

1. *The First State Capitol*  
206-214 South Main Street  
Construction Date: Prior to 1819

### Architecture

The First State Capitol Building consists of three connected two and one half story brick structures. The center section is a two and one half story four room brick building of federal style. The northern and southern sections are two story brick buildings in compatible architectural style. The rear wing is a clapboard log structure.

### Historical Significance

The center section was built about 1819 by the brothers Ruluff and Charles Peck. The northern section was originally built as a one story brick building. It was purchased by Chauncey Shepard in 1819 as a residence. Shortly after construction of the center section Peck constructed a second floor. The southern section was reconstructed on a partial early 19th century foundation. The first sessions of the House and Senate of Missouri convened on the second floor chambers of these buildings. The rooms of the center and southern sections became the chambers of the House and Senate and possibly served as courtrooms as well. The second floor of the northern section became Governor McNair's office and committee room. The first floor continued to be used as a general merchandise store and residences. The Missouri General Assembly, consisting of 14 senators and 43 representatives, held its sessions in this building from 1821 until 1826 when the seat of Government was moved to Jefferson City. Many historic events took place during this time. The first "solemn public act" on which depended Missouri's admission to the Union was passed in this building. During the session of November 6, 1821 Governor McNair officially informed the legislature that Missouri had finally been admitted to the Federal Union. Another important law passed was the creation of the State Banking Law of Missouri. The General Assembly entered into a very bitter debate over the removal of the Capitol to Jefferson City but on January 21, 1826 the doors of the first legislature were closed and the Capitol was moved to Jefferson City.

### Suggested Restoration

The First State Capitol Buildings were purchased in January, 1961 by the State of Missouri under the direction of the late Governor James T. Blair, Jr. The Missouri State Park Board has restored and furnished the building to reflect early 19th century life in St. Charles. A front lower level room is being used as a visitors' reception area and administrative office. Several lower level rooms serve as the Administrator's quarters. The access to the second floor, which contained the legislative chambers, committee room and Governor's office, is provided by a two story rear porch reconstructed on its original foundation. Peck's general merchandise store and Chauncey Shepard's living quarters have also been refurnished and restored to reflect early 19th century St. Charles. Archaeological investigations performed in the basements, passageways, front sidewalk areas and backyards produced



**ST. CHARLES HISTORICAL DISTRICT  
EAST ELEVATION**

**MADISON**

**FIRST CAPITOL**



**EXISTING CONDITIONS**



**PROPOSED RESTORATION**



**PROPOSED RESTORATION WITH LANDSCAPING**

THE CITY OF MADISON, WISCONSIN  
PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT  
100 EAST MONROE STREET, SUITE 100  
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LAND DEVELOPMENT FOR ARCHITECTURAL APPROVAL  
BY THE CITY OF MADISON, WISCONSIN  
BY RESOLUTION COUNCIL MEMBERS

FIRST STATE CAPITOL  
URBAN RENOVATION PROJECT  
PROJECT NO. 8-03

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DATE: 11/15/03  
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SHEET 1 OF 1