

THINGS TO DO:
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Stop #5: The Crypt

The Crypt, meaning a place used for burial, was intended to be the room atop the site of George Washington's tomb. He died and was buried at his home in **Mount Vernon**, Virginia, before the Capitol was finished. According to family wishes, Washington's tomb remains there.

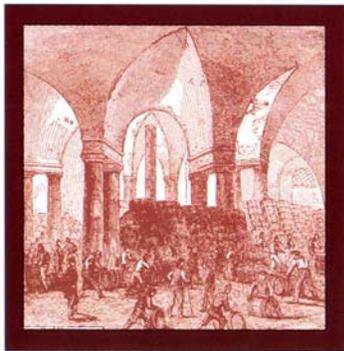


Things to Discover:

- ★ In the middle of the room is a starburst, which marks the focal point of both the Capitol building and the city of Washington, D.C.
- ★ The stone capital on the floor is from the old east front (see page 16).
- ★ The Union Army briefly used the Crypt as a storehouse during the Civil War (1861 to 1865). See below.

Stop #6: Corn Cob Capitals

Please take a moment to look at the six columns. These show the importance of farming in American life. Corn, a plant native to America, was the largest crop before the late 1800s. (This is the third example for your Capitals in the Capitol project on pages 16-17. One more to go.)



GROUND FLOOR

NEXT STOP: After viewing the Corn Cob Capitals, continue into the Old Supreme Court Chamber (7). As you exit the chamber be sure to look to left for a plaque commemorating Samuel Morse's telegraph.

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Stop #7: Old Supreme Court Chamber

The first room you will pass through is the "Robing Room." This is where the judges kept their robes and dressed before entering the court. The names by the hooks are of the judges on the court in 1860.



The Supreme Court met in the main chamber between 1810 and 1860. While Article III of the Constitution does not state how many judges should sit on the Court, the Supreme Court has usually been made up of 9 members.

Things to Discover:

- ★ The judges selected their own chairs.
- ★ The electric lights give about the same light as the original oil lamps.
- ★ The three fireplaces were used to heat the room.
- ★ The Chamber was restored in 1976.
- ★ As you exit the chamber look for a plaque on your left. It commemorates the use of **Samuel Morse's** telegraph machine which marked the beginning of modern communications from the Capitol.

NEXT STOP: Leave Old Supreme Court Chamber (7) into the Small Senate Rotunda. Turn right, go down the long hallway. Proceed to the last corridor. Turn right into the Brumidi Corridors, or Halls (8).



GROUND FLOOR

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