

\$250,000 today, assuming such intricate craftsmanship was available. A chandelier measuring 12 feet in diameter was purchased in 1913 to hang over the rotunda of the Capitol, along with two smaller chandeliers for the House and Senate chambers. Hand-painted murals depicting Justice, War, Education, and Religion were placed around the barrel vault skylights on the fourth floor. The original dome designed by Mann was influenced by the heavy dome of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. After Mann



Interior under construction, third floor looking south, 1910.

was dismissed, Governor Donaghey saw a dome he preferred on the Mississippi Capitol. Believing architect Theodore Link had designed the dome, the governor asked Cass Gilbert to duplicate it. What Governor Donaghey did not know was that the dome was the only part of the building that Link had not designed. Ironically, the Mississippi dome had been designed by Link's friend George Mann, the original architect for the Arkansas Capitol. Gilbert then secured additional funding from the legislature to redesign the floors and wainscoting with Vermont marble. He also crafted the grand staircases out of marble from Alabama and the columns from Colorado marble. The finished Capitol encompassed 286,000 square feet, measuring 440 feet long, 190 feet wide, and 213 feet tall. The total cost of the Capitol construction was \$2.2 million.



Governor George Donaghey (bottom left) posed with workers on the finished House Chamber dome, 1910.

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Interior under construction, first floor, north end, 1910.



Six bronze doors on the eastern front of the Capitol were purchased from Tiffany's of New York in 1910. The State of Arkansas paid \$10,000 for the 4 doors. Today, their value is in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, but the intricate craftsmanship involved in their creation is priceless.



Charlie Daniels  
Secretary of State  
Arkansas State Capitol  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201



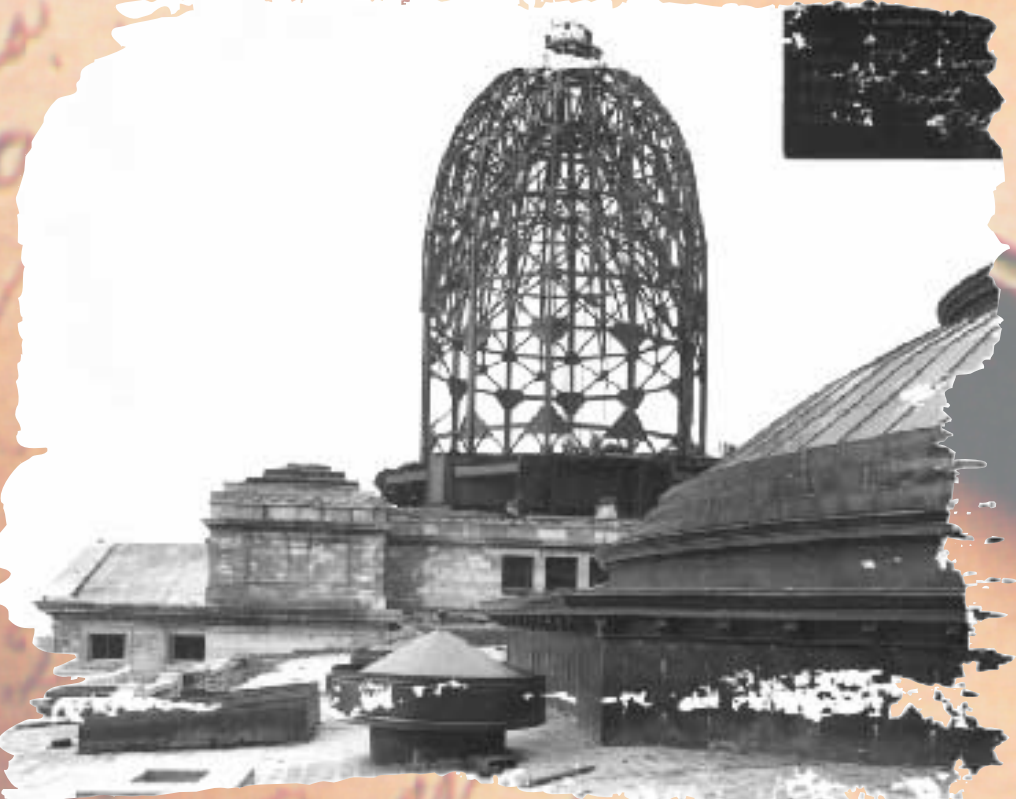
# The Arkansas State Capitol

# CONSTRUCTION



West (back) elevation of Capitol, ca. 1909

The Arkansas State Capitol, completed in 1915, was designed in the neo-classical style by St Louis architect George R. Mann. Even working under the constraints of a \$1 million budget, Mann was able to include impressive detailing by using native limestone on the exterior of the building. By 1909 the exterior was nearly complete, except for the dome, when the contracting company was accused of bribery. Although a full investigation was launched and only a few people were indicted, the contractors and George Mann were fired from the Capitol project. Governor George Donaghey then brought in New York architect Cass Gilbert to complete the building. Gilbert introduced many majestic interior details. The six front doors, for example, were crafted of bronze. They cost \$10,000 when purchased from Tiffany's of New York in 1910. They would cost more than



Dome under construction, 1910.





The 1913 Monument to Confederate Women is one of several historical markers on the Capitol grounds.

The Arkansas State Capitol is equally rich in history, craftsmanship, and architectural excellence. Financed by a special appropriation of the General Assembly of 1899, the building reflects turn-of-the-century strength and optimism, realized in a structure of enduring utility and beauty.

The dawning of the twentieth century inspired the American people with a new sense of hope. It was a time of prosperity, a time when America was becoming a major force in the world. It was a time of progress, of new ideas and new inventions — the automobile, electric

lighting, telephones, and soon, the airplane.

It was a time of new possibilities, when all

Americans sensed potential for growth and improvement in

their lives. This ideal of progress was sensed

in Arkansas too. The Old State House,

the forerunner

to our present Capitol, was built in 1836, the year Arkansas

became a state. This beautiful building served Arkansas well

during the state's formative years, but to take advantage of

the enormous potential that the twentieth century presented, a new Capitol was needed. To accomplish this, the General

Assembly

The



The skies over Little Rock light up on the first Saturday of December each year when the annual Capitol Lighting Ceremony takes place.

Assembly

Assembly

One of the Capitol's four original barrel vault murals, located above the grand staircase, was painted in 1914 by Arkansan Paul Heerwagon.



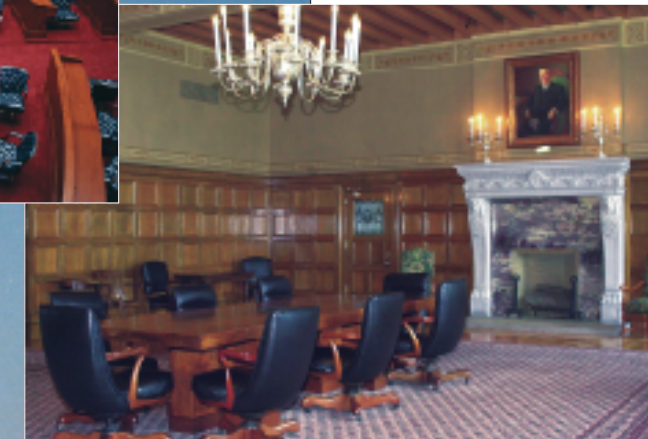
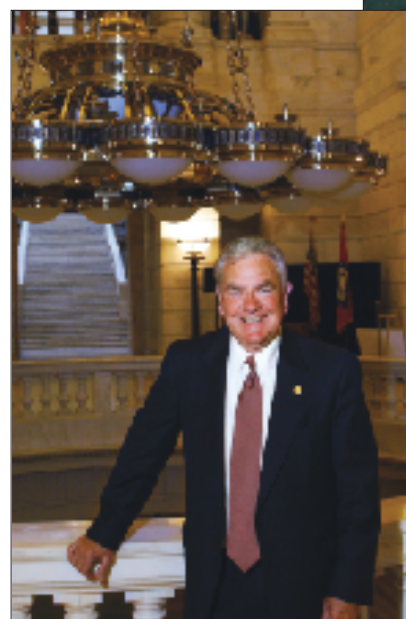
Above: The Old Supreme Court Chamber, restored to its 1912 appearance, features brass and mahogany railing.

Above right: Arkansas 1913 flag features twenty-five stars, for the 25th state admitted to the Union, and a diamond since Arkansas is the nation's only diamond producing state.

Right: Great Seal of the State of Arkansas.

Center: Arkansas Capitol was constructed from 1899 through 1915 in Little Rock, serves as the seat of state government.

Below: Secretary of State Charlie Daniels with the restored 1913 Mitchell-Vance Chandelier. The fixture serves as an elegant focal point in the Capitol Rotunda.



Top: William Jefferson Clinton became the 42nd President of the United States in 1992. Clinton was the youngest governor in the nation when he was first elected to serve in Arkansas in 1978 at age thirty-two.

Above left: Chamber for the thirty-five Arkansas Senators, who serve four-year terms.

Above: Original furnishings of the Governor's Reception Room include a silver chandelier and carved marble fireplaces.

Below: Interior rotunda dome with its brass chandelier is the Capitol's grand focal point.



Assembly levied a special property tax, raising \$1 million to construct the new Capitol. A site was chosen on a hill west of downtown Little Rock where the State Penitentiary stood. The groundbreaking ceremonies were held on July 4, 1899, with appropriate Independence Day enthusiasm. The actual construction, however, strained the patience of even the most enthusiastic supporters. It took sixteen years of construction and two different architects to finish the project — at nearly two and a half times the original cost.

The end result, however, confirmed that the time, money, and effort were well spent. The Arkansas State Capitol is worthy of every citizen's pride and reflects the state's rich history and its bright future.



Above: A view of the Capitol on a snowy day.

Right: Chamber for one hundred State Representatives, who serve two-year terms.



The 1904 Monument to Confederate Soldiers was the first memorial placed on the Capitol lawn.