

Virginia State Capitol

July 25, 2017

The Virginia State Capitol in Richmond Virginia has been recently revamped with an extensive below grade visitor center and updated facilities in the historic wing.

The choice to go underground preserved the historic nature of the early footprint designed by Thomas Jefferson. The historic wing of his design was completed in 1792 and two extension wings were completed in 1904.

The new underground extension provided much needed space to inform, engage and provide hospitality to visitors from all over the world. In addition, multi-purpose rooms provide more flexibility to accommodate legislative work.



The Virginia Capitol, planned by Thomas Jefferson, was the first Roman classical temple style capitol. Construction began in 1785 and was the first statehouse constructed after the Revolution. This massive South portico has been described as a “frontispiece” to all Virginia.



The new underground visitor center entrance is placed so that all who approach the building see the grand view of the South Portico. The entrance is positioned near a busy street so that it is visible to pedestrians and drivers.



Visitor center entrance details.



All walkways on Capitol grounds have signage leading visitors to the visitor center entrance that leads them to galleries, a café, gift shop and meeting spaces that double as committee hearing rooms.



Modern and classy entrance.



One magnetometer at the visitors center entrance is able to handle all of the foot traffic into the Capitol.



Very open and enticing gift shop and café give visitors additional ways to spend time at the capitol.



Almost every space of the visitor center is filled with historic information.



Dedicated areas for visitors end here and new underground space provides a route guiding foot traffic toward the historic building. The space to the left and right are multifunctional and used as meeting spaces that double as hearing rooms.



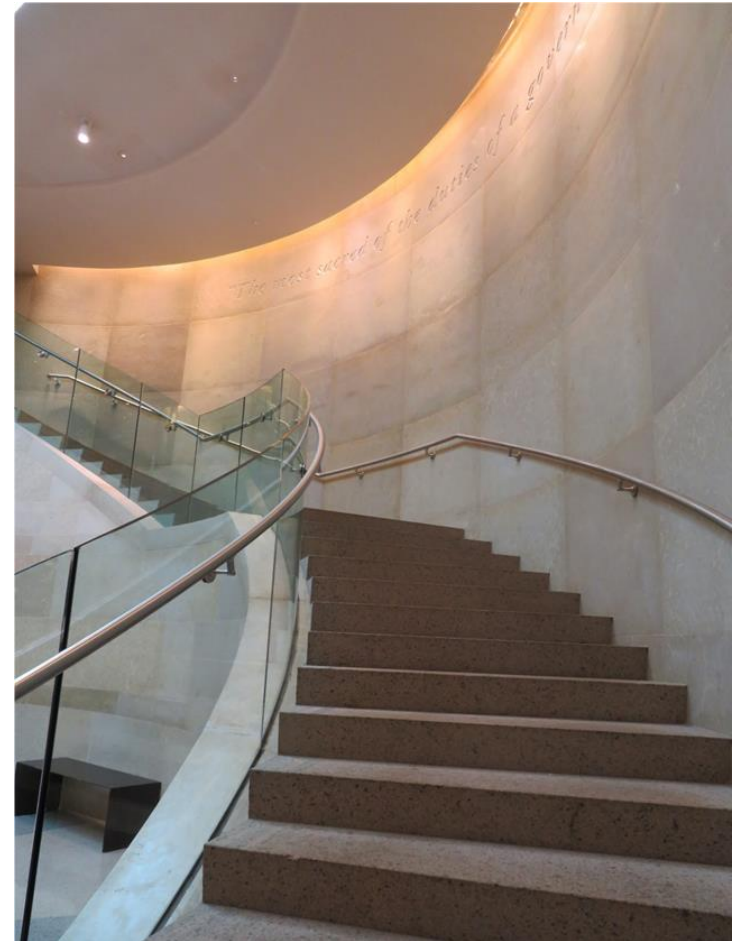
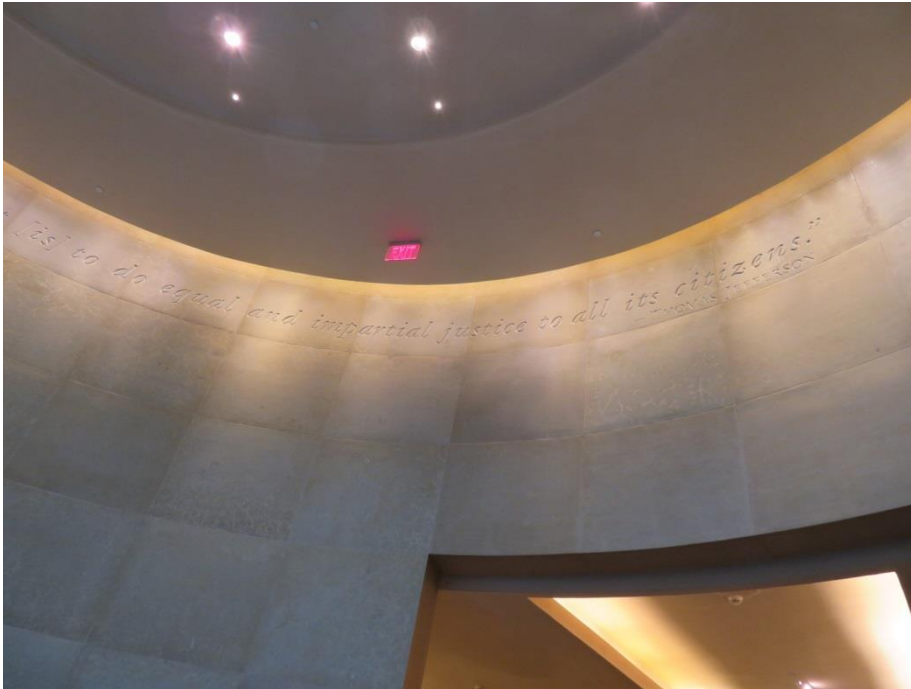
Rooms are designated by the two houses.



Multi-purpose meeting rooms are furnished as modifiable hearing rooms for short term use.



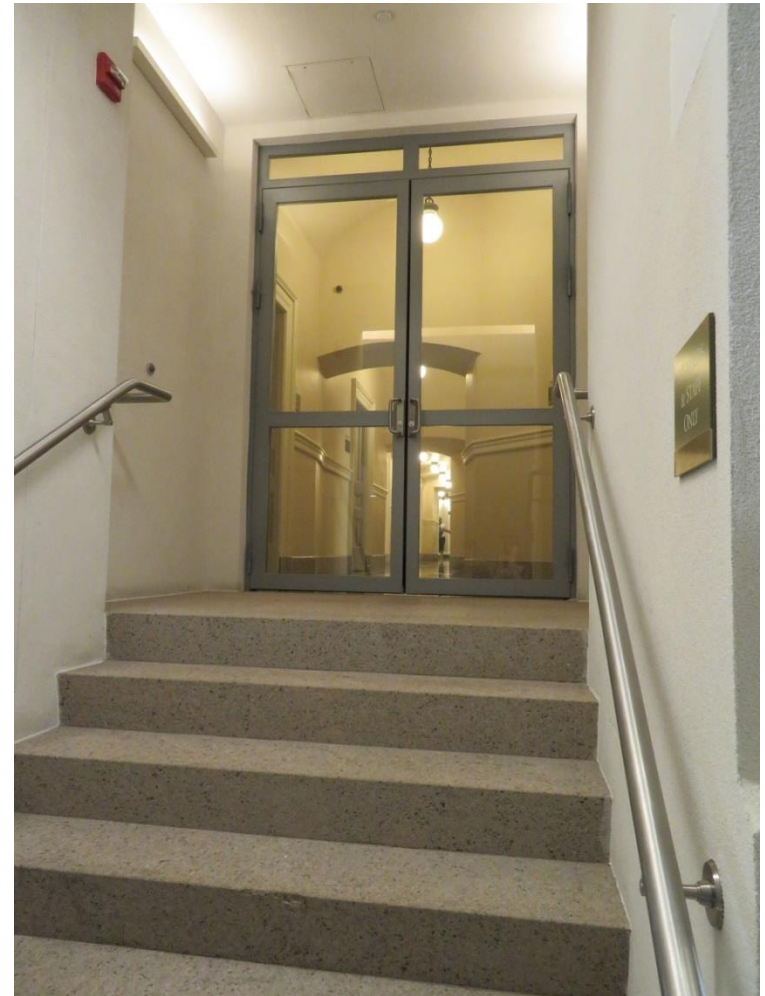
Gurney capable elevator.



Elegant underground space provides transition to the historic capitol.



Pathway to the historic capitol is further utilized for impromptu seating areas.



Once the end of the new visitors center footprint is reached, visitors pass the threshold into the historic capitol without going through security again.



Entrances to the historic capitol are located above ground for people entering directly into the capitol.

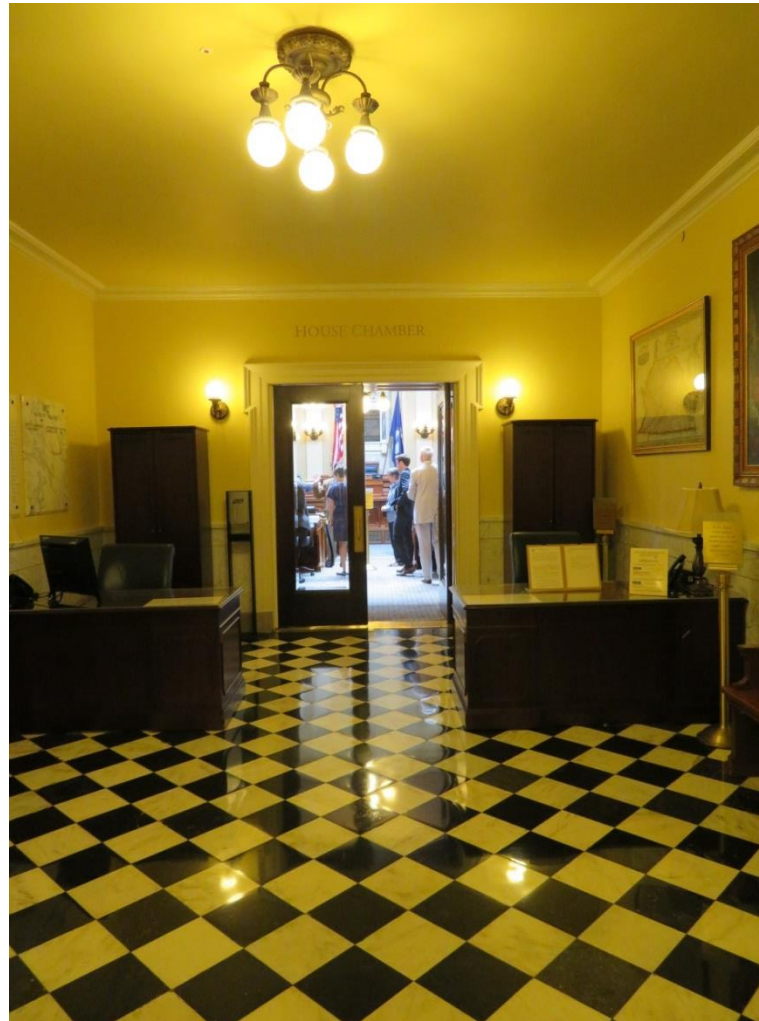


Restored House Chambers

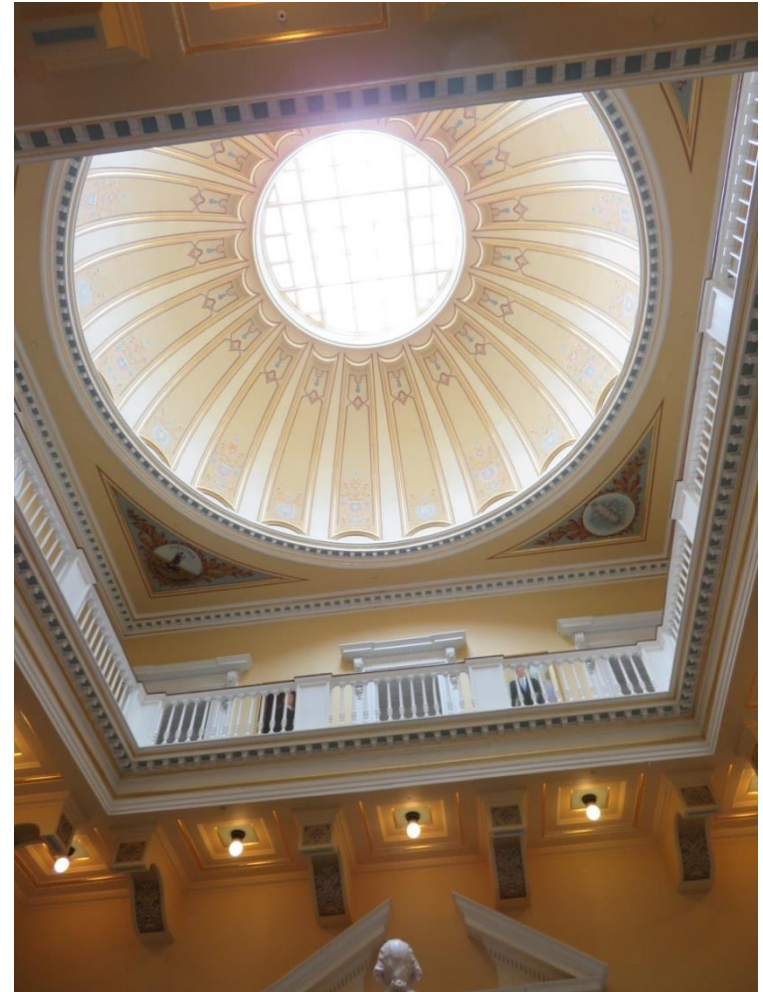




Custom pads on each legislator's desk allows a lot of flexibility of use in the chambers and less stress about the importance of preserving the furniture.



Reception area at the front of the House Chambers regulates the accessible floor.



The Historic House Chambers was preserved as a museum space.



Engaging displays and signage are located throughout the historic building.





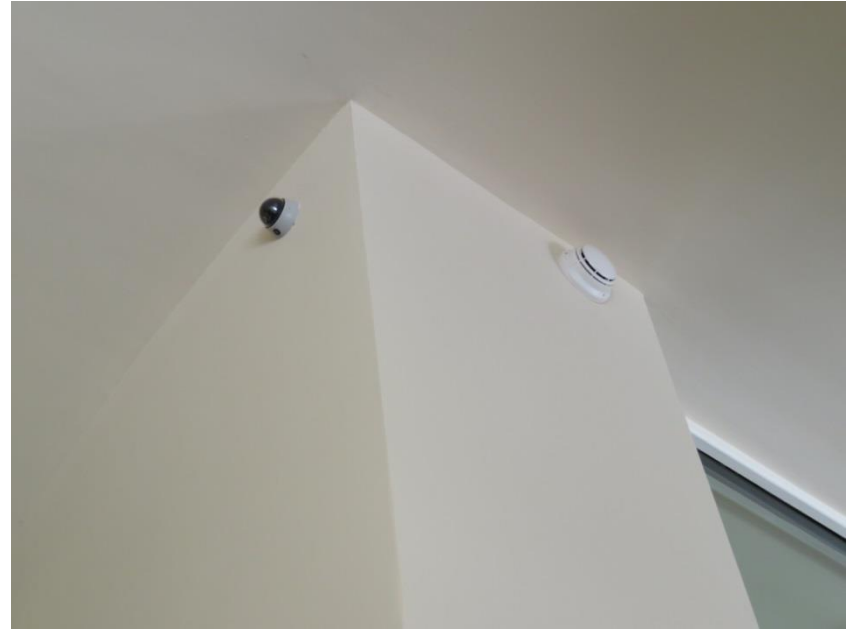
Beautiful plaques to preserve the history of leadership of the two legislative houses.



Elegant signage invites appropriate behavior and respect for the work being done at the Capitol.



Award winning design integration of emergency response systems.





Life safety equipment is stored in a way that protects the public and the historic look of this important building.



Committee hearing rooms have a completely mobile format.