



**Name of Property:** Mississippi State Capitol  
**City, State:** Jackson, Mississippi  
**Period of Significance:** 1900-1903  
**NHL Criteria:** 4  
**NHL Theme:** III. Expressing Cultural Values  
5. Architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design

**Previous Recognition:** 1969 National Register of Historic Places  
1972 Historic American Buildings Survey, HABS MISS, 25-JACK, 13  
2014 National Register of Historic Places (updated documentation)

**National Historic Context:** XVI. Architecture  
M. Period Revivals  
5. Neoclassical  
6. Beaux Arts  
Special study

**NHL Significance:**

- The Mississippi State Capitol is a nationally significant example of Academic Classical Revival architecture, providing a remarkably vivid illustration of the nationwide spread of Academic Classicism following the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893.
- Designed by St. Louis architect Theodore Link, the building is notable among state capitols for its unity of design and construction, having been built by a single general contracting firm, W. A. and A. E. Wells of Chicago, within a single three-year construction program.



- Bernard R. Green, the superintendent of construction for the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, served as a consultant in the project's early stages, and his recommendations played a major role in the functional and well-lit plan.
- The building contains a large and important collection of art glass by Louis J. Millet of Chicago, and an extensive assemblage of scagliola (art marble).
- Theodore Link's design incorporated and embraced the latest technical developments of the time, most vividly evident in its thousands of prominently exposed electric light bulbs, making a clear statement of modernity in the rural South at the dawn of the twentieth century.

**Integrity:**

- The Mississippi State Capitol maintains a high degree of historic integrity, and is especially outstanding when compared to other state capitols of a similar age.
- Only one major renovation occurred in its first century, between 1979 and 1982. The exterior remains unchanged. Inside, mechanical and electrical systems have been updated, and all public spaces, including Senate and House chambers, governor's office, rotunda, corridors, and smaller meeting rooms are intact. The only important alteration is the insertion of metal mezzanines in the private office spaces (1979-82) that are free-standing and reversible.
- Scagliola was carefully restored in the 1979-82 renovation. All stained glass windows are currently undergoing cleaning and restoration at the Pearl River Glass Studio in Jackson.
- The four-city-block site is intact with the original drive system only slightly changed at the entrances for safety. Typical additions of monuments have occurred on the grounds over time, most dramatically the Monument to the Women of the Confederacy, by Belle Kinney and cast by Tiffany Studios, erected in 1917 on the south plaza.

**Owner of Property:** State of Mississippi

**Acreage of Property:** 11 acres



**Origins of Nomination:** The Mississippi State Legislature hired a consultant to prepare the NHL nomination.

**Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:**

- Designation will recognize and encourage the stewardship of the Mississippi State Legislature, which has placed a high priority on maintaining the building's architectural integrity, including the position of Curator of the Capitol, who oversees all maintenance and renovation projects.
- The designation of this beloved state-owned property will no doubt be covered in most newspapers around the state. Tens of thousands of visitors tour the Capitol each year, and this designation will be prominently mentioned and displayed on the property.

**Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:** None known.

**Landmarks Committee Comments:**

**Landmarks Committee Recommendation:** Designation. Dr. Stevens moved, Dr. Carson seconded; unanimous approval.

**Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 11/9/15):**

The Honorable Phil Bryant, Governor, State of Mississippi

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker, United States Senator, Congress of the United States, Washington, DC

The Honorable Thad Cochran, United States Senator, Congress of the United States, Washington, DC

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson, Mississippi 2nd District, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC

The Honorable Gregg Harper, Mississippi 3rd District U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC

The Honorable Steven M. Palazzo, Mississippi 4th District, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC

The Honorable Trent Kelly, Mississippi 1st District, U.S. House of Representatives,



Washington, DC

The Honorable Philip Gunn, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mississippi State  
Legislature, Jackson, Mississippi

**Advisory Board Recommendation:**