Historical Marker - HB1 - Michigan's Three Capitols / Michigan State Capitol (Marker ID#:HB1)





Significant Date:

Industry and Invention (1875-1915)

Registry Year: 1956 Erected Date: 2015

Marker Location

Address: 100 Capitol Ave.

City: Lansing

State: MI ZipCode: 48933

County: Ingham

Township: Lansing

Lat: 42.73341300 / Long: -84.55408400

Web URL:

Front - Title/Description

Michigan's Three Capitols

This building is the third to serve as the seat of Michigan state government. When Michigan entered the Union in 1837, the territorial courthouse and capitol in Detroit became the first state capitol. Ten years later, the legislature moved the seat of state government to densely wooded, sparsely populated Lansing Township in Ingham County. The hastily built, two-story woodframe building with a tin cupola served as Michigan's second capitol until late in 1878. Of Michigan's three capitols, only the third one survives; the first two were destroyed by fire.

Back - Title/Description

Michigan State Capitol

Hailed by Michigan citizens as a proud symbol of their young and growing state, this building was dedicated on January 1, 1879. National publications praised its scandal-free construction, which took six years, and its thrifty \$1.43 million budget. After 110 years of aging and intense use, it was restored (1989-1992) to its former elegance. It is recognized for its unparalleled decorative painting, for establishing the domed capitol as an American icon, and for launching the national career of its architect, Elijah E. Myers of Detroit. It was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1992.