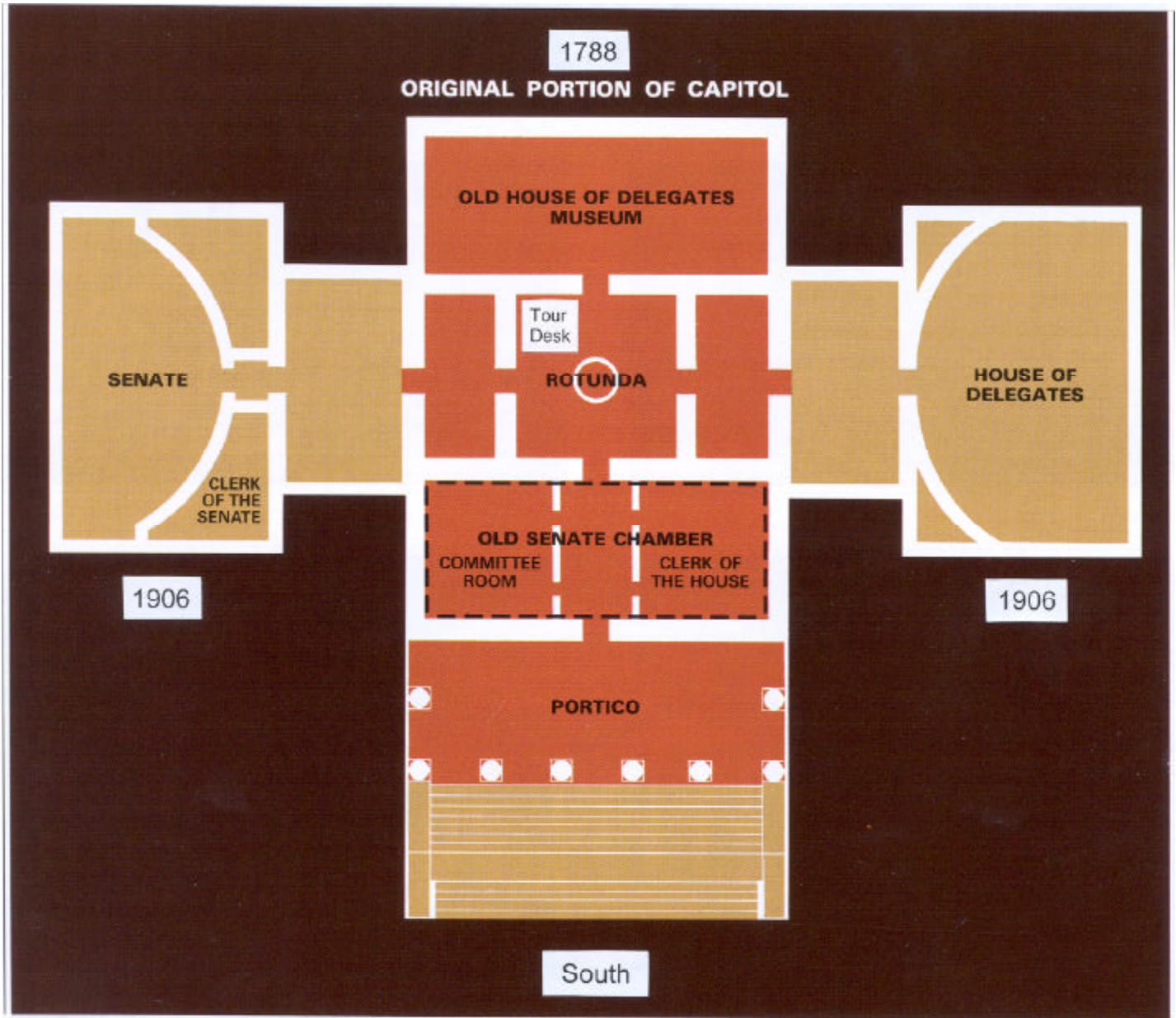


A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF THE VIRGINIA STATE CAPITOL

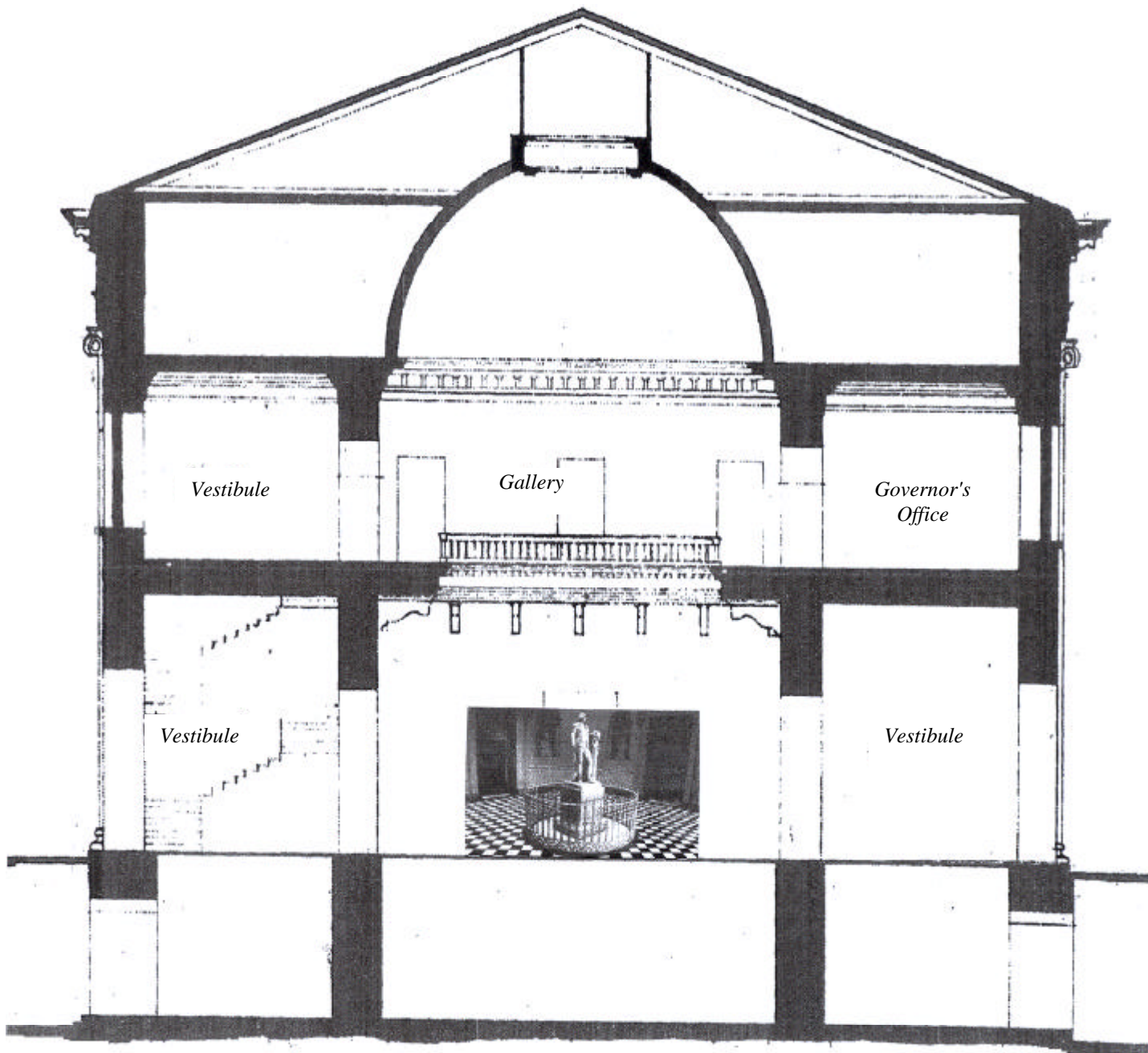
Welcome to Virginia's neoclassical Capitol, home to the oldest English-speaking legislature in the New World. Free guided tours are available, or you may explore on your own. The building plan below shows the **second floor** of the Capitol, including the location of the tour information desk in the Rotunda. The red shaded area in the center shows the original temple-form building designed by Thomas Jefferson and occupied in 1788. The tan shaded areas show the House and Senate wings and the front steps added between 1904 and 1906. Visitors may view paintings in the *Old Senate Chamber*, marble sculpture in the *Rotunda*, and historical objects of interest in the restored *Old House of Delegates Museum*. A portrait gallery of Virginia's Governors and related exhibits are located upstairs on the third floor. Public restrooms and a snack bar with gift shop are located downstairs on the first floor. Enjoy your visit with us and come again.



The Rotunda

A magnificent life-size marble statue of George Washington stands under an interior dome in the two-story Rotunda, located in the central portion of the capitol. The General Assembly commissioned this statue, "of the finest marble and best workmanship," as a tribute to Virginia's most respected citizen-soldier. Thomas Jefferson, America's Minister in Paris, secured the services of the French sculptor Jean-Antoine Houdon. In 1785 Houdon visited Mt. Vernon to take Washington's measurements and mold a life mask of Washington's face, using plaster of Paris. The statue was sculpted in France from fine Italian Carrara marble and shipped to America. Placed in the Rotunda on May 14th, 1796, it has been on nearly continuous display ever since.

A marble bust of the Marquis Lafayette, also done from life by Houdon, is displayed in a wall niche nearby. Lafayette was voted a citizen of Virginia by act of assembly in 1785 for his valuable services in behalf of the Commonwealth during the American Revolution. His bust was received from France in 1789. Marble busts of the Virginia-born presidents who served after Washington--Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor and Woodrow Wilson--were installed in the wall niches of the Rotunda in 1931 using private funds.



TRANSVERSE SECTION
Drawn 1858