

Connecticut

State Capitol and

Legislative Office Building



The **Connecticut State Capitol** was completed in 1878 and overlooks Bushnell Park in Hartford. Designed by **Richard M. Upjohn**, it is considered an architectural masterpiece in the **High Victorian Gothic Style**.

The Capitol's original cost was **\$2,532,524.43**. The estimated replacement cost is 100 times that sum, well over \$200 million dollars.



The top of the dome is about 257 feet above ground level, and the gold leaf that covers it is approximately $\frac{3}{1000}$ of an inch thick. The dome is surrounded by twelve statues designed by **John Quincy Adams Ward** of New York.

Twelve original statues were to be created, but a lack of funds permitted only six to be finished so these were duplicated.

**The statutes represent:
Agriculture, Commerce,
Education/Law, Force/War,
Science/Justice, and Music.**

The Capitol was totally renovated between 1979 and 1989.



The Connecticut State Capitol has 16 tympana, which are carved scenes located above its entrances. The first sculpture created for the Capitol is located on the east facade and depicts
“The Charter Oak.”



There are also 26 gothic niches located above the Capitol entrances that contain statues of famous Connecticut citizens such as **John Winthrop, Jr** (1605-1676), **Theophilus Eaton** (1590-1657), and **Ella Grasso** (1919-1981).



On the Capitol grounds are several other statues of

noteworthy citizens such as:

Colonel Thomas Knowlton.

Knowlton served in the French and Indian War. During the Revolutionary War he led “Knowlton’s Rangers” and commanded 200 Connecticut troops at the Battle of Bunker Hill. One of his men was Nathan Hale who became this country’s first spy. Col. Knowlton was killed in 1776 at the Battle of Harlem Heights.



General Clarence Edwards commanded the 26th Yankee Division from Connecticut during most of World War I.



The Andersonville Boy is dedicated to the memory of the Connecticut men who suffered in military prisons during the Civil War.

Inside the Capitol are many interesting displays and artifacts. On the first floor is a statue of **Nathan Hale** who is Connecticut's state hero. Born in Coventry, Hale became a spy during the Revolutionary War and was captured and hanged by the British in Manhattan. His famous last words are inscribed on the statue's granite base.



The **USS Hartford** was Admiral David Farragut's flagship during the American Civil War.

At the Battle of Mobile Bay, Farragut uttered his famous order
**"Damn the torpedoes,
full speed ahead!"**





The North Lobby of the Capitol has many beautiful columns and arches and contains such interesting artifacts as the figurehead of the **USS Connecticut**.

The Connecticut was the flagship of the “Great White Fleet” that President Theodore Roosevelt sent on a goodwill mission around the world in 1907.

Opposite the figurehead stands the **Genius of Connecticut**.

This plaster model stands 17 feet, 10 inches high and was completed in Rome, Italy, in 1877.

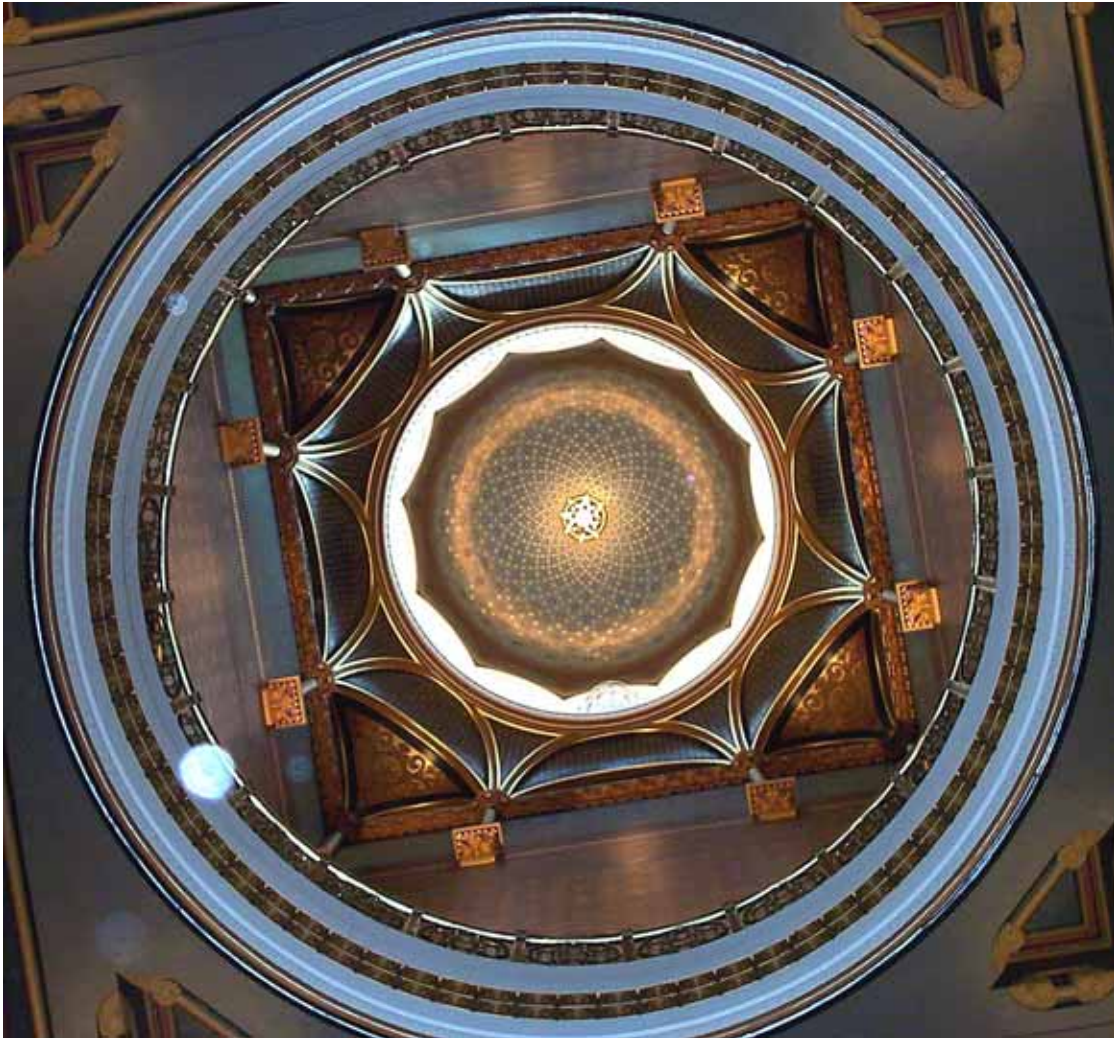
A 6,600 pound bronze statue was cast from this model in Munich, Germany, and was placed atop the Capitol dome in 1879.

The hurricane of 1938 damaged the supports for the Genius, and it had to be taken down.

During **World War II**, Connecticut donated the bronze statue to be melted down for the war effort.

During the restoration of the Capitol, the original model was refurbished with a bronze finish and placed on a new marble base at its present location in 1987.





The first floor **rotunda** offers a spectacular view from the center of the Capitol to the dome's ceiling. **William McPherson's** distinguished decorating firm designed all the wall and ceiling patterns in the building. McPherson's firm also manufactured all the stained glass found throughout the Capitol.





A replica of the **Liberty Bell** can be found on the first floor.

Every state in the Union received a model of this famous cracked bell in 1950 as part of President Truman's U.S. Savings Bond drive to help offset the National Debt.

The bell is still rung on special occasions at the Capitol.



The State and Federal Flags accent the "**Defenders of Freedom**" Plaque found in the center rotunda.

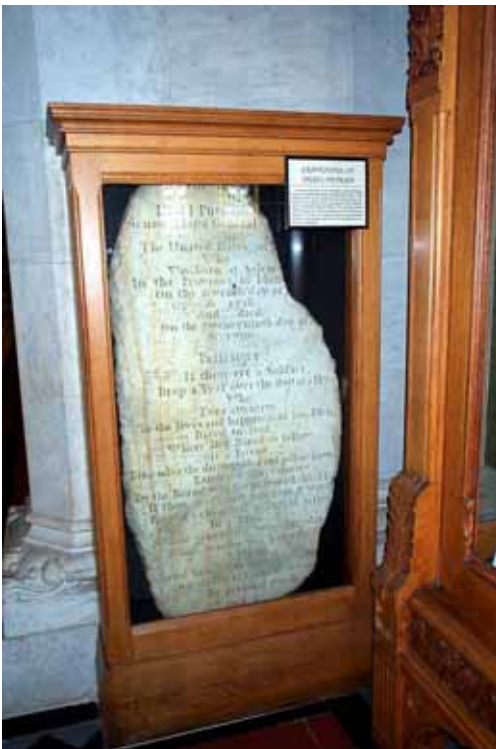
This plaque honors the **Connecticut State Employees** who lost their lives during World War II.





The Hall of Flags

is located at the west entrance of the Capitol and displays the battle flags of Connecticut regiments from the Civil War through the War on Terror. The flags hang in beautiful oak cases built in 1878 for this purpose.



A statue of **William Buckingham**, governor of Connecticut during the Civil War, also sits in this hall. Other interesting displays include a **Hotchkiss Revolving Cannon** used against the United States during the Spanish-American War and the gravestone of **General Israel Putnam**.

The **Executive Branch** of State Government has offices in the west wing of the Capitol.

The **Secretary of the State's** office is on the first floor.

The **Governor's** Offices are on the second and fourth floors. The **Lieutenant Governor's** offices are on the third floor.

The **Legislative Branch** occupies the other rooms in the Capitol with departments, staff, and legislators' offices.





On the second floor,
you'll find the
House Lobby.

This is where the public, staff and
lobbyists can meet with legislators as
they enter and leave the
“House Chamber”

where they discuss and vote on
bills. There are 151 seats in the House
Chamber for the elected
representatives. A public gallery above
and behind the podium allows the
public to view the proceedings.





Going up the stairs from the third floor, you can see replicas of the statues that ring the gold dome. These plaster models were restored by John Leslie in 1990. On the 3rd floor is the entrance to the **Senate Chamber**. This room was originally the location of the State Library. It was converted in 1910. Here the Lieutenant Governor presides over the state's **36 senators** who refer to themselves as "**The Circle**" because of the arrangement of their desks. The famous **Charter Oak Chair** stands at the rostrum. This chair was carved from the oak tree that hid the self-governing charter given to the colony by King Charles II in 1662.



The
**Legislative Office
Building**

opened in 1988. It was designed by the architectural firm of Russell Gibson von Dohlen of Farmington. The structure is covered in rough and polished granite from Texas.



The five-story building was built along the enclosed Park River and is supported by pilings sunk 50 feet into the earth.



The building is designed to complement, not replace or compete with, the Capitol. It is connected by a planted terrace that spans the I-84 ramp and with a 500-foot concourse that runs below the highway for handicapped access and protection from the elements.



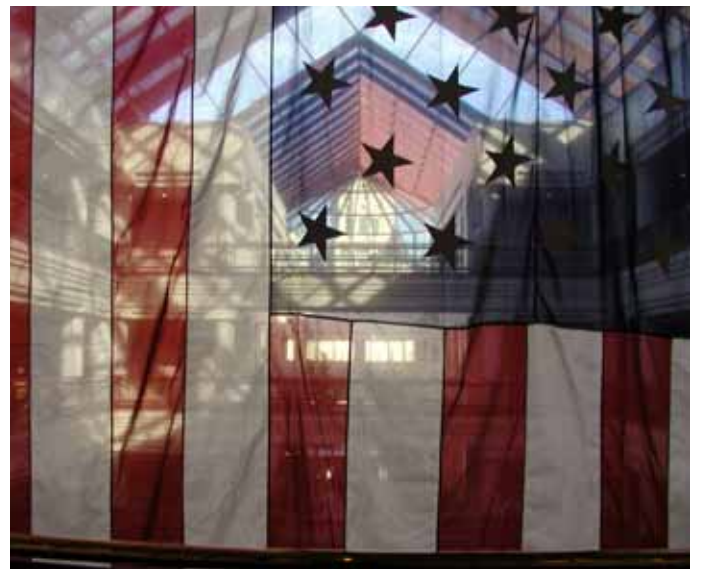


As you enter the **Legislative Office Building (LOB)** from the east, take a look back and see the Capitol framed by the curved glass wall. The best views are from the 4th and 5th floors.

Looking into the interior of the building, see the five floors of offices and hearing rooms that surround the glass-ceilinged **Atrium**.

Also note the large **American Flag**. This flag was hung from the fifth floor shortly after **September 11th, 2001**.





The first floor of the LOB includes hearing rooms and committee offices for **Higher Education** and **Executive and Legislative Nominations**. There is also a cafeteria and dining room, a small gift shop, and offices for **The Connecticut Television Network, CTN**, which broadcasts many **Legislative Sessions** and public hearings throughout the state.

On the second floor are committee offices for **Appropriations, Insurance, Human Services, Planning and Development, Government Administration and Elections, Judiciary, Transportation, and Banks**. In addition, there are several hearing rooms where the public can watch and participate in the **law-making process**.

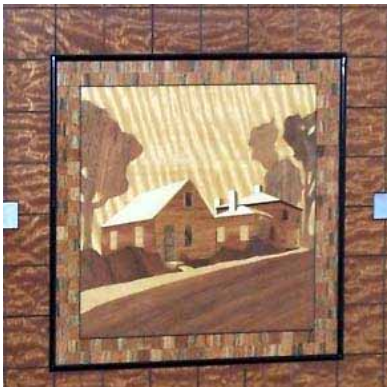
The third floor supports the **Senate Offices** of both parties along with offices for the **General Law, Public Safety, Finance, Labor, Energy, Public Health, Education, and Environment** committees.

The fourth floor houses most of the **House** members and their staffs.

The fifth floor houses some of the General Assembly's nonpartisan staff offices including the **Office of Legislative Management**, the **Office of Fiscal Analysis**, the **Office of Legislative Research**, the **Legislative Commissioners' Office** and the **Legislative Library**.



Each of the **10** public hearing rooms has two sets of **cherry wood doors** designed by Rick Wrigley. Each door has a bronze casting of the state seal in the top panel. The bottom panel is a bronze medallion that duplicates the design found in the center of the atrium floor. The center panels depict Connecticut symbols. These were created using **marquetry**, an ancient art in which veneers of different types of wood are cut and pieced together to form a picture.

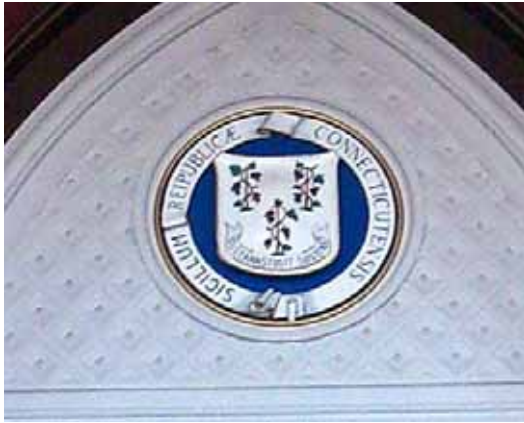


The LOB floor appears three dimensional when viewed from above. The marble tile was imported - the beige and black tile from Italy, the gray from Mexico, and the rose from Spain.



The “**Eagle**” was designed by David von Schlegell of Guilford. The statue is eight feet tall and covered in gold leaf similar to that on the Capitol dome. It stands on a 24-foot-high granite column that is made from Connecticut stone.





The **Connecticut State Seal**, found throughout the two buildings, has three grapevines in the center of the shield. Most people believe that they symbolize the first three towns in Connecticut: Windsor, Wethersfield, and Hartford. The state motto, **“QUI TRANSTULIT SUSTINET”** means “He Who Transplanted Still Sustains”





At the east end of the first floor of the LOB is an exhibit called **“An Orderly and Decent Government: The History of the Connecticut General Assembly”**

Following the concourse to the Capitol Building, you will be moving under the I-84 ramp. The moving walkway helps Legislators get from their offices in the LOB to the Chambers in the Capitol to vote.

At the elbow of the concourse is a **Medal of Honor Memorial** and models of the **Iwo Jima** and **Vietnam Veterans Monuments** in Washington, D.C.



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