

Glossary for the Virtual Tour (Elementary Edition)

A

Arch – A curved shape, usually a doorway or opening.

Architect – A person who designs buildings.

Architecture – The art or science of designing and creating buildings.

B

Balustrade – A type of railing with short posts.

Bas-relief – A type of sculpture where the carved shapes stand out from a flat surface.

Beaux Arts – An architectural style based on the architecture of Ancient Greece and Rome which is known for being grand, lush, scholarly, and self-confident.

Bond – A document stating an amount of money that is borrowed and will be paid back later.

C

Capital – The top or head part of a column, which is decorated in a different way depending on the type of column. A capital is also the city in a state which is the seat of the state government.

Capitol – A building where laws are made by the Legislative Branch of government.

Cast-iron – A very hard type of metal that is made into different shapes by being melted and poured into special containers called molds.

Chamber – A room where members of a government group, like the Legislature, have meetings.

Coat of Arms – A special symbol, shaped like a shield, that belongs to a family or a group.

Column – A long post made of steel, stone, wood, plaster, etc., which is used as a support in a building.

D

Dome – A large, rounded roof or ceiling that is shaped like half of a ball.

E

Executive Branch – A branch of government which is headed by a governor in a state or the president of the United States.

F

Foundation - A stone or concrete structure that supports a building built on top of it.

G

Gallery – A balcony with seats above the chamber, which is where the public can watch the Legislature.

Gold leaf – A very thin sheet of gold used for decorating.

Governor – A person who is the leader of a state.

J

Judicial Branch – A branch of government that has the courts and interprets laws.

L

Legislative Branch – A branch of government that makes the laws. This is the branch that has the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Lieutenant Governor – An elected official just under the governor in state government. In Mississippi, the Lieutenant Governor presides over the Senate as President of the Senate.

M

Marble – A type of stone that is often polished and used in buildings and statues.

Medallion – A decoration shaped like a large medal.

Mosaic – A decoration on a surface made by pressing small pieces of colored glass or stone into a paste which dries and forms a picture or pattern.

N

National Historic Landmark – A historic place that holds national significance.

P

Pediment – A triangular shape on the front of a building below the roof and above an entrance.

Pilaster – A rectangular column attached to a wall, which projects slightly from the wall.

Plan – Drawing of a building showing the arrangement of rooms.

Plaque – A flat piece of metal or wood with writing on it which is used to show something of importance like a historical event.

R

Representative – An elected official who speaks or acts for the people they represent.

Rotunda – A large, round room, especially one covered by a dome.

S

Scagliola – Fake marble made of plaster and created to look like real marble. It usually has cracks in it unlike marble.

Senator – An elected official who speaks or acts for the people they represent.

Session – A formal meeting or a series of meetings of the Legislature. The time of year when laws are made.

Speaker of the House – The officer in charge of the House of Representatives, elected by members of the House.

Stained glass – Colored glass used for making pictures and patterns in windows.

Supreme Court – The highest court of law in a state or a country.

T

Tympanum – The triangular, or semicircular, face of a pediment, or the area enclosed by a pediment, often containing sculptures.

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