



EXTERIOR BROCHURE



The Georgia Capitol Museum is a unit of the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, University of Georgia Libraries.

Architecture of the Capitol

In 1889, newspapers called the new Capitol a "Temple of Democracy." Throughout the design architects Edbrooke and Burnham embraced Greek and Roman influences. The original entrance is on the west facade, and is the only one with a pediment. The scene on the pediment depicts commerce, industry, justice, prosperity, and the Georgia Coat of Arms.

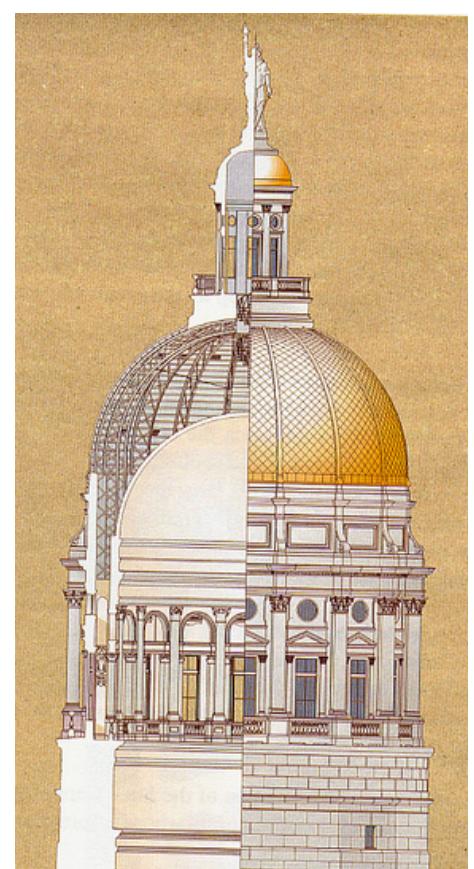


Miss Freedom was added in 1887 before the building was finished. She stands at 22.5 feet tall and weighs 1250 pounds. Her torch represents freedom and her sword the fight for that freedom.



The Gold Dome

Between 1958 and 1959, citizens of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County donated the first layer of gold to the dome. The gold dome commemorates Dahlonega's role in the Georgia gold rush, which began in 1829.



The Grounds

1. Historic Monument (1977)

During the National Historic Preservation week of 1977, the Capitol was dedicated as a National Historic Landmark for its historic and architectural significance.



5. James Earl (Jimmy) Carter, Jr. (1993)

Carter was the 76th Governor of Georgia and the 39th President of the United States. As governor, he reorganized the state government and declared, "The time for racial discrimination is over." Later, he became Georgia's second recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.



6. John Brown Gordon (1907)

On July 4, 1889, Governor John B. Gordon, a former Confederate general, hosted a parade to celebrate the new Capitol. Gordon's statue, erected in 1907, was the first on the Capitol's grounds.



8. Cornerstone (1885)

This cornerstone was not the first stone placed; rather, it was a symbol of a new beginning for the Capitol. This block contains a time capsule filled with legal documents, mementos, and a Bible.



9. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
(2017) Dr. King, an Atlanta native, is honored here for his contributions to the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. King was the first Georgian to win a Nobel Peace Prize.



10. "Expelled Because of Their Color"
(1978) This monument honors African-American legislators elected to Georgia's General Assembly in 1868. White colleagues later removed them from office illegally. Notice the statue's details and the figures' movements between levels.



11. Eugene Talmadge (1949)
As governor, Talmadge supported segregation, low taxes, and agriculture. He also pushed for cheaper vehicle registrations and utilities while opposing most of the New Deal. His death in 1946 triggered the infamous "Three Governors" controversy.



12. Joseph and Elizabeth Brown (1928)

Joseph Emerson Brown served as Georgia's governor during the Civil War. A staunch secessionist, he was arrested following the war. After supporting President Johnson's reconstruction policies, he received a full presidential pardon in September 1865.



13. Ellis Arnall (1977)

Arnall was a progressive governor who helped modernize state government. He signed laws abolishing the poll tax, lowering the voting age, revising the state constitution, and establishing the Teachers' Retirement System of Georgia.



14. Richard B. Russell, Jr. (1995)

In 1930 at the age of 33, he was elected Georgia's youngest governor. As governor, he reorganized the state government and created the University System of Georgia. In 1933, he became the nation's youngest U.S. senator.

