



CAPITOL SQUARE
REVIEW AND
ADVISORY BOARD

Fact Sheet The Ohio Statehouse

What: Capitol Square, a complex that includes the Ohio Statehouse, Senate Building and Atrium, is not only a working government office but a magnificent monument to the people and period during which Ohio's democracy was founded and formed. The Statehouse contains hearing and meeting rooms for the Ohio Legislature and the offices for the governor.

Managing Agency: The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board is responsible for maintaining the historic character of the Statehouse and Capitol Square while providing for the health, safety and convenience of those who work in or visit the complex.

Board's Role: The role of the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB) provides all educational, maintenance, support and security services for Capitol Square structures and grounds. CSRAB also grants permits for public activities occurring in the Statehouse and on Capitol Square and oversees the operations of the Capitol Cafe. The Ohio Statehouse Museum Education Center coordinates tours of Capitol Square and provides information about the buildings, their history and Ohio's government.

Location: Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board
Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square, Columbus, OH 43215-4210
PH: 614/752-9777, TF: 888/OHIO-123, FAX: 614/752-5209
www.csrab.state.oh.us - www.ohiostatehouse.org

Hours: The Ohio Statehouse is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed state holidays.

Architecture and Buildings: The Ohio Statehouse is considered to be one of the most significant architectural accomplishments of the early republic. Its Greek Revival Doric architectural details and proportions, and its setting in Capitol Square, give the impression of permanence, elegance and grandeur deserved by the Legislature and Governor.

The Ohio General Assembly passed a law on January 26, 1838 to build the new Statehouse. The cornerstone for the capitol was laid July 4, 1839. The Legislative Chambers and Governor's Office were occupied in 1857 and, after 22 years of construction, the Statehouse was completed in 1861.

The annex, now named the Senate Building, was completed in 1901. The building was built as the Ohio Judiciary Building and throughout the years has housed offices of the House of Representatives and the Senate. It was renovated in 1992.

The Atrium, added in 1993, with its large first floor area is used by numerous guests from non-profit organizations each year.

The Statehouse renovation started in 1989 and was completed and rededicated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 7, 1996. The project restored the Statehouse to its 1861 design and elegance.

Tours: Guided tours are offered Monday through Friday on the hour from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday from noon until 3 p.m. Tours depart from the Map Room easily accessible from the Third Street entrance. Groups of 10 or more are requested to call in advance to ensure a guide is available.

Ohio Statehouse Museum: The Ohio Statehouse Museum includes interactive, hands-on exhibits that will challenge visitors' knowledge about Ohio history and the workings of state government, while equipping them to more fully participate as citizens. Historical artifacts and images will tell the stories of those who designed and built the Statehouse and those who have come to serve. Audiovisual media transport visitors to historical events and invite them to imagine themselves as governor or a legislator.

Museum Hours: The Ohio Statehouse Museum is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; weekends from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed holidays. Admission to the Ohio Statehouse Museum is free.

Size: Capitol Square consists of three buildings, a 1,200 space parking garage and seven acres of grounds. The Statehouse is 191,328 square feet, Senate Building is 58,607 square feet, Connector Building is 23,072 square feet, parking garage is 634,227 square feet and the Statehouse Grounds is 331,056 square feet. The combined size of Capitol Square is 1,238,290 square feet. (Numbers exclude mechanical areas, catwalks, attic and crawl spaces.)

Height: The height of the Ohio Statehouse from the ground to the top of the pinnacle on the Cupola is 158 feet; and 164 feet from the ground to the top of the lightening rod.

Admission: Classic Statehouse tours are **free** at all times. After hour tours and some special events do have an admission fee.

Visitor Numbers: The Ohio Statehouse is visited annually by more than 400,000 people who are conducting government business, attending a special event or taking a tour of the building. The Ohio Statehouse Museum Education Center staff and volunteers guide nearly 70,000 guests on educational tours each year. The tours are conducted by staff and volunteers from the Ohio Historical Society.

Programs: The Ohio Statehouse is committed to planning a wide variety of public special events to enhance the visitor's experience. Various events including, special exhibits, performing arts, tours and presentations are planned throughout the year. Statehouse events are listed at www.ohiostatehouse.org.

Mission Statement: The Ohio Statehouse shines a light on the history of this great edifice, its symbolic meaning and its vital historic and ongoing connections to the daily lives of all Ohioans.

Vision Statement: The Statehouse Vision is to interpret the role of Ohio's Statehouse in national and Ohio history, to celebrate its art and architecture and to highlight its ongoing impact on the daily lives of Ohioans and thereby inspire all Ohioans to participate in State government.

Governance: The CSRAB is composed of 13 voting members. CSRAB members are appointed by the Governor, Ohio Senate, Ohio House of Representatives, a former Senate President and former House Speaker and the Clerks of the Ohio Senate and Ohio House of Representatives.

Leadership: Senator Richard H. Finan was named Chairman of the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board in 1988. With passion, persistence and determination, Senator Finan led the greatest restoration project of its time. The project continues to serve as the national standard. Known as the architect of the Statehouse restoration project, Senator Finan's innovative leadership was the driving force behind the passage of the bill to fund the Capitol revitalization.

William E. Carleton, RPA, was hired by the Board to serve as the second executive director of the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board. Director Carleton has been serving in this role since June 28, 2005. Carleton has been working in the property management field for more than 30 years and has managed over 12.5 million square feet of office, retail and residential space.

Funding: The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board receives biennial appropriations from the Ohio General Assembly to maintain the historic character of the Statehouse and Capitol Square while providing for the health, safety and convenience of those who work in or visit the complex.

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Statehouse Facts:

Capitol Square consists of **ten acres of land** in the heart of downtown Columbus. The Ohio Statehouse covers nearly two acres of ground. The massive building was surpassed in size only by the U. S. Capitol in Washington when completed in 1861.

The building **originally cost \$1.3 million** which is the equivalent of \$90 million in today's money.

Abraham Lincoln visited the building at three different times. In 1859 he spoke from the east steps of the building to a crowd of approximately 50 people. Seven years later more than 50,000 people came to pay their respects as his casket lay in state inside the building. To this day, it is the highest attended event at the Ohio Statehouse.

The Statehouse is **constructed of limestone**, obtained from a local quarry and purchased to assure a ready source of building supplies. The limestone contains many fossils, including examples of Ohio's state fossil, the trilobite.

All the **marble** used in the building had to be imported from many different states and countries. There is no marble naturally found in the state of Ohio!

The Ohio Statehouse can really be called the **first "skyscraper."** The Statehouse was the tallest building on the Columbus city skyline until 1927, when the LeVeque Tower was completed.

The cornerstone for the Statehouse was laid in 1839, and the building was entirely **completed 22 years later**. The Legislature began to meet in their chambers in 1857.

Governor Rutherford B. Hayes began the important tradition to have **official portraits** made of all the state's governors. Today, the Statehouse houses the portraits of each former governor of Ohio.

The first governor to use the office in the Statehouse was **Salmon P. Chase**. Chase would later serve as Secretary of the Treasury and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court during the Civil War. The modern financial institution was named in his honor.

In **an average day** the Ohio Statehouse uses about the same amount of electricity as five suburban households. Modern technology, such as compact fluorescent bulbs and highly efficient air handling systems, helps make sure energy usage is carefully managed.

The Statehouse **began with a contest!** In 1838 the government announced a design competition to decide how the new government building would look. Fifty entries from architects and artists around the country were received, and first premium was awarded to Henry Walter of Cincinnati. The top three winning designs were combined into one plan to create the new Ohio Statehouse.

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