

ILLINOIS STATE CAPITOLS



First State House at Kaskaskia

Shortly after its completion, Illinois citizens campaigned to move the capital city nearer to the geographical center of the state. In 1833, the General Assembly passed an act enabling voters to choose among Vandalia, Jacksonville, Peoria, Springfield and Alton.

In 1836, determined to keep their city as the capital, Vandalia residents tore down the Capitol and replaced it with a brick State House costing \$16,000.

However, Springfield was named the third capital city. The state's fifth Capitol was built in 1853 at a cost of \$260,000.



Illinois' fifth Capitol Building



The present Capitol

Illinois has had six State Capitol buildings in three cities since entering the Union as the 21st state on Dec. 3, 1818.

Kaskaskia was the first capital city. The first Capitol building was a simple, two-story brick structure that rented for \$4 a day. It housed the 29 members of the House of Representatives and the 14-member Senate.

In 1820, Vandalia became the second capital city. The new Capitol — the first built by state taxpayers — was a plain, two-story frame structure. After being destroyed by fire, another Capitol was built in 1824 for \$15,000.

The sixth and present Capitol was completed in 1888. It was designed by architects John Cochrane, George Garnsey and Alfred Piquenard. The Capitol is situated on a nine-acre plot in the form of a Latin cross. The dome is supported by a circular foundation, 92 feet in diameter, set on solid rock 25 feet below the grade line. The height from the ground line to the top of the dome is 361 feet and 405 feet to the tip of the flag staff. The Capitol cost \$4.3 million.