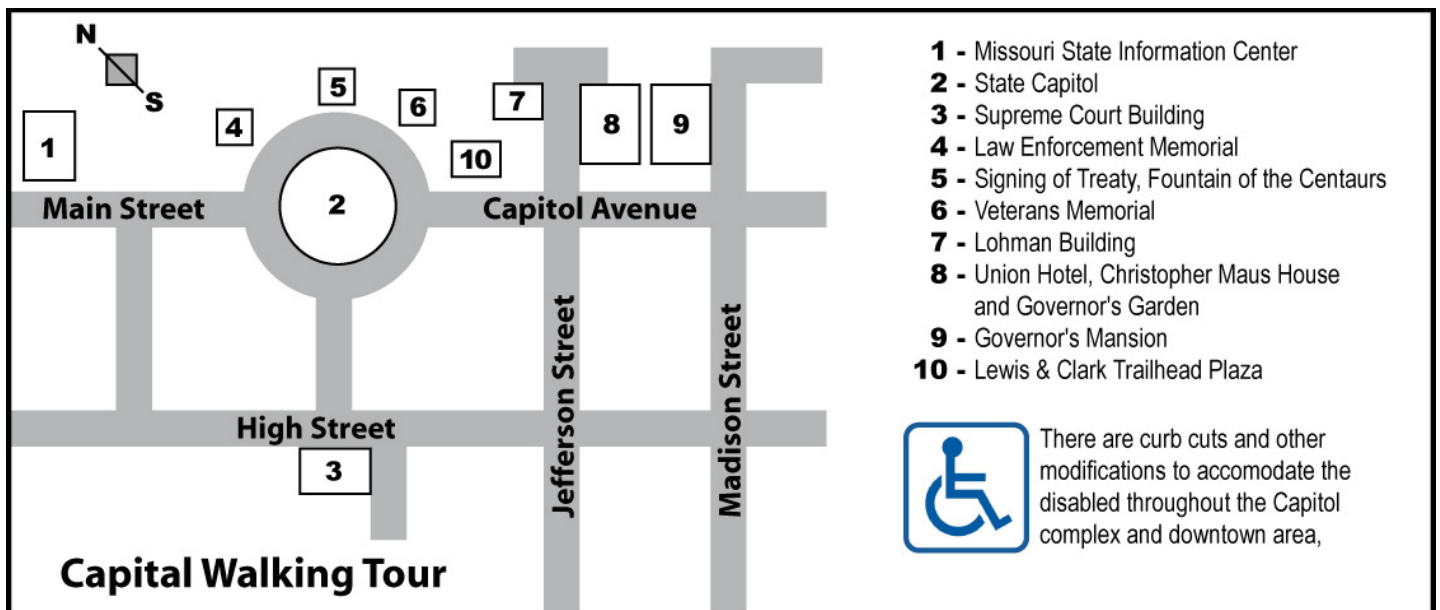
R - restrooms



The State Capitol and the Missouri State Museum are open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily, except on New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Tours, which are provided by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, are offered free of charge from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The building is also open Sundays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with tours at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday tours are self-guided. Reservations for groups of 10 or more can be made by calling (573) 751-2854 or by visiting www.dnr.mo.gov/TourReservation, click on the "View All Tours" link and select "Missouri State Capitol Tour."



The highlight of the Lewis & Clark Trailhead Plaza is the Corps of Discovery Monument, sculpted by Sabra Tull Meyer, and unveiled in 2008.



- 1 - Missouri State Information Center
- 2 - State Capitol
- 3 - Supreme Court Building
- 4 - Law Enforcement Memorial
- 5 - Signing of Treaty, Fountain of the Centaurs
- 6 - Veterans Memorial
- 7 - Lohman Building
- 8 - Union Hotel, Christopher Maus House and Governor's Garden
- 9 - Governor's Mansion
- 10 - Lewis & Clark Trailhead Plaza



There are curb cuts and other modifications to accommodate the disabled throughout the Capitol complex and downtown area,