

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Wake	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Capitol

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Capitol Square

CITY OR TOWN:
City of Raleigh

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 32 COUNTY: Wake CODE: 92

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of North Carolina, State Department of Administration

STREET AND NUMBER:
116 West Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 32

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Wake County Courthouse, Register of Deeds Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
310 Fayetteville Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 32

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Capital and Independence Avenue, S.E.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 51

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Exterior: The Capitol is roughly cruciform in plan being bilaterally symmetrical, with its major east-west axis delineated by prostyle tetrastyle porticos. The fact that the House and Senate chambers are located on the second floor is expressed on the exterior by the use of a piano nobile, the diminution of fenestration between the second and third floors, and the fact that only the second floor windows are crowned by simple entablatures. This is further enhanced by the subtle variation of the ashlar, i.e., the use of larger blocks at the base of the piano nobile and in the entablature. The east and west facades are identical with central pedimented porticos resting on piers finished with horizontal bands of rustication. The order is of the fully developed Doric of the Hellenic period, said to be that of the Parthenon. A full entablature surrounds the building. It breaks out over the single-bay end pavilions which are framed by multiple antae. There are three bays between the central projection and each of the end pavilions. They are less elaborately treated, with the triglyphs, mutules, and guttae, but not the tenia, omitted from the entablature. There is a low hip roof which is hidden from view by a solid parapet. From the center of the roof rises the octagonal drum of the dome. The hemispherical copper dome rests on three plinths of graduated heights, the lowest being the largest is octagonal, the two upper ones circular. The oculus is surrounded by a simple circular parapet which is crowned by an iron band of anthemions connected by concave scallops. This feature was inspired by a similar floral band on the cornice of the Choragic Monument of Lysicrates, Athens. The north and south facades consist of five equal bays divided by antae. The corners are strengthened by projecting antae coupled with half-antae which lie in the same plane with those in the intervening bays. The entablature is fully developed with triglyphs, mutules, etc. The Capitol measures approximately 160 feet from north to south and 140 feet from east to west.

Interior: The ground floor features a central circular lobby from which axial halls bisect the north and south wings which contain four rooms each. The east and west wings have off-center stair halls with their principal doors on axis and contain one major room each. The stair in each wing is behind a screen of fluted Ionic columns which take their order from the Temple of Ilissus, Athens. The lobby at the intersection of the four halls has smooth granite walls. Between the axial doors are trabeated semi-circular niches which hold busts of famous North Carolinians. In front of each niche there is a round plaster medallion in the elliptical cantilevered ceiling which is pierced by the open well of the rotunda above. This affords an unbroken view of the dome from the ground floor. The main floor has a central circular rotunda with axial doors. Those to the east and west lead to halls each of which features a superb elliptical stair with an exposed soffit and a delicate iron balustrade. The rotunda has a high granite dado. The granite doorcases are quite plain with simple moulded scrolls supporting an unadorned entablature. The double doors have three square panels each. The extremely deep panels are surrounded by egg and dart moulding. The doors are studded with four-petaled rosettes. Above the doors are four panels of similar design. Each portal is flanked by antae rising from the top of the dado to the base of the dome. In the intervening spaces are semi-circular arched niches. Above the niches and the portals are recessed

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7. rectangular panels, which, like the niches, have no decoration. The beauty of the rotunda is attained by the dependence of the design on proportion and line rather than elaborate decoration. This principle can also be observed in the treatment of the dome with eight large segmental coffers outlined by the simplest mouldings and the unadorned circular oculus.

The chambers of the Senate and the House of Representatives are a full two stories in height; their galleries are entered from the third floor of the building. The Senate Chamber in the north wing is roughly a Greek cross in plan with a shallow dome resting on pendentives. The galleries behind each arch are supported by screens of fluted Ionic columns which intersect the piers on which the pendentives rest. The order is taken from the north portico of the Erechthion. The capitals have a plaited torus moulding between the volutes, the spirals of the volutes carved with intermediate fillets, cushions ornamented with bead and reel moulding, and the abacus treated with egg and dart. The neckings of the columns have anthemion bands outlined by bead and reel moulding. The anthemion band is repeated on the antae and is carried around the room beneath the architrave. Above the galleries is a heavy dentil cornice enriched with a band of plain paterae. There are fireplaces flanking the entrance and on the side walls of the exedra behind the President's rostrum. They have simple black marble mantels.

The chamber of the House of Representatives features a full height semi-circular colonnade with a straight row of four columns behind the Speaker's desk. (The D-shaped seating area demarcated by the colonnades is reminiscent of the similar room designed by Latrobe for the U. S. Capitol. Both were probably inspired by ancient Greek theatre plans.) The order employing palm leaves above acanthus was taken from the Horologium of Andronikos Kyrrestos, Athens. The Corinthian entablature features dentils, an anthemion frieze, and egg and tongue moulding. Above this splendid colonnade is a shallow elliptical half dome. Behind the columns, at just above half their height, is the gallery. There are four fireplaces of similar design to those in the Senate.

The furnishings of both houses include stylized Greek klysmos chairs with Mannerist turnings. The chairs of the Senate are of a more elaborate style with upholstered backs and seats. The desks belonging to the Speaker and recorders of the House and to the President and recorders of the Senate are of patterned veneer also with Mannerist turnings. The single member desks of the Senate employ solid vase supports resting upon scroll feet.

The third floor is devoted primarily to offices, some decorated in the Gothic Revival style.

C. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1832 the General Assembly of North Carolina appropriated \$50,000 for the purpose of building a new Capitol to replace the one destroyed by fire in June, 1831. William Nichols, State Architect, who had repaired the old State House, suggested that the new building be larger than its predecessor, and that stone from a quarry in Raleigh be used in its construction. W. S. Drummond and Colonel Thomas Bragg, in charge of operations, engaged Ithiel Town and Alexander Jackson Davis as architects. The cornerstone for the new Capitol building was laid on July 4, 1833, by Governor David Lowry Swain.

Because the appropriated funds were exhausted with the completion of the foundation and due to the fact that the State's finances were at a low level, charges of extravagance leveled against the commissioners, Drummond and Bragg, resulted in their withdrawal from the construction. At Town's suggestion David Paton, a young architect from Edinburgh, Scotland, was engaged to take charge of the construction. He arrived in Raleigh in September, 1834, bringing skilled stonemasons from Scotland and elsewhere, and supervised the cutting and finishing of the stone. During the years of construction, General Beverly Daniel, head of administration, and David Paton were frequently occupied in writing various architects concerning basic decisions with regard to the design of the building. One of their principal correspondents was the architect William Strickland of Philadelphia. At Strickland's suggestion, the stairway originally planned for the rotunda was deleted. Strickland also advised the placement and the number of columns to be used in the House and Senate, and the construction of the dome of the Senate Chamber. The building was completed in the spring of 1840. Since 1963 when the new North Carolina Legislative Building was first occupied by the General Assembly, only the offices of the Governor, Secretary of State, and Treasurer remain in the Capitol. The halls formerly occupied by the Senate and the House of Representatives are preserved intact along with their original furnishings.

Architecturally the State Capitol building is an important example of the work of three outstanding nineteenth-century architects, Ithiel Town, Alexander Jackson Davis, and their collaborator David Paton. On his visit to Raleigh in June of 1966, Walter Muir Whitehill, director and librarian of the Boston Athenaeum, remarked that the Capitol was a "superb" example of Greek Revival architecture. The building is an exceptionally fine version of the style in its most erudite and sophisticated form.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Battle, Kemp P. The Early History of Raleigh, The Capital City of North Carolina. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, Printers and Binders, 1893.

Elliot, Cecil D. and Shumaker, Ross. "The North Carolina State Capitol." Southern Architect, May, 1958.

Wake County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Wake County Records, Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, North Carolina.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	0	0	0	35	46	59	78	
NE	0	0	0				38	
SE	0	0	0				20	
SW	0	0	0					

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Six acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Jack Zehner, Survey Specialist, and Sherry Ingram, Survey Assistant

ORGANIZATION: North Carolina Department of Archives and History DATE: April 22, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 32

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1956 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Dr. H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date April 22, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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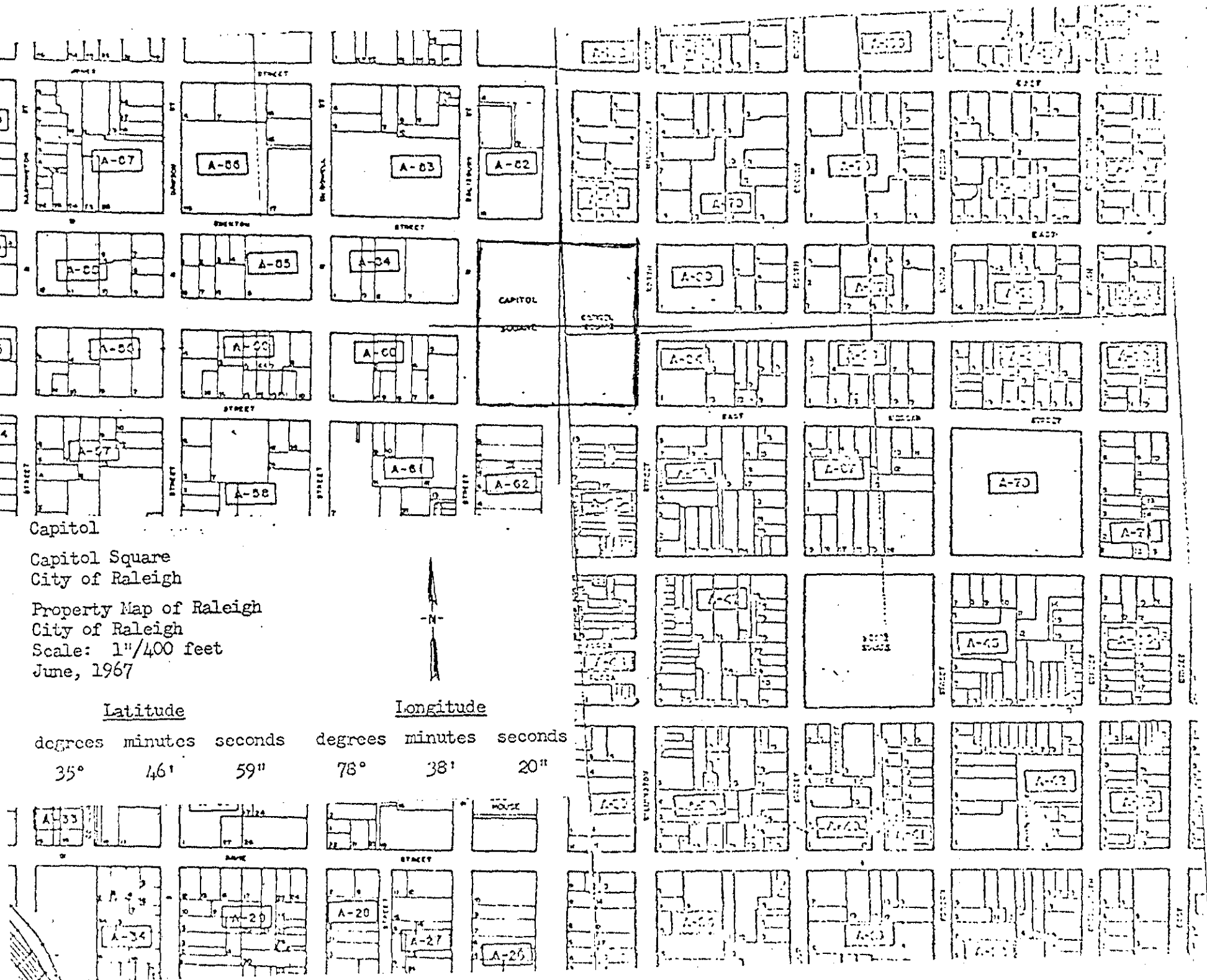
(Indicate all entries)

Office of the Register of Deeds.

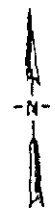
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1970, pp. 19-28; part 2, vol. 17, nos. 1, 2, Jan.-Feb., 1970,
pp. 9-35.



Capitol
 Capitol Square
 City of Raleigh
 Property Map of Raleigh
 City of Raleigh
 Scale: 1"/400 feet
 June, 1967



<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35°	46'	59"	78°	38'	20"