



Jefferson City is home to Missouri's Capitol

The first state capitol building in Jefferson City was built from 1823-26 and was destroyed by fire in 1837. A new capitol building was approved and was completed in 1840. The second capitol was destroyed by fire on Feb. 5, 1911, when a bolt of lightning struck the dome. The present capitol was built from 1913-1917 and stands upon the same spot as its predecessor, high atop a bluff overlooking the Missouri River.

The structure, covering nearly three acres, is a symmetrical building of the Roman renaissance style, surmounted by a dome of unusual beauty. It stands upon 285 concrete piers which extend to solid rock at depths from 20 to 50 feet. It is 437 feet long by 200 feet wide through the wings. The exterior is of Carthage (Missouri) limestone marble, as are the floors of all the corridors, the rotundas and the treads of the stairways. There are 134 columns in the building, one fourth of the stone used in the entire structure.

The grand stairway is one of the capitol's outstanding features. It is 30 feet wide and extends from the front portico to the third floor. It is more than 65 feet from the wall on one side of the stairway to the wall on the other side. At the entrance are two mammoth bronze front doors, each 13 feet by 18 feet.