Pennsylvania planted this tree on June 6, 1984, in commemoration of D-Day in Normandy.

Pennsylvania bought Harrisburg’s Eighth Ward. Architect Arnold Brunner designed the current layout which includes the North Office Building, Irvis Office Building, Forum and Finance buildings and Soldiers’ Grove.

The Capitol State Building is often referred to as a “Palace of Art” because of its many sculptures, murals and stained-glass windows, most of which use Pennsylvania themes or were made by Pennsylvanians. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 14, 1977. In 1982, the Capitol Preservation Committee “to supervise and coordinate the historic preservation of the State Capitol Building.” The capitol was declared a National Historic Landmark on September 20, 2006, during its centennial.

About the Capitol Complex
The Pennsylvania State Capitol Complex is comprised of the buildings owned by the Commonwealth and are centered around the capitol in Harrisburg.

The Pennsylvania Capitol Grounds, officially named Capitol Park, comprises more than 45 acres. Originally comprising 15 acres, from the lands of John Harris Jr. and U.S. Senator William Maclay, the remaining 29 acres were added when the state bought Harrisburg’s Eighth Ward. Architect Arnold Brunner designed the current layout which includes the North Office Building, Irvis Office Building, Forum and Finance buildings and Soldiers’ Grove.

The state capitol is open to the public regular weekdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; access is restricted on holidays. For information on free capitol tours, visit the website www.pacapitol.com, or call 1-800-868-7672.

Hours: The state capitol is open to the public regular weekdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; access is restricted on weekends, and holidays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 1-800-868-7672 or visit the website www.pacapitol.com, for information on free capitol tours.

For additional information on Pennsylvania and the capitol, visit www.pa.gov or the Capitol Preservation Committee’s website at www.cpc.state.pa.us.
Pennsylvania's
CAPITOL COMPLEX

QUOTES FROM NOTABLE PENNSYLVANIANS can be found around the complex. This quote—"Knowledge is the only foundation on which republics can stand"—by Thaddeus Stevens, is carved into the granite bench on the front plaza.

KEYSTONE—Keystone is an architectural term for the central wedge-shaped stone in an arch which holds all other stones in place. The term "Keystone State" refers to the the strategic geographical location of Pennsylvania among the 13 original colonies, as well as Pennsylvania's key position in the economic, social and political development of the United States. The mosaic granite keystone decorates the Capital steps which were rebuilt in 1928.

BARNARD STATUES—Flanking the main entrance of the Capitol are two groups of statuary by the Pennsylvania sculptor, George Grey Barnard. Barnard's "Love and Labor/The Unbroken Law," on the north face of the left side, and "The Burden of Life/The Broken Law," on the south face or right side. Sculpted in France, the statue was unveiled on October 4, 1911. Barnard, a native of Bellefonte and originator of New York's Cloisters, a museum of medieval art and architecture, died in 1938 and, at his request, was buried in Harrisburg, near his most famous work.

CAPITOL BRONZE DOORS—Each door at the Capitol's main entrance weighs one ton. Each was poured as a single unit into a wax mold by the process known as "cire perdue," or lost wax. This accounts for the intricate details of the relief. The molds were prepared by Otto Jahnsen and the casting was done by Henry Bonnaud Bronze Company. The heads are of politicians and contractors responsible for the Capitol's construction.

DOME STATUE—The 14'6" high gilded bronze statue atop the Capitol Dome, pictured above, is a work entitled "Commonwealth" by Roland Hilton Perry. Perry, who later received an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Pennsylvania State University, was paid $3,000 for the statue, which was completed in 1931. The 14'6" high gilded bronze statue atop the Capitol Dome, pictured above, is a work entitled "Commonwealth" by Roland Hilton Perry. Perry, who later received an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Pennsylvania State University, was paid $3,000 for the statue, which was completed in 1931. The statue is of Pennsylvania's "Keystone State" and "Spring" and was unveiled on September 9, 1931.

DOME—Inspired by the Cathedral of St. Peter's in Rome, the magnificent Capitol Dome, designed by Huston, continues to dominate Harrisburg's skyline. Towering to a height of 272 feet and weighing 52 million pounds, it is a combination of two shells, an inner dome and an outer dome. The Dome is 350 feet long and 354 feet wide and covers two acres of ground.

MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING—Dedicated on October 4, 1906, with keynote address by President Theodore Roosevelt, this Romanesque style building was designed by Joseph M. Huston in the classic style adapted from the architecture of the Italian Renaissance. The five-story exterior is of Vermont granite, and the roof is of green-glazed tile. The building measures 272 feet long and 52 million pounds. Each was poured as a single unit into a wax mold by the process known as "cire perdue," or lost wax. This accounts for the intricate details of the relief.

THE SPEAKER MATTHEW J. RYAN LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING—This restored Italian Renaissance style two-story building, was previously known as the Executive Library and Museum Building. Designed by John T. Windrim, architectural hallmarks include a staircase modeled after the 12th century Senators' Courtyard of the Doges Palace in Venice, Italy. It was what was known as the "museum room" located at the top of the grand staircase. Peter Rothermel's famous 1870 painting, The Battle of Gettysburg, has been photographically replicated slightly smaller than the original painting, which is at the State Museum.

HARTFORD STATUE—The equestrian statue, sculpted by F.W. Ruckstuhl in 1887, of General John F. Hartranft (Governor 1873-1876) was placed in front of the Capitol in 1898, and later moved to its present location. A hero of Antietam, Fredericksburg and Bull Run, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

MEMORIAL TREE—This tree was dedicated in honor of the citizen heroes who resisted terrorism on September 11, 2001, in Somerset, Pennsylvania.

REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. TREE—This tree was dedicated January 15, 1984, in commemoration of the late civil rights leader's 55th birthday. A native tree-planting took place in the capital city of each state at Mrs. Coretta Scott King's request.

COASTAL SURVEY—This sandstone astronomical station pier was monumented in 1877 and includes the latitude (40° 15' 44") and longitude (76° 52' 56") of its location in Degrees/Minutes/Seconds.

BOISE PINE TREE STATUE—Sculpted by Samuel Murray and dedicated in 1930, the statue is located at the foot of Capitol Park and welcomes the just and unjust. Penrose, quite a character in Pennsylvania history, served two years in the State House, 10 years in the State Senate, and then as a U.S. Senator, from 1897 until his death in 1921.

MEXICAN WAR MONUMENT—Erected by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1868 to commemorate her citizens who lost their lives during the war with Mexico from 1846-48. It is the focal point of Capitol Park and the oldest structure standing in the Capitol Complex. The monument was erected by the 1894 Speaker Ryan building and the 1906 Main Capitol. At the time the monument was erected, the original Capitol, erected in 1822 and destroyed by fire in 1897, was in use.

EDISON TREE—This tree was dedicated in Thomas A. Edison's memory by the Engineers Society of Pennsylvania. Dedicated on February 11, 1947, the 100th anniversary of Edison's birth.

RACHEL CARSON STATE OFFICE BUILDING—Designed by Hayes, Large, Suckling and Flitt, this 420,125-square-foot, 16-story office building houses the headquarters of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. This project represents the first venture in extending the traditional Capitol Complex directly into the downtown area.

SPEAKER K. LEROY IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING—In 1916, architect Arnold W. Brunner and landscape architect Warren H. Manning were commissioned to prepare comprehensive plans for the further development of the Capitol Complex. Completed in 1921, and originally named the South Office Building, it was the first step toward the fulfillment of the Brunner Plan. This seven-story, simply designed building has colorful murals by Edward Trumball on its main floor. In 2003, the building was returned the Speaker K. Leroy Irvis Office Building after the first African American to serve as a Speaker of the House in any state legislature in the United States.