

ADAH History

- In 1901 Alabama created the first state-funded department of archives and history in the United States.



- Thomas Owen served as the first director of the department for almost 20 years, helping the department grow in its mission to preserve state records and history.

Mr. Owen and his staff

- After his death, he was succeeded by his widow, Marie Bankhead Owen, who continued the department's expansion.
- Originally housed in the Capitol, the department was moved to its current location in 1940 after Mrs. Owen secured WPA funds for an Alabama war memorial building in which to house the state archives.
- The building was originally dedicated as a World War I memorial. It was rededicated in 1970 to include all Alabama veterans.
- Only the central building of the original three-structure design was completed in the 1930s. Two wings were to be added at later dates to complete the "H" shaped design. The west wing was completed in 2005.
- Today, the department serves Alabama with its mission to "tell the story of the people of Alabama by preserving records and artifacts of historical value and promoting a better understanding of Alabama history."



Early Archives exhibit in the Alabama Capitol

Special Features

- The Alabama Department of Archives and History building consists of 179,514 square feet of space, which includes museum galleries, archival storage areas, and offices.
- The building is in the Greek Revival style. Ionic columns line the front and rear entrances.
- The walls of the central building are lined with a soft, cream-colored Alabama marble from Sylacauga.
- A harder, darker Tennessee marble was chosen for the floors.
- The first-floor lobby ceilings are decorated with gold-leafed floral and starburst medallions.
- The Adams Street entrance features five panels molded to represent the coats of arms of the five countries under whose authority Alabama existed at different times: Spain, France, England, the Confederacy, and the United States.
- Two large bronze pocket doors originally stood at the entrance of the Archives. These doors, containing bas-relief panels designed by Nathan Glick, depict important scenes from Alabama history. They can now be viewed in the Malone Lobby of the west wing.



The newly constructed Archives building in 1940

Alabama Department of Archives and History

624 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130-0100

Phone: (334) 242-4435

Hours: 8:30-4:30 Mon.-Fri & 2nd Sat.
Research Room **CLOSED** on Monday

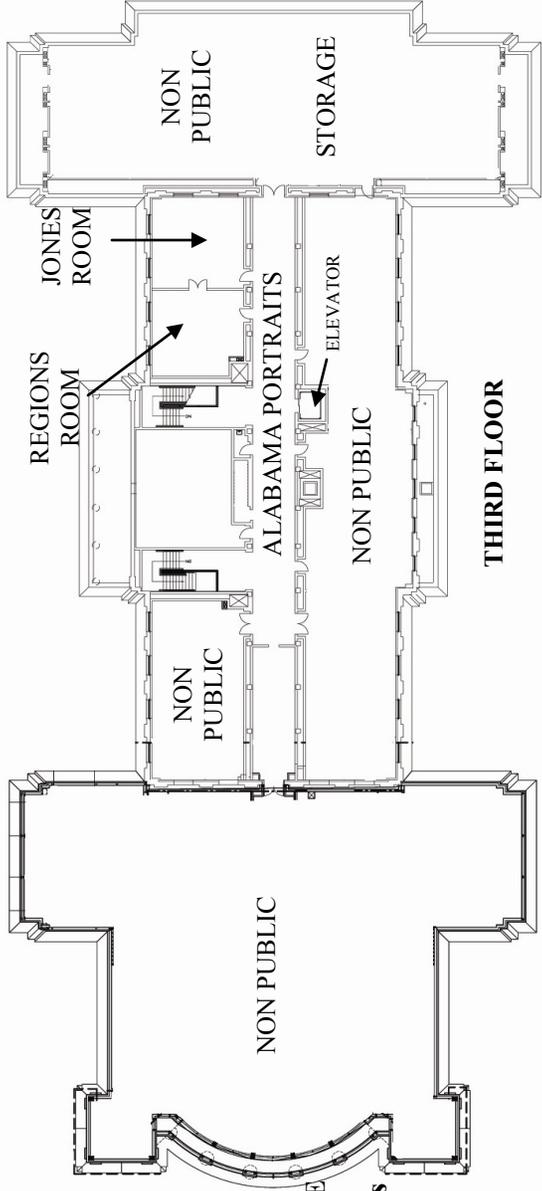
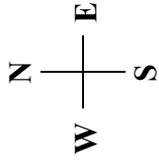
Website: www.archives.alabama.gov



Welcome to the Alabama Department of Archives and History

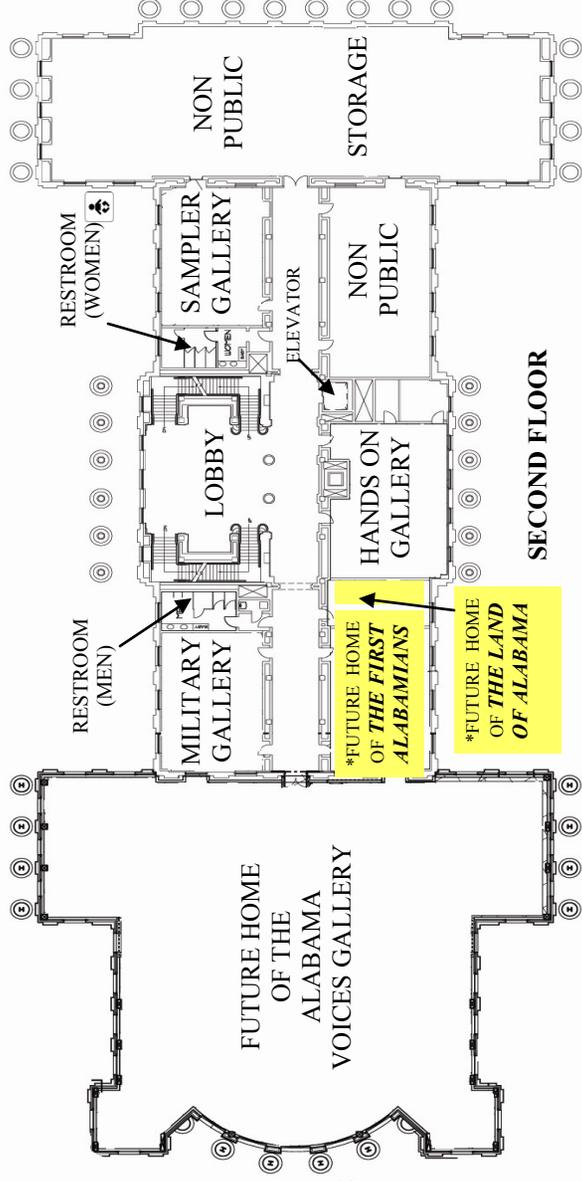


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3rd FLOOR GUIDE

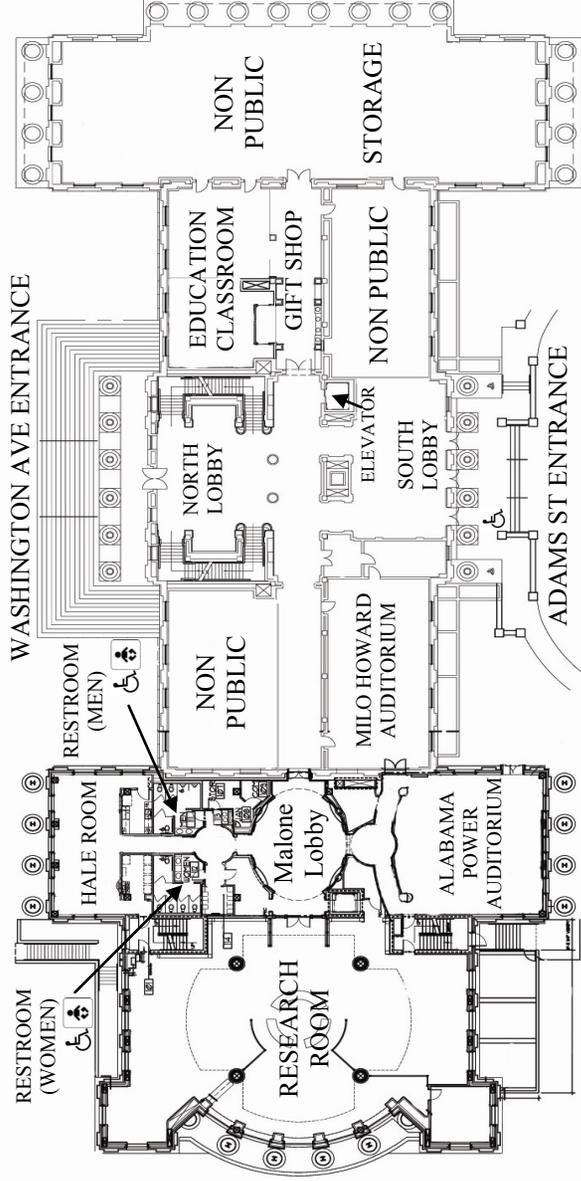
- Meeting Rooms
- Portraits
- Offices



2nd FLOOR GUIDE

- Galleries

*New Galleries opening SUMMER 2011



1st FLOOR GUIDE

- Research Room
- Auditoriums
- Gift Shop