The South Carolina State House
Buildings for the State and Its People

An Exhibit of History & Archaeology
June 1998 to February 1999
South Carolina State Museum

Presented to the South Carolina General Assembly and the People of South Carolina by the University of South Carolina Art and History Departments, the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, and the South Carolina State Museum
The South Carolina State House: Buildings for the State and its People
June 1998 to February 1999

The Architect of a Capital

How many South Carolina State houses were there? South Carolina lays claim to three State Houses.

The First State House

The First State House was built during the colonial era and served as the State House until 1808. The building served as a meeting place for the colonial legislature and as a residence for the Governor. It was destroyed by fire in 1808, and was immediately replaced by the second State House.

The Second State House

The Second State House was constructed in 1810 and served as the State House until 1856. It was destroyed by fire in 1856, and was immediately replaced by the third State House.

The Third State House

The Third State House was constructed in 1861 and served as the State House until 1928. It was destroyed by fire in 1928, and was immediately replaced by the current State House.

The Modern Era

The current State House was constructed in 1928 and serves as the State House for South Carolina.

Monuments, Iconography, and Symbolism at the State House

Public buildings are often symbols and embody the values of the society they serve. Through their historical, cultural, and architectural significance, public buildings serve as repositories of values and ideas. They reflect the values and ideals of their time and place, as well as the society they serve. In South Carolina, the State House is no exception. It is a symbol of the state's history, culture, and values, and embodies the principles of democracy, freedom, and equality.

The current State House is a classic example of the use of classical elements in public architecture. Its symmetrical design, grand entrance, and use of columns and pediments all reflect the values and ideals of democracy and republicanism. The State House is also a symbol of the state's tradition of hospitality and welcome, as it is open to the public and serves as a meeting place for the people of the state.

The State House is also a symbol of the state's cultural heritage. It is home to the South Carolina Museum of History and Culture, which tells the story of the state's past through exhibits and programs. The State House is also a site for cultural events, such as concerts, lectures, and film screenings.

The State House is an important symbol of the state's identity and values. It serves as a reminder of the state's history, culture, and values, and embodies the principles of democracy, freedom, and equality. It is a symbol of the state's commitment to the well-being of its citizens, and a reminder of the importance of public buildings in shaping society. The State House is a symbol of the state's past, present, and future, and serves as a reminder of the values and ideals that have shaped the state over the years.