


**J**he 1888 Capitol and approximately 22 acres of surrounding Grounds are the physical and symbolic center of government for the State of Texas. Bounded by city streets, the Grounds today provide an appropriate setting for citizens and visitors to approach and appreciate the majestic Texas Capitol. The Historic Grounds lie on the east, south and west sides of the building and are defined by an historical iron fence. In 1995, the completion of the Capitol Extension created an entirely new setting for the north side of the Capitol.

The 1995-96 restoration of the historic Grounds returned the park-like setting to its 1888-1915 appearance and updated vital systems such as fire protection, water-conserving irrigation, lighting and accessible walkways. To learn more about the Grounds, please read the history introduction below and then follow the self-guided tour. People using wheelchairs are advised to follow existing directional signage and customize their tour as needed. Interpretive signs located throughout the historic Capitol Grounds are marked on the map with a .

## HISTORY

A Special Session of the 20th Legislature ended the day before the Texas Capitol was dedicated on May 16, 1888. That Legislature passed an act to hire a civil engineer to improve the Grounds of the new Capitol which needed considerable attention. In addition to the detrimental impact of the construction project, the landscape was marked by wood retaining walls and steps from the old limestone Capitol which had burned on the site seven years before. William Munro Johnson was appointed engineer and devised a plan that emphasized the perpendicular relationship between the granite Capitol and Congress Avenue. His vision included curving, stone-edged carriage drives, a “Great Walk” of black and white diamond-patterned pavement shaded by trees and a decorative iron fence on a stone base.

By the time the first monument was installed on the Capitol Grounds in 1891, commemorating the Heroes of the Alamo, the major components of Johnson’s plan were complete. In addition to the Great Walk, an Oval Walk using the same patterned pavement surrounded the Capitol. The fencing project included the installation of elaborate gates on all four

sides of the grounds. Numerous trees and shrubs were planted by the time the Volunteer Firemen Monument was installed in 1896.

Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds Charles Gilbert planted lawns, trees, shrubs and flowers throughout the Capitol Grounds in the early 1900s. Officials installed the Confederate Soldiers Monument in 1903 and two cast-iron spraying fountains set in ornamental concrete pools in 1904. The 1904 Superintendent’s Report also noted the construction of an elaborate drinking fountain with an overhead electric light fixture on the east side of the Great Walk at the site of an artesian well. During the course of excavation for a concrete walk around the original well, Superintendent Gilbert found a second well, which was tapped and used to supply a second drinking fountain on the west side of the Great Walk. The west fountain is said to have flowed cold and the east fountain to have flowed warm. Benches were placed along the Great Walk and near the drinking fountains for visitors’ comfort.

By 1906, two artificial lakes were listed in an inventory of the Grounds. One was a small grotto with spraying fountains and exotic plants located on the southeast portion of the Grounds. The other possibly was a lake surrounded by canna lilies, ferns and other shrubs and ornamental trees directly to the west of the Capitol in a depression which still exists today.

In 1907, all of the Grounds’ vehicular entrances were widened, and the Monument commemorating Terry’s Texas Rangers was installed. A year later, a two-gabled greenhouse was installed on the east-lawn to provide plants for state buildings and grounds; it later burned in the blizzard of 1925. By 1909, the concrete walkways throughout the Grounds were completed to prevent erosion. A year later, the Monument to Hood’s Brigade, the Texas Brigade Army of Northern Virginia, was dedicated. Light fixtures were installed along the Great Walk in the fall of 1915.

The major additions to the Grounds that occurred after 1915 were mostly related to the installation of Monuments. Existing Monuments added after 1915 include the Texas Cowboy (1925), the Statue of Liberty Replica (1951), “The Hiker,” honoring veterans of the Spanish-American War (1951), the Veterans of the 36th Infantry (1959), the Soldiers of World War I (1961), the Ten Commandments (1961), the Disabled Veterans (1980), the Pearl Harbor Veterans (1989), the Texas Pioneer Woman (1998), the Tribute to Texas Children (1998), the Korean War Veterans (1999), the Texas Peace Officers (1999), the Tejano (2013) and the Vietnam Veterans (2014).

Several early landscape elements were removed after 1915 including the artificial lakes, spraying fountains, original drinking fountains and greenhouse. A granite drinking fountain was placed upon the site of the east drinking fountain in the 1920s and the Statue of Liberty Monument replaced the west drinking fountain in 1951. A new greenhouse was installed in the 1940s but was later moved to the Texas State Cemetery.

## SELF-GUIDED TOUR

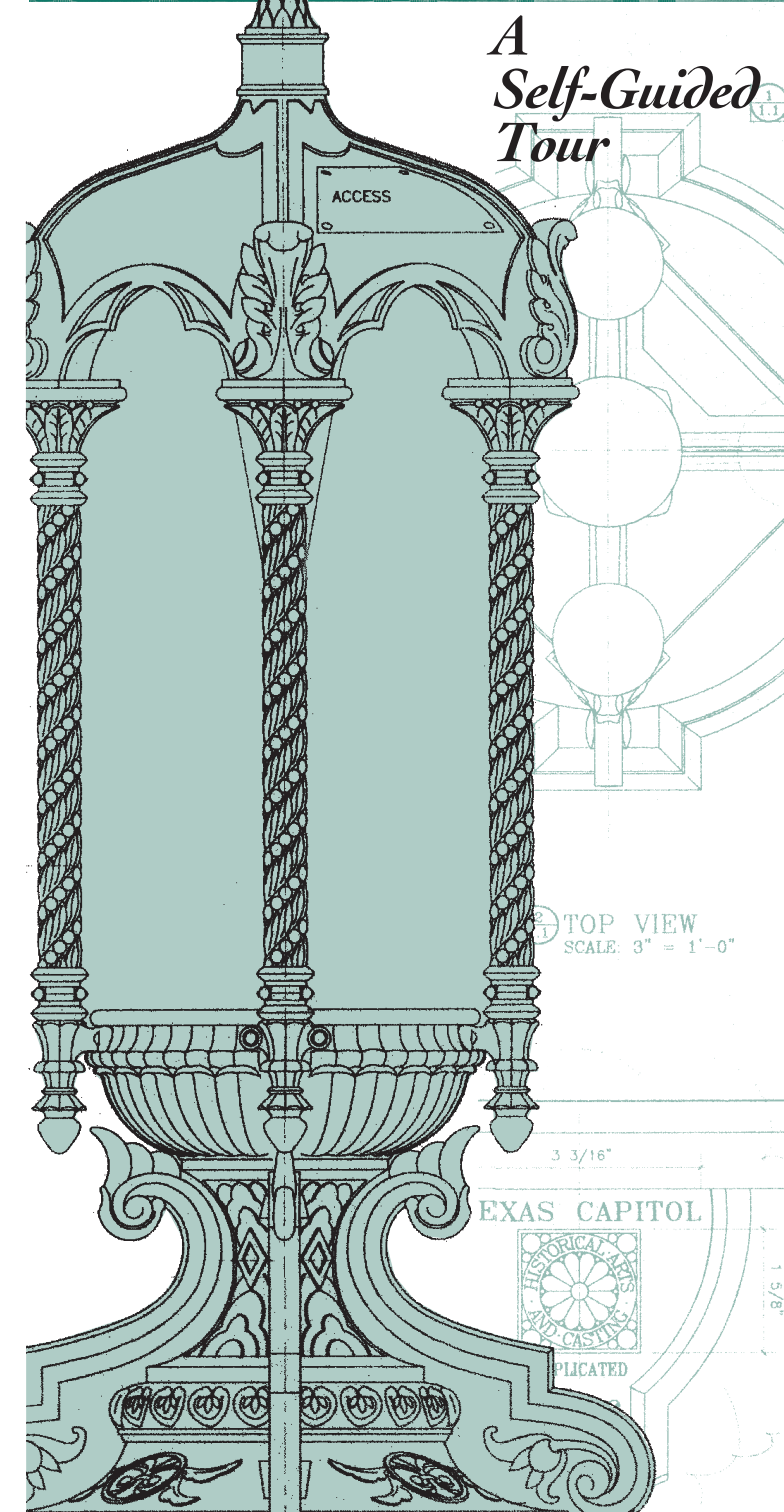
Begin the Grounds tour at the Tejano Monument (1) that acknowledges the contributions of the Spanish and Mexican settlers to Texas history and culture. Next an interpretive sign to the west of the General Land Office Building (built 1856-1857), now the Capitol Visitors Center, will give you information about that structure. Move northwest to the interpretive sign describing the grotto, then to the sign for the Realtor’s Fountain, then on up the hill to the ornate reproduction drinking fountain. If you get a drink, think about the one historical feature of the fountain that was not reproduced: originally, a chain dangled down holding a metal cup to be shared by all!

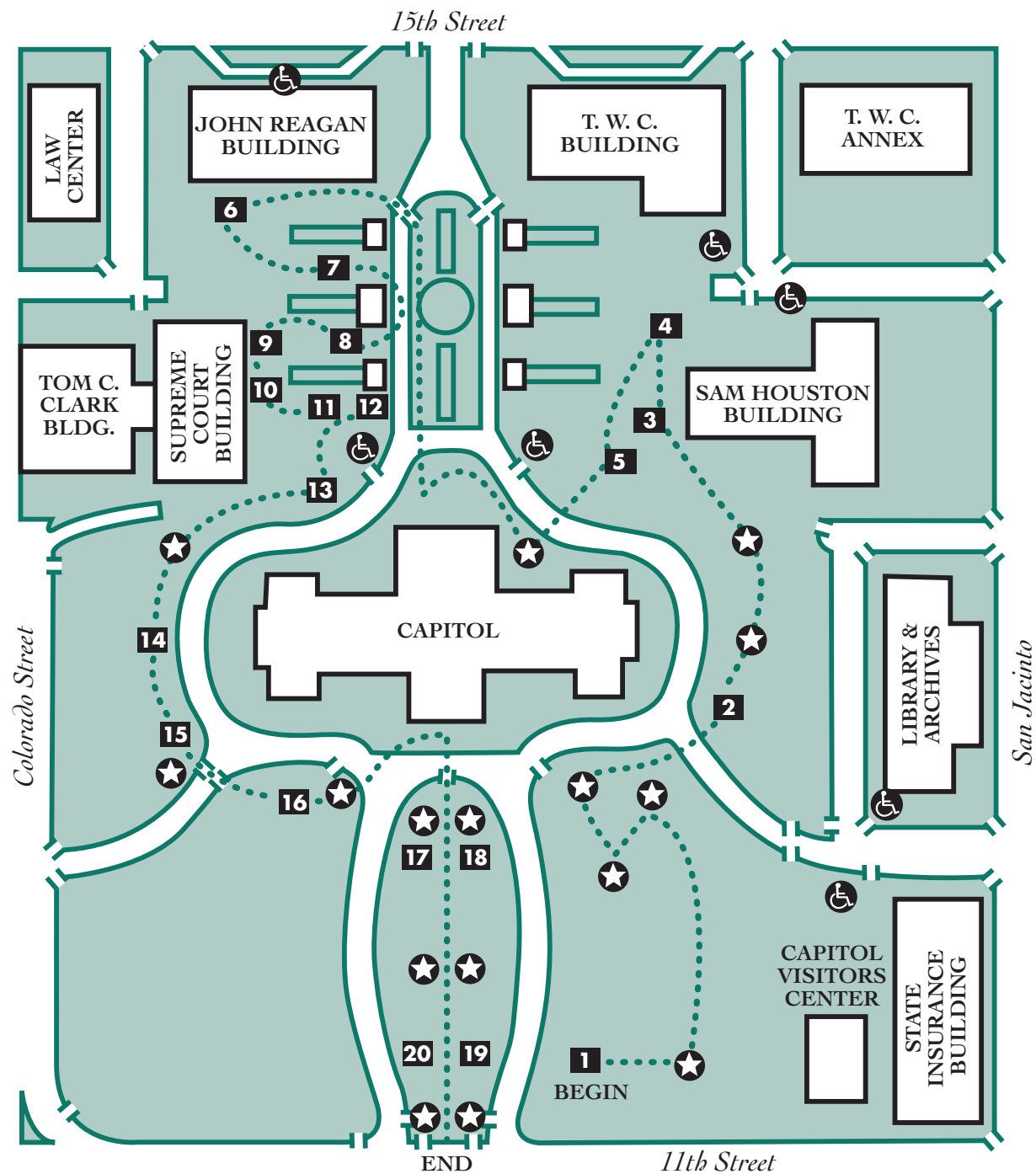
Move toward the Texas State Library and Archives Building, noting the Hood’s Brigade Monument (2) by artist Pompeo Coppini and then the interpretive sign showing the two-gabled greenhouse. Move toward the pedestrian gate near the Sam Houston Building and pause to study the elaborate perimeter fencing. Mounted on a granite foundation, this wrought- and cast-iron fencing was originally manufactured by Mast, Foos & Company of Ohio. Look closely at the base of the iron gate posts; can you find the brand-name “Buckeye” seal?

Just past the pedestrian gate is a 1928 granite drinking fountain that was moved to this location during the 1990s Grounds restoration project. The second drinking fountain was designed for people who use wheelchairs. Stroll past the Texas Peace Officers Memorial (3), Vietnam Veterans Monument (4) and the Monument to Disabled Veterans (5) toward the north entrance of the Capitol. Note the granite lying on the ground from east to west? It marks the original boundary of the historic Capitol Grounds. Rather than replace the iron portion of the fence, officials instead chose to leave only the granite footprint of the historic fence line so as not to divide the new north Capitol Grounds.

Move south across the drive and Oval Walk to see the top hatch for one of the Capitol’s cisterns. Water from the cistern originally was used for drinking, fire protection and hydraulic

## A Self-Guided Tour





### MONUMENTS

- |                            |                               |                            |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Tejano Monument         | 8. Pearl Harbor Memorial      | 16. Texas Cowboy           |
| 2. Hood's Brigade          | 9. Statue of Liberty Replica  | 17. Terry's Texas Rangers  |
| 3. Texas Peace Officers    | 10. World War II Memorial     | 18. Heroes of the Alamo    |
| 4. Vietnam Veterans        | 11. Texas Pioneer Woman       | 19. Confederate Soldiers   |
| 5. Disabled Veterans       | 12. Tribute to Texas Children | 20. Volunteer Firemen      |
| 6. Korean War Veterans     | 13. Ten Commandments          | ★ Interpretive Signs       |
| 7. Soldiers of World War I | 14. Texas National Guard      | ♿ Wheelchair Accessibility |
|                            | 15. Spanish-American War      |                            |

power for the building's elevators. Travel next to the north entrance of the Capitol and look to the north. Travel approximately 50 feet to the small granite pavers, past the Lady Bird Johnson Texas Capitol Flower Gardens, past the glass panels rising out of the ground to the large circular opening. You are on top of the Capitol Extension, a four-story office building and parking garage! The circle is an open-air rotunda that is very similar to the Capitol's historic interior rotunda. The glass panels are skylights for the Extension which allow natural light to filter down into the building.

Seven monuments are located on the northwest Capitol Grounds. From the open-air rotunda, move toward the John H. Reagan Building. Pause at the Korean War Veterans Memorial (6) and the Soldiers of World War I Monument (7) before stopping at the small building to the west of the open-air rotunda. The four structures to the north and south of the elevators provide emergency exit stairways from the Extension. Travel toward the Pearl Harbor Memorial (8) and the Statue of Liberty Replica (9) before pausing to enjoy the Tyler Rose Garden and reflecting on the World War II Memorial (10). Then continue toward the west Grounds, stopping at the Texas Pioneer Woman Monument (11) by artist Linda Sioux Henley, the Tribute to Texas Children Monument (12) by artist Larry Ludtke and the Ten Commandments Monument (13).

The Monuments commemorating the Veterans of the 36th Infantry, Texas National Guard (14) and the Veterans of the Spanish-American War, "The Hiker" (15) are located on the edge of what used to be the west Grounds lake. Crossing the drive, move down the hill to the monument for the Texas Cowboy (16) by artist Constance Whitney Warren. Travel back up the hill and toward the south entrance of the Capitol to the round concrete pad inset with a star. Because no photographs of the west drinking fountain have been found to document its appearance, this pad was prepared in anticipation of eventually finding the photographic evidence, reproducing the drinking fountain and installing it here.

Cross the drive and stop at the Great Walk, near the south entrance of the Capitol. At the Capitol's south entrance are two 24-pound howitzer cannon dating to 1836. When facing Congress Avenue, the oldest part of the Capitol Grounds is in front of you. Period lighting and park benches were reproduced and installed during the 1990s restoration project.

The four oldest Monuments, the Heroes of the Alamo (18) by artist J. S. Clark, Terry's Texas Rangers (17) by artist Pompeo Coppini, Volunteer Firemen (20) by artist Frank Teich and

Confederate Soldiers (19) by artists Pompeo Coppini and Frank Teich, flank the tree-lined Great Walk. The Heroes of the Alamo Monument features the names of the Texans who lost their lives defending the fort. The Confederate Soldiers Monument shows the 13 states that withdrew from the Union and formed the Confederacy. The names of Texas volunteer firemen who have lost their lives in the line of duty are shown on the Volunteer Firemen Monument. During the Civil War, Benjamin Terry called for volunteers who eventually became the eighth Texas Cavalry for the Confederacy.

Travel halfway down the Great Walk and pause at the two spraying fountains, one of a boy with a fish and the other of a lily plant, in oval pools. Look toward the Capitol. On the south lawn, between where you stand and the entrance to the Capitol, once stood the first Capitol on this square, from 1853 until it burned to the ground in 1881. Also note the three cannon nearby. The one farthest north dates to 1865. The two flanking the Great Walk are 12 pounder light field guns from 1864.

Move further down the Great Walk toward Congress Avenue. At the main gate, look toward the south facade of the Texas Capitol. As Senator Temple Houston said on dedication day in May of 1888, "This noble edifice...and the features of our civilization are all we can leave our posterity...we can at least pass from life's stage with the proud reflection that we leave behind us...a nobler edifice than has been bequeathed to us by preceding ages."

A large print, text only version of this brochure is available upon request from the Capitol Information and Guide Service located in the first floor south wing room 1S.2 of the Capitol.