

Olympia, Washington

July 15-16, 2026

Sometimes, a two-day trip to a neighboring state can reveal things you didn't learn in school or anywhere else. We took a short trip to Olympia, Washington and here is what we found: Day 1 – Downtown Olympia; Day 2 -- the Capitol building and its surroundings.

Іноді дводенна поїздка до сусіднього штату може відкрити для вас речі, яких ви не вивчали в школі чи деінде. Ми здійснили коротку поїздку до Олімпії, штат Вашингтон, і ось що ми побачили: День 1 – Центр Олімпії; День 2 – будівля Капітолію та її околиці.









FIFA World Cup 2026: Argentina beats England 2-1

COVE restaurant



Partners in Community Giving - sculpture



Percival Landing

Discover the Port of Olympia, starting with the mile-long boardwalk along the waterfront, featuring a playground, grassy fields, Fiddlehead Marina near downtown Olympia.





Port of Olympia

Since 1922, the Port of Olympia has been a vital economic engine and community partner responsible for owning and operating an international marine terminal, Swantown Marina & Boatworks, Olympia Regional Airport, and new estate properties throughout Thurston County. The Port is committed to environmental stewardship, economic opportunities, and community assets, ensuring a prosperous future for all of Thurston County across land, air and sea.

Swantown Marina and Boatworks

Port owned and operated since 1962, Swantown is the seventh largest marina in the state of Washington and center of recreational boating activities in the South Sound. With three business lines (Marina, Boatworks & fuel dock), Swantown offers a multitude of service offerings, amenities, community benefits and attractions to provide us access to the Olympia's iconic Puget Sound waterfront.

International Marine Terminal

The southernmost port on the Puget Sound, the 66-acre terminal is centrally located to serve Puget Sound and the Columbia River Basin, providing ready access to local, regional, and international markets. With three deep-water berths, on-dock barge warehouse and rail service, proximity to I-5 corridor and airports, Olympia's terminal is an ideal location to handle any breakout/shipping needs.

Olympia Regional Airport

Port of Olympia owns and operates the Olympia Regional Airport, a premier destination for general aviation services. The public airport provides a range of amenities and facilities, including aircraft service and maintenance operations, flight instruction, hangars, tie-down spaces, state and corporate aviation facilities, and land and building leasing opportunities for aviation-related use.

Real Estate

A comprehensive commercial real estate division, dedicated to economic development and positive community impact for both local developers and companies looking to expand in the Pacific Northwest. The downtown Olympia Port Peninsula waterfront properties, commercial, office and retail development opportunities, Tumwater properties for the New Market Industrial Campus and Clearwater Center for retail/commercial and industrial development, upriver





Every year, the city hosts a new group of sculptures for the Percival Plinth Project. Each piece is displayed on a pedestal base ("plinth") at Percival landing.

The art in this photo is "Playful Sea Otter" by Steven Nagode.



“The Chimera” by Travis Pond



"Breathe Deep: Raven Moon" by Jill Drilevich



“Visionary” by KayC





"Liberty Wept" by Christine Rose





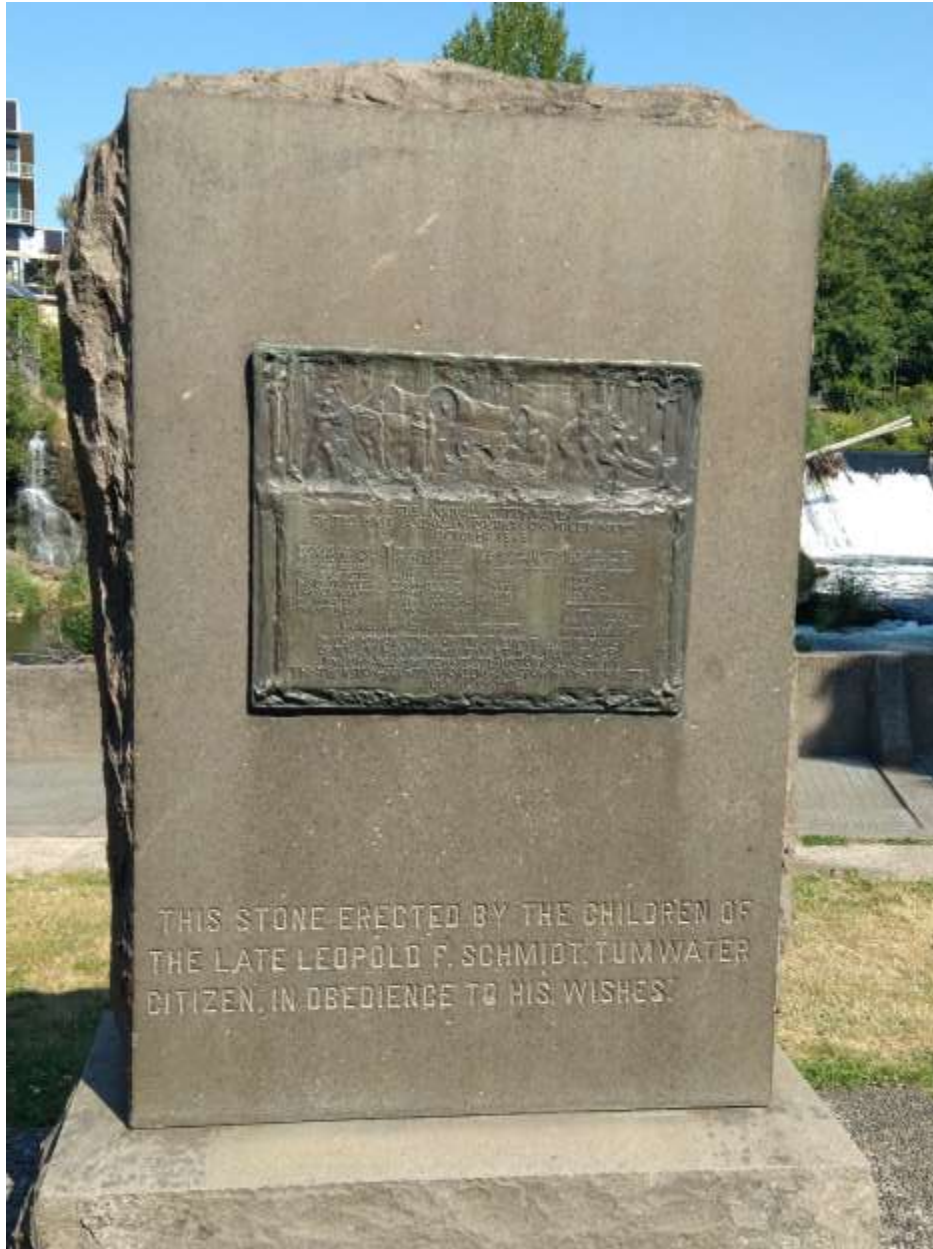
Brewery Park at Tumwater Falls

Opened in 1962 as a gift to the South Sound community, Brewery Park continues to be owned and maintained by the non-profit Olympia Tumwater Foundation at no cost to the public. ENJOY!



Tumwater Falls





This stone erected by the childreenn of the late Leopold F. Schmidt, Tumwater citizen, in obedience to his wishes.

“The Arrival at Tumwater of the first American colony on Puget Sound, October 1845”

UPPER TUMWATER FALLS

INDUSTRY AT THE UPPER FALLS

Early Tumwater citizens Ira Ward and Smith Hayes established a frontier sawmill on this side of the Upper Falls in 1852. Water from the river, impounded behind a timber dam, powered a pair of saws that sliced whole logs into usable lumber. Two years later Ward and Hayes were running a gristmill, too, where local farmers could have their bushels of wheat ground into flour.

Over the next seven decades, working with a series of partners, the Ward added a wash-and-door factory, sawhouse and millinery to his original businesses. In 1891, Ward sold the last of his waterfront holdings: a fine spread through the compound and burned everything to the ground. The last surviving industrial yard at the Upper Falls, a lone shingle mill—closed its doors around 1920.



By the late 1800s, the Ward sawmill had been replaced by a larger, more modern sawmill. The photo of the mill is from the 1890s. The photo of the mill is from the 1890s. The photo of the mill is from the 1890s.



Photo of the sawmill and gristmill. The photo is from the 1890s. The photo of the mill is from the 1890s. The photo of the mill is from the 1890s.

THE CUSTER WAY CROSSING

In January 1853 the local newspaper reported that "a new bridge was in the making over Snake River, between the two falls, and near the grist mill." This was a welcome improvement, providing water access between Olympia and Tumwater—or, as the newspaper put it, permitting the towns to "shake hands." By 1880 a bigger bridge crossed the river at Custer Way. This bridge was a simple long timber span, 300 feet from end to end, with a planked deck covered in dirt to match the rest of the city's streets.

The wooden Custer Way Bridge was replaced in 1915 with the bridge that still stands today, a graceful three-arch design in steel-reinforced concrete. The mill bridge beyond it downstream, known as the Upper Custer Way Bridge, was built in the mid-1930s as part of freeway construction.

TRAVELING BY TROLLEY

Public streetcar service between Tumwater and Olympia was launched in 1892 with four miles of track, three enclosed hallways and two additional open-air cars that left passengers to fend for themselves against the wind and the rain. The line ran south from Olympia down what is now Capitol Boulevard and ended at a small station just before the Custer Way Bridge. As a way of enticing the public to pay ten cents for a trolley ride, the streetcar company provided an unusual tourist attraction: a herd of elk grazing in idle fenced pastures on the banks of the Upper Falls.



Public streetcar service in the Tumwater wheelbarrow began in 1892. Photo of the trolley is from the 1890s. Photo of the trolley is from the 1890s. Photo of the trolley is from the 1890s.

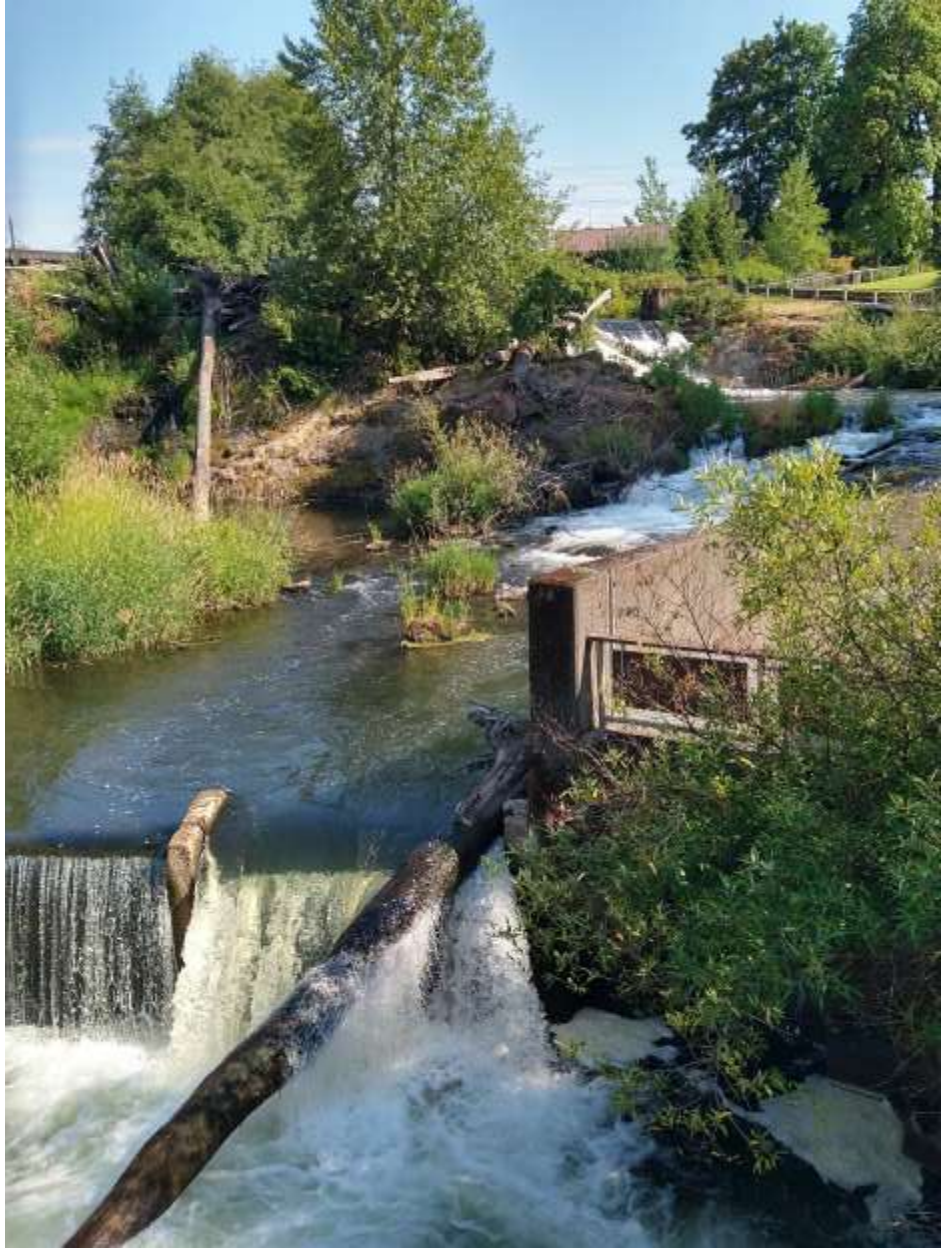
OLYMPIA, TUMWATER
FOUNDATION

Funded in part by
City of Tumwater Historic Preservation Commission

© 2009

UPPER TUMWATER FALLS

"Industry at the upper falls. Early Tumwater citizens Ira Ward and Smith Hayes established a frontier sawmill on this side of the upper falls in 1852. Water from the river, impounded behind a timber dam, powered a pair of saws that sliced whole logs into usable lumber. Two years later, Ward and Hayes were running a gristmill, too, where local farmers could have their bushels of wheat ground into flour."





MIDDLE TUMWATER FALLS

“Gelbach’s Mill. George Gelbach’s three-story flour mill, perched proudly beside the Middle Falls, is an unmistakable landmark in most of the early photographs taken along this stretch of the river. ...”

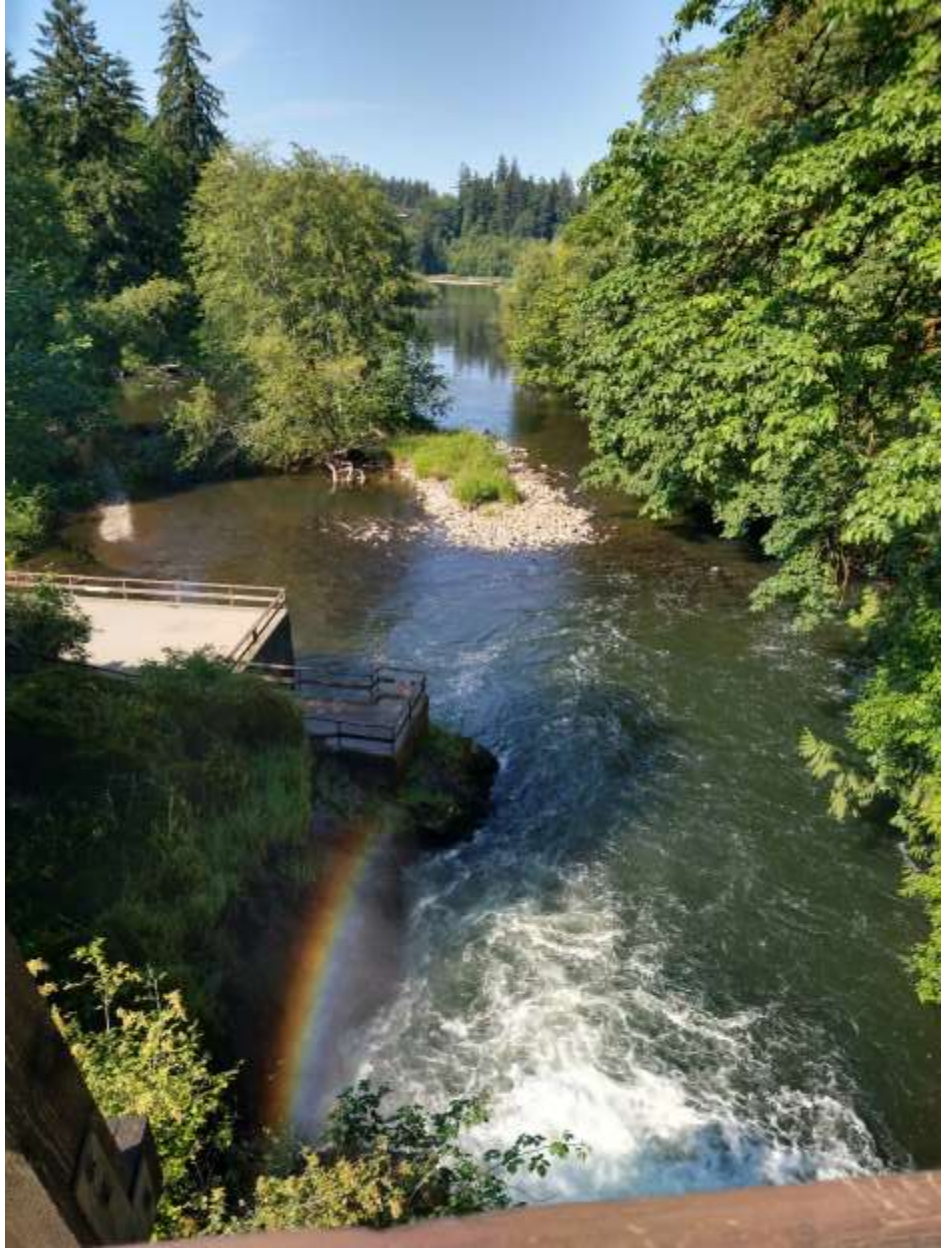
THE AGE OF ELECTRICITY

“In 1889 George Gelbach sold most of his land on the river to the Olympia Light and Power Company, which hoped to produce electricity from the tumbling force of the falls. By 1890 the power company had bought Gelbach’s flour mill as well and built a sturdy modern dam just a short distance downstream.

At the turn of the 20th century, Olympia Light and Power built a second powerhouse below the Lower Falls. This time it made full use of the 82-foot drop in the river by running a massive water pipe along the east side of the canyon all the way from the upper falls down to the new powerhouse. The trail on this side of the river was once the route of that gigantic pipe.”



Locks on a fence = LOVE. Locks on fences or bridges, often referred to as "love locks," symbolize a couple's unbreakable love. Couples typically inscribe their names or initials on a padlock, attach it to a public fixture, and then throw the key away, signifying that their love is eternal and cannot be undone.



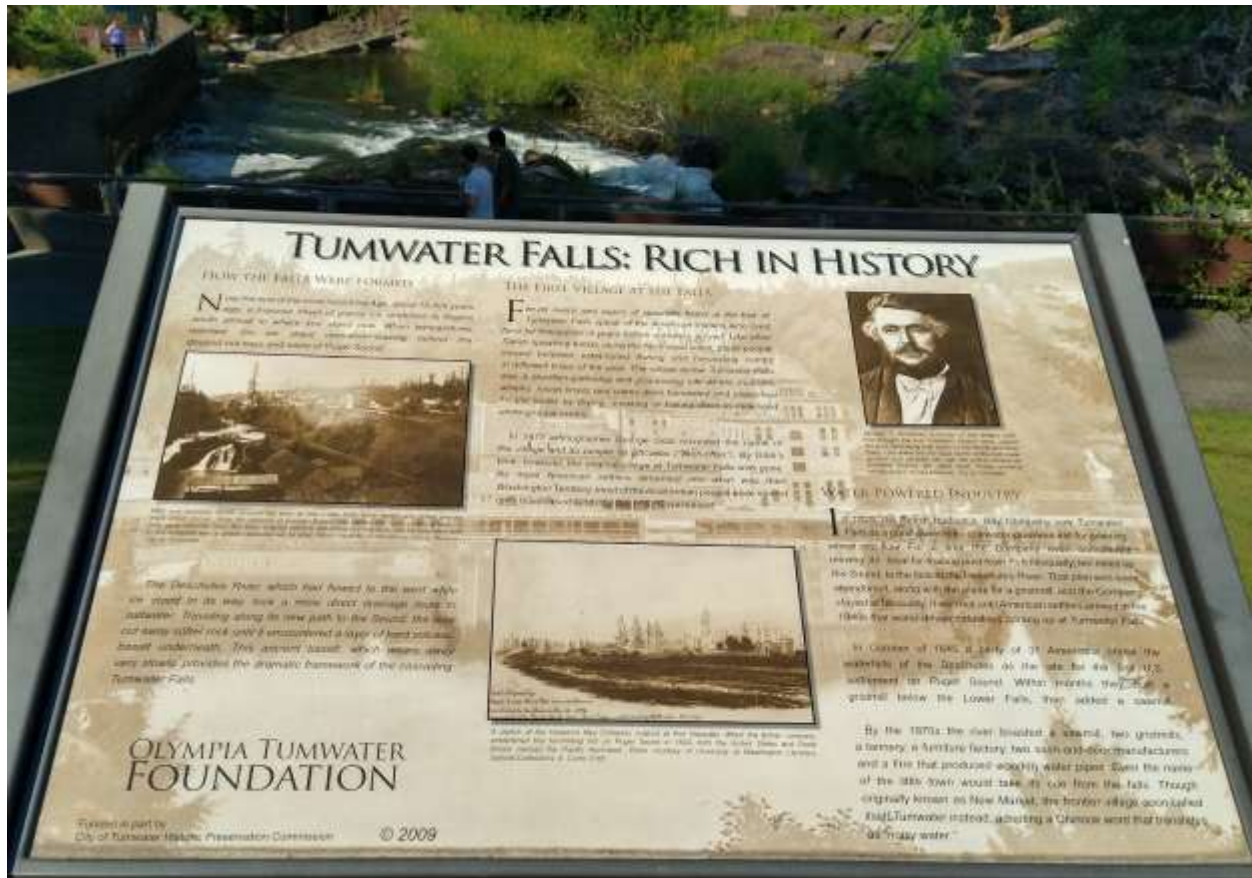


THE OLYMPIC BREWING COMPANY

“The 1906 brew house built by Leopold Schmidt rises above the trees just beyond Tumwater Falls. Schmidt already owned a successful brewery in Montana when a business trip to Olympia tipped him off to the presence of exceptional springs nearby. The artesian wells of Tumwater, it turned out, were perfect for brewing beer.”







TUMWATER FALLS: RICH IN HISTORY

“How the falls were formed. Near the end of the most recent Ice Age, about 12,000 years ago, a massive sheet of glacial ice stretched its fingers south almost to where you stand now. When temperatures warmed, the ice sheet retreated – leaving behind the gouged-out bays and inlets of Puget Sound.

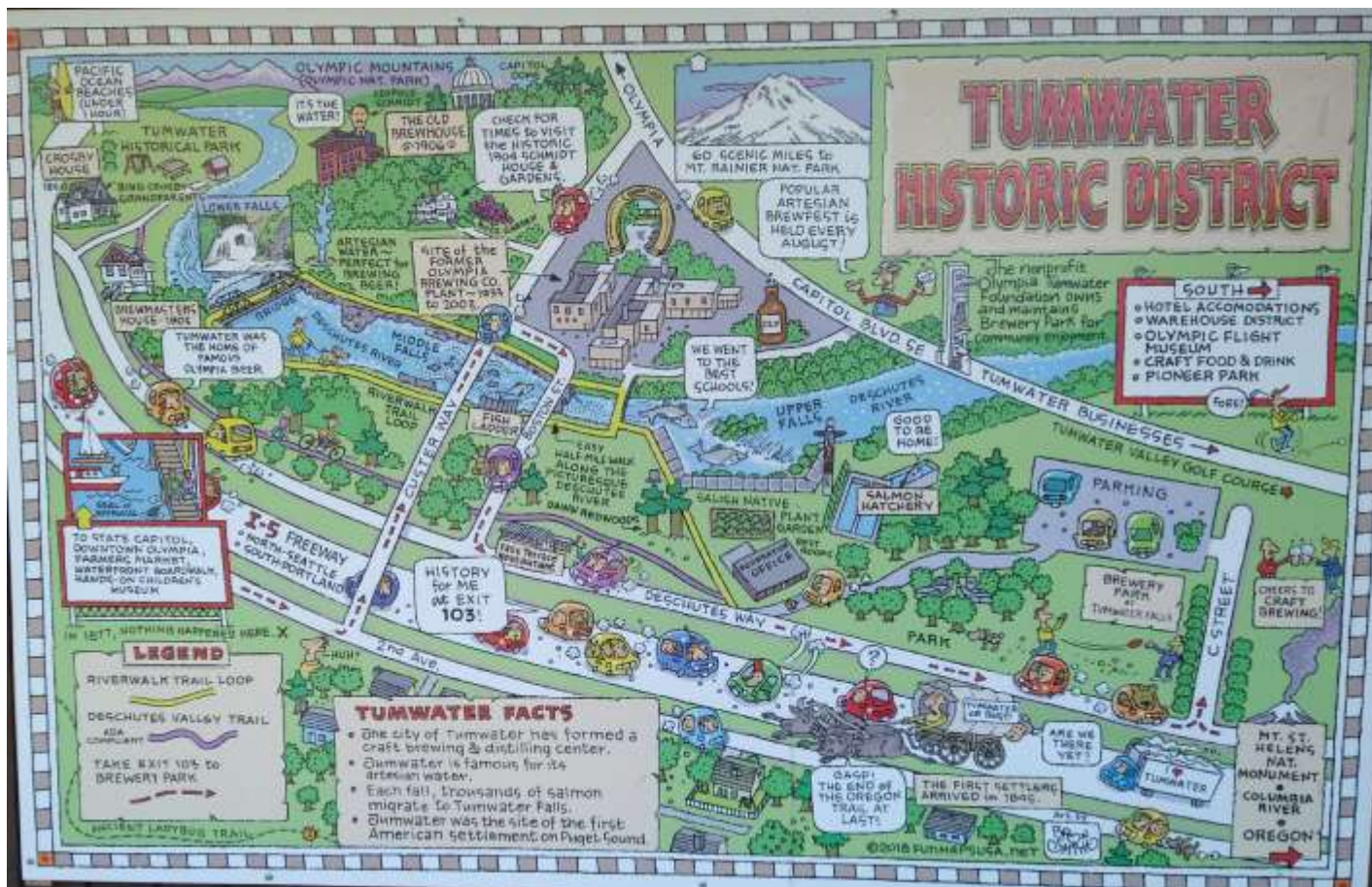
The Deschutes River, which had flowed to the west while ice stood in its way, took a more direct drainage route to the saltwater. Traveling along its new path to the Sound, the river cut away softer rock until it encountered a layer of hard volcanic basalt underneath. This ancient basalt, which wears away very slowly, provides the dramatic framework of the cascading Tumwater Falls. . . .

In October of 1845 a party of 31 Americans chose the waterfalls of the Deschutes as the site for the first US settlement on Puget Sound. Within months they built a gristmill below the Lower Falls, then added a sawmill.

By the 1870s the river boasted a sawmill, two gristmills, a tannery, a furniture factory, two sash-and-door manufacturers and a firm that produced wooden water pipes. Even the name of the little town would its cue from the falls. Though originally known as New Market, the frontier village soon called itself Tumwater instead, adopting a Chinook word that translates as “noisy water.”









There is so much to do in and around historic Tumwater. Here are a few of our favorite places to visit!

Brewery Park at Tumwater Falls Tumwater's 15-acre park, owned and operated by the Olympia Tumwater Foundation, boasts one-half mile of walking trails, highlighted by cascading waterfalls; still, reflective pools; and massive rocks. Spanning the river at both ends of the gorge and connecting the network of trails are footbridges designed for compatibility with the surroundings. The bridge at the lower end of the river, crossing Tumwater Falls, is of particular interest as it is a replica of the wooden truss bridge which served the citizens of Tumwater before the turn of the century. Brewery Park is home to a salmon run in the fall and is one of the top attractions in the region. This dog-friendly park also has many things for children to do and explore.

Location: 110 Deschutes Way SW, Tumwater, WA



Tumwater Historical Park

boasts the best view of the historic brewhouse. Because of the flow of the Deschutes River into Capitol Lake, the once muddy tideland now has a collection of riverine plants and habitat. The covered shelter at Historical Park is a great spot for family and class reunions, birthday parties, company picnics, and more. In addition to the reservable covered shelter, Historical Park also offers additional picnic facilities, restrooms, children's play toys, river access, and trails. In February 2018, the City of Tumwater opened a brand-new, state-of-the-art playground in the 17-acre park.

Location: 802 Deschutes Way SW, Tumwater, WA



The Historic Schmidt House, built in 1904 for Leopold F. Schmidt, founder of the Olympia Brewing Company. The picturesque grounds with native gardens, bronze statues, and reflective pool are beautifully maintained. Visit olytumfoundation.org for open house dates. If the house is closed, feel free to explore the grounds.

Location: 330 Schmidt Pl SW, Tumwater, WA



Tumwater Warehouse District

Thirsty from all your exploring? Be part of the craft movement and enjoy a local brew at Tumwater Warehouse District at Deschutes Landing, home to Matchless Brewing, Triceratops Brewing, Tart Cider, Ila's Foods, and 8 Arms Bakery.

Location: 8036 River Drive SE, Tumwater, WA





“A Tale of Two Cities” – The Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural Project:” (Downtown)

<https://olympiarafahmural.org/>

<https://olympiarafahmural.org/about-us/participants-by-imagery/>







Reflective lamp in Double Tree Hilton room.



Washington State Capitol

<https://capitol.wa.gov/>







Replica of Tivoli Fountain, Tivoli Park, Copenhagen, Denmark

Presented to the State of Washington



Sign: Washington State Capitol Campus, An Olmstead Legacy

“The historic landscape of the west Capitol Campus honors the 1929 plan designed by the renowned Olmsted Brothers firm. A variety of trees, shrubs, flowers, woodlands and water bodies – incorporated with civic buildings, monuments and memorials – create an enjoyable and educational experience for visitors. This campus has been a nexus for communities since the time of the earliest Indigenous people. It is now home of the state government and a National Historic District. The entire campus became an accredited arboretum in 2023.”





THE MEDAL OF HONOR – pillar/obelisk

“The medal of honor is the highest distinction which can be awarded to a member of the Armed Forces of the United States. It is presented by the president in the name of Congress to an individual who, while serving in the Armed Forces distinguished himself/herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his/her life above and beyond the call of duty.”



Sign: In gratitude to those who sacrificed their freedom in the service of our country, we the citizens of the state of Washington, dedicate this monument to honor all former American prisoners of war, those still missing, and those Americans who may still be held prisoner.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 16, 1988

Beyond is a World War I Memorial





World War I Memorial







Legislative Building

<https://capitol.wa.gov/dis.../buildings/legislative-building>

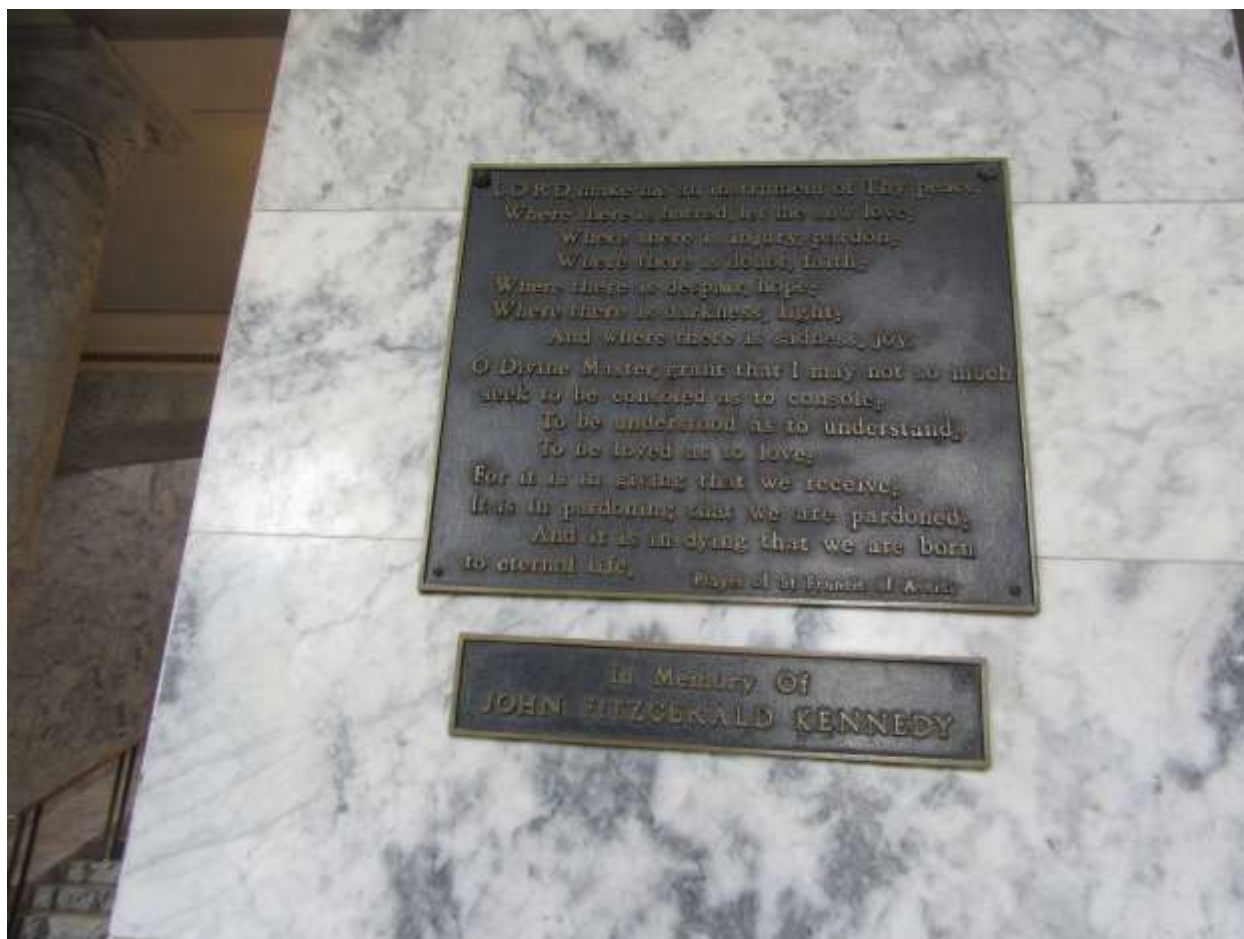


TEMPLE OF JUSTICE – across the street from the Legislative Building





At entrance lobby: "My Plans require time and distance." Marcus Whitman.
Citizens of the state of Washington express their gratitude to this pioneer and medical missionary.



Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi – In Memory of John Fitzgerald Kennedy

“Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.”



This statue honors Esther Pariseau (1823-1902), also known as Mother Joseph, who founded numerous schools and hospitals in the Pacific Northwest.

<https://capitol.wa.gov/.../artwork.../mother-joseph-statue>

















Billy Frank Jr. was arrested over 20 times while exercising his treaty right to fish for traditional herring. Photo by Tim Thompson.

Billy Frank Jr.

Billy Frank Jr. was a Nisqually tribal member who fought tirelessly to ensure that the United States government would honor the promises made in the treaties with Tribes in the Pacific Northwest.

His activism and perseverance paved the way for the "Boldt decision" in United States v. Washington, which affirmed the right of treaty tribes to take up to half of the harvestable salmon in western Washington, reaffirmed tribal treaty reserved rights, and established the tribes as co-managers of the salmon resource.

The Legislation

Introduced by Representative Debra Lekanoff and signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee at Frank's Landing on April 14, 2023, House Bill 1372 states that "Billy Frank Jr. is a significant historical and civil rights figure who is worthy of recognition and inclusion in the national statutory hall collection."

This bill began the process to send a statue of Billy Frank Jr. to National Statuary Hall.

Governor Jay Inslee (seated) signed House Bill 1372 at Frank's Landing in 2023.

Billy taught us when to listen and when to stand firm. He displayed moral courage in the face of unfairness and brought people of different cultures together around the importance of sustaining the natural world around us.

DENNY HECK, LT. GOVERNOR

The Artist

Haiying Wu was born in China and attended the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute. Wu immigrated to the United States and received his Master of Fine Arts in sculpture from the University of Washington.

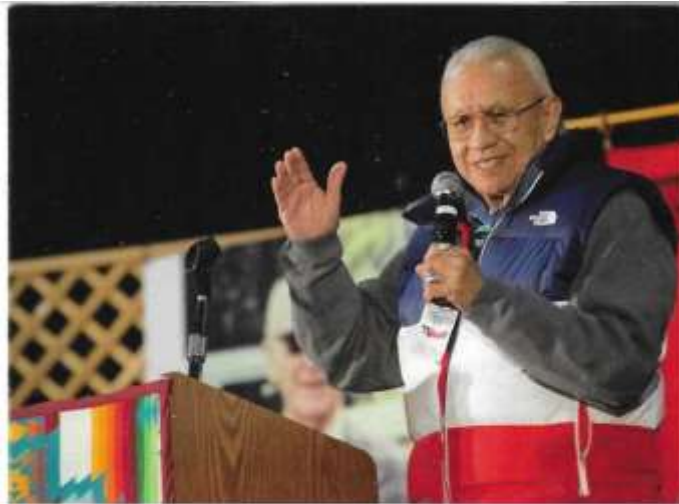
He has created well known memorials around the Pacific Northwest, including the Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Seattle's Pioneer Square neighborhood.

The Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) facilitated the artist selection process and will next oversee the bronze casting and installation.

The worship of life and nature in Indian culture is in line with my own cultural traditions. I am honored to have this opportunity to understand more of the spiritual world of indigenous people, and of their efforts to preserve the beautiful skies, rivers, oceans and all living things.

HAIYING WU, ARTIST

Haiying Wu (right) with an early model at his home studio.



"I don't believe in magic. I believe in the sun and the stars, the water, the tides, the floods, the owls, the hawks flying, the river running, the wind talking. They're measurements. They tell us how healthy things are. How healthy we are. Because we and they are the same."

BILLY FRANK JR.



[ARTS.WA.GOV/BILLY-FRANK-JR](https://arts.wa.gov/billy-frank-jr)



Front image: Haiying Wu's final "maquette" (half-scale model) of the Billy Frank Jr. statue.



<https://governor.wa.gov/>























View of lake and Puget Sound from the Capitol

Washington's State Capitol Design



On August 3, 1911, the Washington State Capitol Commission awarded first prize in a design competition for our state's new capitol to New York architects Walter R. Wilder and Harry K. White. Wilder and White were relatively unknown, young architects whose ambitious plan for a group of six buildings for the state capitol was selected over 32 other entries.

The Wilder and White design is grounded in classical architectural styles recalling the temples of ancient Greece and Rome. It is among the last examples in an era known as American Renaissance and City Beautiful. The assembly of buildings faces Capitol Lake, Puget Sound, and the distant Olympic Mountains, and is intended to be seen from afar as a single large structure supporting the dome of the Legislative Building at the center.

Work on the capitol buildings began in 1911, with the fifth building completed in 1940. The sixth building, intended for the western edge of the campus, was never built.

This sign commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Wilder and White design, August 2011.

"Olympia is wonderfully expressive of the State of Washington. Its location at the head of Puget Sound with the combination of water and mountains in every direction make it distinctive beyond most capitol cities, and what is true of the city is particularly true of the site selected for the capitol buildings themselves."

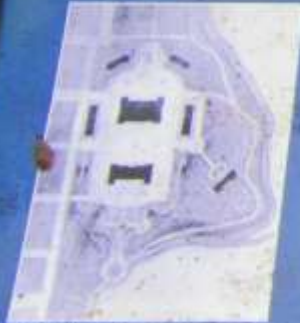


Walter R. Wilder



Harry K. White

W.R. Wilder,
Pacific Coast Architect,
January 1913, Vol. 4 page 154



1911 Site Plan - Wilder and White, Pacific Coast Architect



Wilder and White elevation drawing - National Archives



1913 sketch of the capitol design - Pacific Coast Architect



There are many trees at the Capitol.

<https://capitol.wa.gov/discover/trees>







Friendship Tree

Star Magnolia

Nyogo, Japan and Washington, USA



Commemorative Tree

Star Magnolia

Sister-State Relationship

South Korea - Washington



Olinsted Brothers Sunken Garden

The Sunken Garden is a gem in the heart of the UC Berkeley campus, a place of beauty and a garden where the past and present meet. It is a place where the past and present meet. It is a place where the past and present meet.

The original design of the Sunken Garden was created by the Olinsted Brothers, a family of gardeners who lived in the garden. The garden was designed to be a place where the past and present meet. It is a place where the past and present meet.

A Garden for All of Us

From its origins in the early 20th century, the garden has been a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy. It is a place where the past and present meet. It is a place where the past and present meet.

From Rose Garden to Victorian Cottage Garden

For over a century, the garden has been a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy. It is a place where the past and present meet. It is a place where the past and present meet.

Seasonal Changes Bring Interesting Finds

With over 100 species of plants and flowers, the garden is a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy. It is a place where the past and present meet. It is a place where the past and present meet.

A Party for the Senses

The garden is a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy. It is a place where the past and present meet. It is a place where the past and present meet.

- ✓ Touch the foliage
- Smell the flowers
- Look at the birds and insects
- Listen to the sounds of the garden











Red Cedar



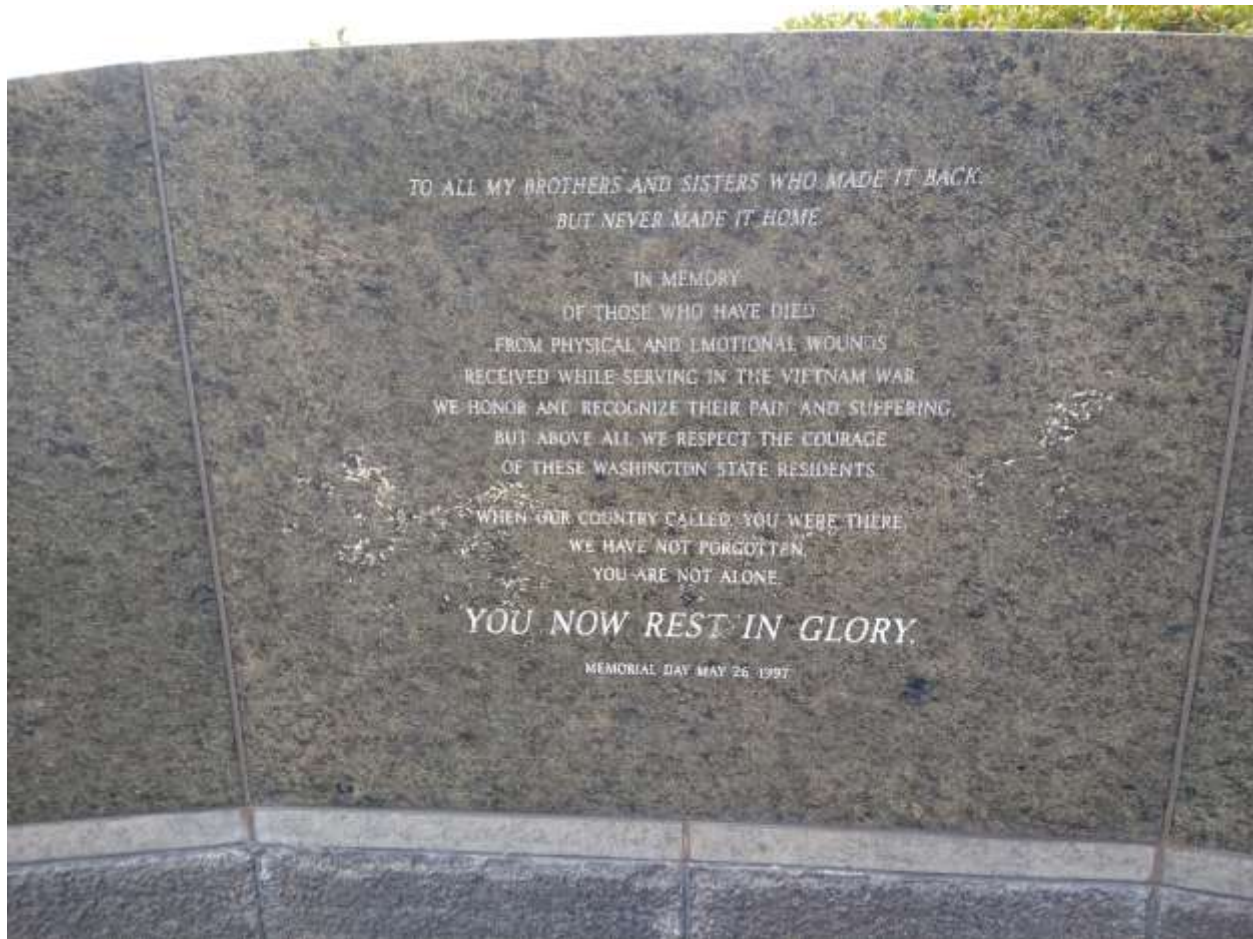




Washington State Vietnam Veterans memorial

<https://capitol.wa.gov/discover/artwork-memorials/vietnam-veterans-memorial>





The memorial is inscribed with the names of 1,124 state residents killed or missing and the following words:

Washington State Vietnam Veterans Memorial

To all my brothers and sisters who made it back, but never made it home. In memory of those who have died from physical and emotional wounds received while serving in the Vietnam War. We honor and recognize their pain and suffering, but above all we respect the courage of these Washington State residents. When our country called, you were there. We have not forgotten, you are not alone.

You Now Rest in Glory.

Thurston County VISITOR MAP

FREE!



Welcome to the Capitol Building



Original wood-frame Capitol, circa 1909

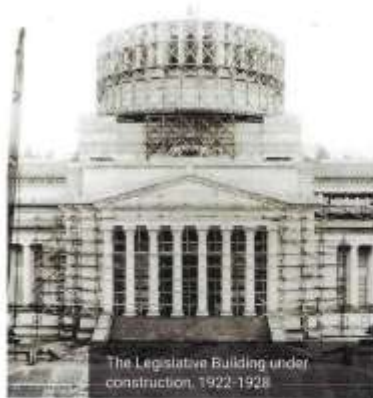
The Land

Prior to American settlement, the Olympia area was known as "Cheetwoot" (the Black Bear place) by the Coastal Salish tribes. Several names were used for the area as American settlers

moved in, but by 1850 the name Olympia was in use. Shortly after Washington became a territory in 1853, a wood-frame Capitol building was constructed on the current Capitol Campus.

The Capitol Group

In 1911, New York architects Walter Wilder and Harry White won a competition to design the state capitol. Their "Capitol Group" entailed five structures designed to appear as a single building from the Puget Sound. They were constructed over the next three decades: Temple of Justice (1912), Insurance Building (1921), Legislative Building (1928), Cherberg Building (1937), and O'Brien Building (1940).



The Legislative Building under construction, 1922-1928

The Legislative Building

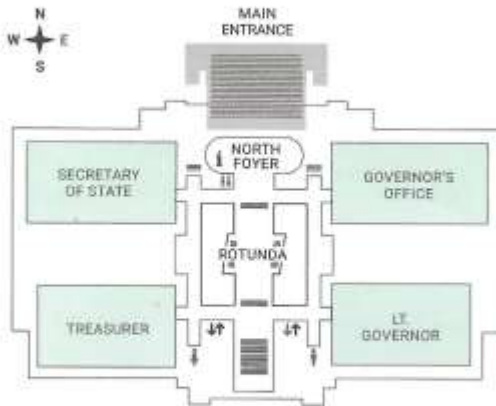
The brick and sandstone dome, the tallest masonry dome in North America, measures 287-feet tall from the ground to the top of the cupola. The exterior sandstone came from quarries in Wilkeson, Wash. The granite steps and massive foundation pieces came from

Index, Wash. Maxfield Keck of New York designed the building's sculptural elements in sandstone, bronze and plaster, many of which were carved in place by master craftsmen. Tiffany Studios created many of the light fixtures. After its completion, no other capitols in the

A Brief History

- 1853** Washington becomes a U.S. territory. Isaac Stevens is appointed Washington's first territorial governor.
- 1855** Construction begins on a wooden territorial capitol building located near the present site of the Legislative Building.
- 1856** The building is completed in time for the fourth territorial legislative session. The 40- by 68-foot building houses the Senate and House chambers, committee rooms, and territorial library.
- 1889** U.S. Congress authorizes Washington to become the 42nd state and grants 132,000 acres of land for the construction of the permanent capitol. The state seal is created by Olympia resident and jeweler Charles Talcott.
- 1893** New York architect Ernest Flagg is selected to build the new capitol building. The foundation is completed, but is halted in 1894 due to lack of funding. It sits unused for nearly 30 years.
- 1901** The state purchases the 1892 Thurston County Courthouse to be used as Legislative Chambers for the next 23 years.
- 1911** A nationwide competition is held for a "group concept" for the Capitol Campus. New York architects Walter R. Wilder and Harry K. White win.
- 1922** Above ground construction starts on the present Legislative Building.
- 1928** Legislative Building is completed.

Second Floor



North Foyer/Main Entrance

At the main entrance, **six large cast-bronze doors** feature relief images of early industry and scenic beauty in Washington State. Inside, there are two statues. The first is of **Marcus Whitman**, a trained physician who was instrumental in bringing American settlers to Washington. The second replica is of **Mother Joseph**, who was responsible for construction of many hospitals, orphanages and schools in the Northwest. The public hallways and rotunda are clad in **marble from Alaska**.

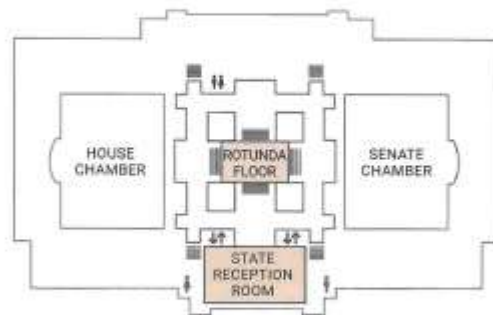
Four Corners/Executive Offices

The second floor houses the offices of the Governor,



Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer. Visitors are welcome Mon-Fri, 8 am - 5 pm. The Secretary of State office houses a **replica of the Washington State Constitution** (shown on the left) and often hosts special exhibits that are well worth a visit.

Third Floor



Rotunda Floor (Located between floors 2 & 3)

Hanging from the rotunda ceiling on a 101-foot chain is an ornate **5-ton bronze chandelier** containing more than 200 light bulbs. As the largest chandelier ever created by the artists of the Tiffany Studios in New York, it traveled west by train and was assembled and installed in the rotunda during the final stages of construction in 1928. **Four statuesque lamps**, also created by Tiffany Studios, are located in the corners of the rotunda. Embedded in the center of the floor is the **State Seal**. The seal is used extensively as a decoration throughout the building on railings, doorknobs, furniture and curtains.

State Reception Room

Bresche Violet Marble from Italy lines the State Reception Room. This room is used for formal state ceremonies, receptions and meetings. Tiffany chandeliers, **heavy velvet draperies** and a colorful carpet contribute to the elaborate decor in this ceremonial room. The original carpet, made by the Mohawk Company of New York, was the world's largest single-loomed carpet at the time of its installation. The carpet protects an unusual herringbone-design Bahamian teakwood floor, which is occasionally uncovered for events such as the Governor's Inaugural Ball. The base of the **massive round table** was carved from a single piece of Circassian walnut by the Slone Furniture Company of New York.

