



WELCOME TO THE GEORGIA STATE CAPITOL



The Georgia Capitol Museum is a unit of the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, University of Georgia Libraries.

History of the Capitol

In 1868, Atlanta became Georgia's fifth permanent capital city. James Oglethorpe founded the colony of Georgia in February of 1733, on the site of present-day Savannah, which was Georgia's first capital. After the Revolutionary War, the General Assembly met alternately in Savannah and Augusta.



As Georgia grew the capital city moved to Augusta in 1786, Louisville in 1796, Milledgeville in 1807, and, finally, Atlanta in 1868. The General Assembly first met in the Atlanta City Hall/Fulton County Courthouse before relocating to the nearby Kimball Opera House. In 1883, the legislature appropriated \$1 million for a new building. Designed by Willoughby J. Edbrooke and Franklin P. Burnham and built by Miles and Horne of Toledo, Ohio, construction began in October 1884 and finished in 1889 -- \$118.43 under budget.

The new Georgia Capitol was built using many of the state's natural resources. Georgia marble is only found on the interior due to high cost. The Capitol's exterior is Indiana limestone. The Capitol was dedicated as a National Historic Landmark in 1977.



Preservation and Progress

The Georgia General Assembly established the Commission for the Preservation of the Georgia State Capitol in 1993 to oversee the building's restoration. Since that time, the Capitol's original paint colors, Victorian-era light fixtures, and wood finishes have been restored. At this time, the Georgia Capitol Museum transformed from a museum dedicated to geology and ecology to one focused on history and government.

In 2011, the Georgia Capitol Museum was transferred from the Secretary of State's office to the University of Georgia's Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, a department of the University of Georgia Libraries. Visit the tour desk on the second floor for assistance, and experience the Capitol and Georgia's history through special programs, activities, and tours. Guided tours are scheduled in advance, and tour information can be found on the museum's website.



First Floor

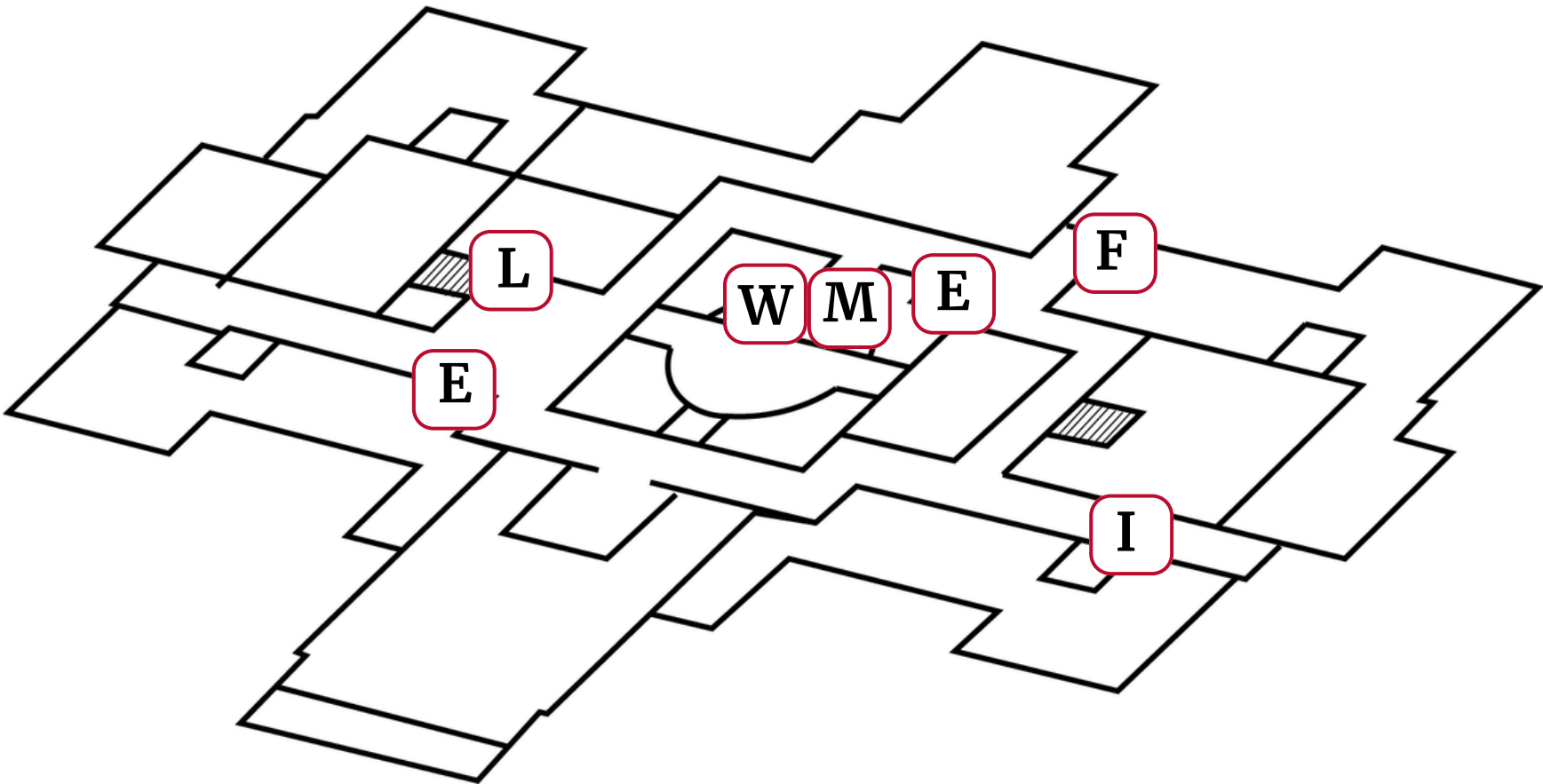
Entrance, Snack Bar, Georgia
Hall of Valor



On March 9, 1960, students from the Atlanta University Center published "An Appeal for Human Rights" in the Atlanta Constitution demanding equal rights for African Americans. On March 15, students protested in government-run cafeterias throughout Atlanta. In a cafeteria once located on this floor, six students requested service and were subsequently arrested. Julian Bond, a leading organizer of the protests, later became one of the state’s first African-American legislators since the end of Reconstruction.

The Georgia Hall of Valor is dedicated to Georgia residents who have served in the U.S. Armed Services. The Museum displays various historical flags and exhibits in this area. The light is on a timer to protect sensitive artifacts.

 If you are a Capitol stamp collector, our stamp is located at the first-floor security desk.



Second Floor

Governor, Secretary of State, Lieutenant Governor, Tour Desk



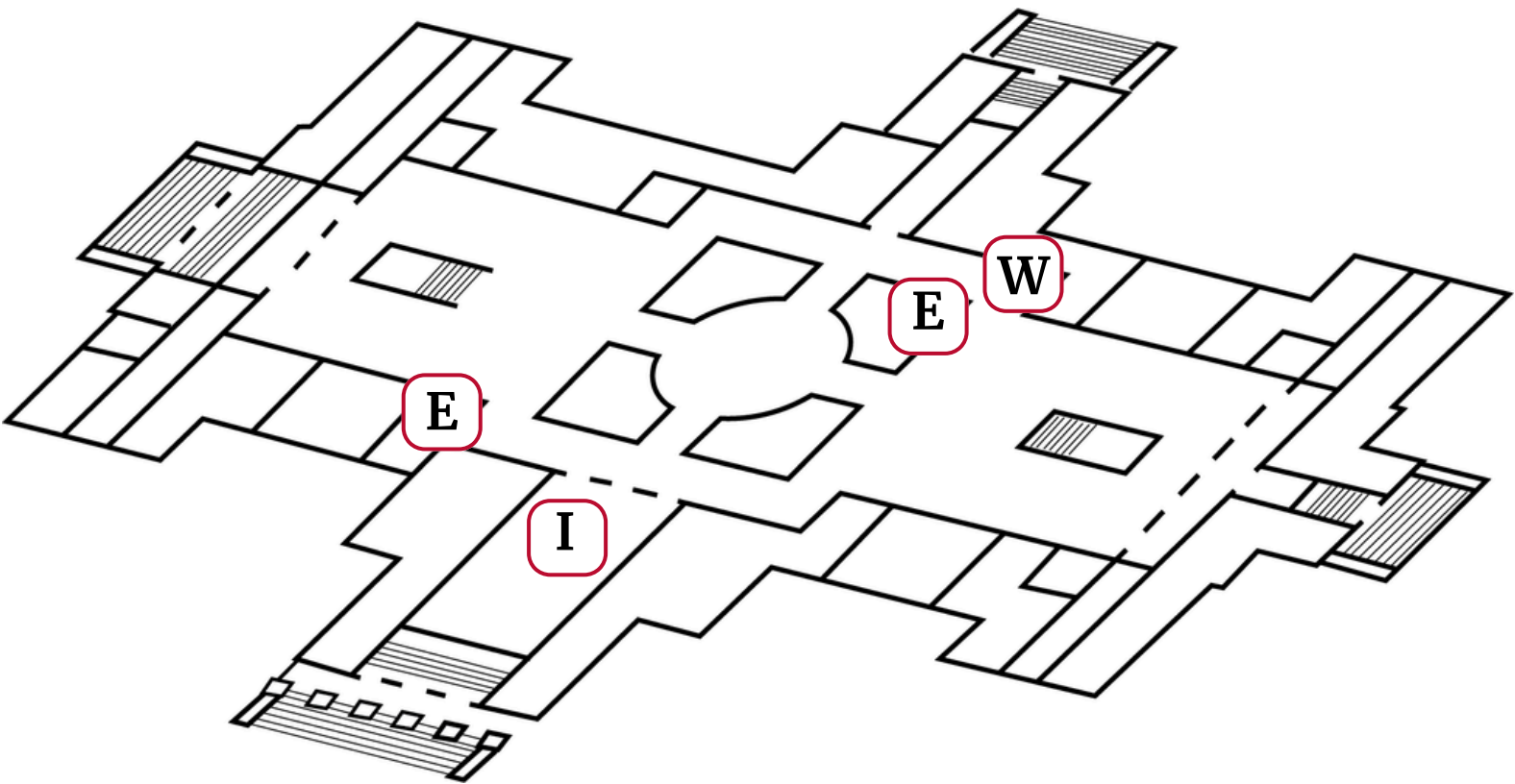
Located around the rotunda, marble busts and portraits comprise the Georgia Hall of Fame, which continues onto the third floor. Large portraits on the top wall of the rotunda once hung in the Milledgeville Capitol.

▶ Can you find the two Georgians who signed the Constitution? What about the three who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Portraits hung outside the rotunda are of former Georgia governors. The exception is the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King's portrait honors his work with the Civil Rights Movement and his distinction as Georgia's first Nobel Peace Prize recipient.

▶ Can you find the other Nobel Peace Prize winner on the second floor?

This floor also houses the offices of Georgia's executive officers, including the governor, lieutenant governor, and secretary of state.



Third Floor

Georgia Hall of Fame, Legislative Chambers,
Secretary of the Senate, Clerk of the House

The legislative chambers include the
House of Representatives and Senate.

All 180 members of the House and 56 senators serve
two-year terms. They convene in the Capitol during
the legislative session, a period that begins in
January and lasts 40 non-consecutive working days.

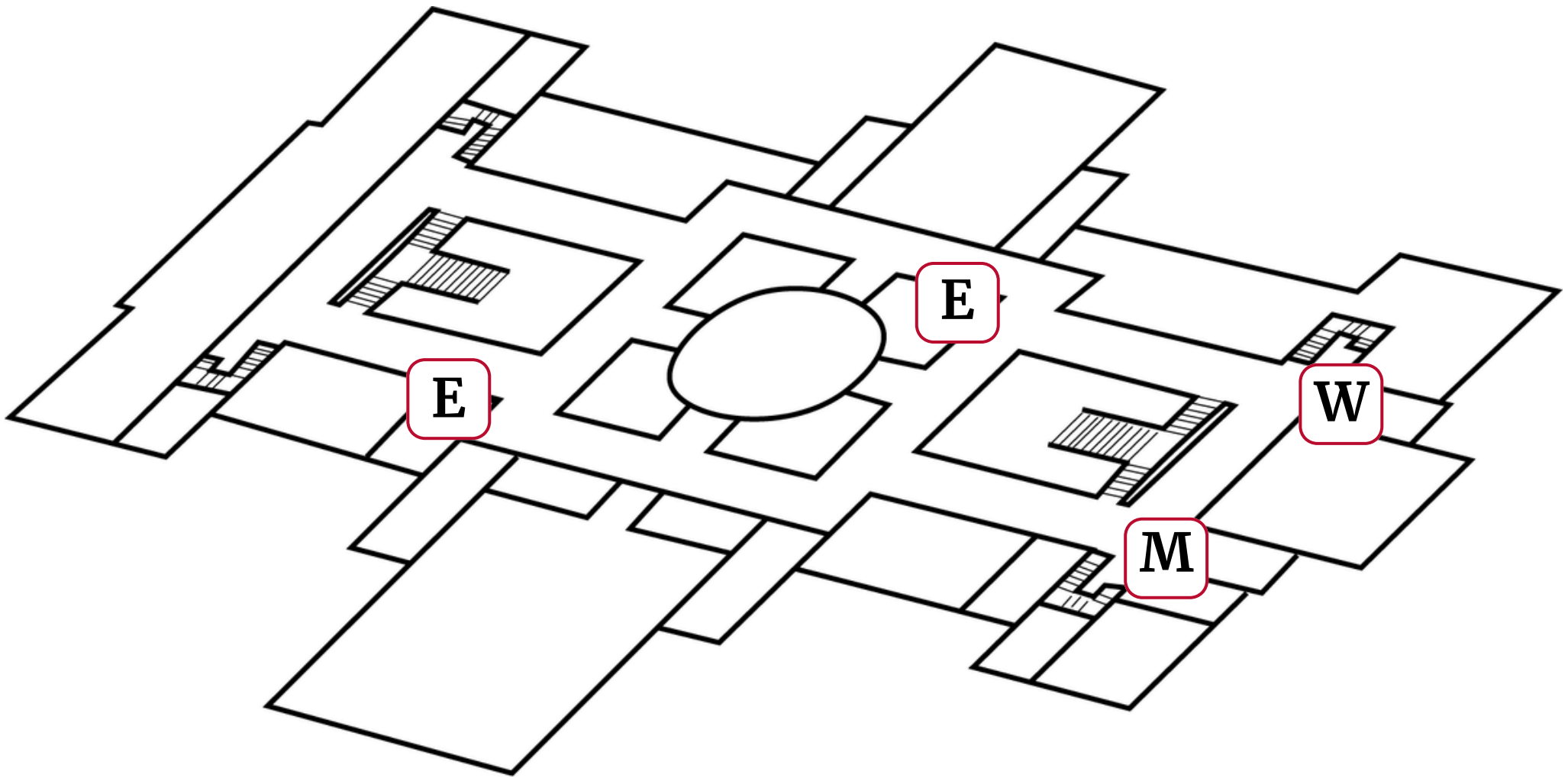


When the building opened in 1889, the Supreme Court also
met on the third floor. The old court chamber is now the
Appropriations Committee room.

From the floral carpet to the stenciled ceilings and
chandeliers, these rooms have been restored to their
original design. The desks, excluding the small
panel toward the front, are the originals from 1889.

This floor also contains the Georgia Hall of Fame.
The third-floor hallways are lined primarily with
portraits of famous Georgians who never served as
governor.

Can you identify the three portraits of people who were not
from Georgia?



Fourth Floor

Museum Exhibit Space, Public Galleries



In 1895, Governor William Yates Atkinson designated the top floor of the Capitol as a temporary museum to exhibit rocks and minerals illustrating the diversity of Georgia's rich natural resources.

Some older objects are still on display. Can you identify the oldest item in our collection?

Over time, the museum's focus changed as new items were collected. A popular figurehead of the museum is the beloved two-headed cow. Today, thousands visit the Georgia Capitol Museum each year. The exhibits showcase the building and events that have shaped Georgia's history.

During the legislative session, all visitors are welcome to observe Georgia lawmakers from the public galleries, which can be accessed from the fourth floor.

