

Capitol Grounds Tour

A look at the beautiful park surrounding our Capitol

Monument Map

If you are a person who likes maps (you know I do), then you might want to click [here](#) to see a map of where the monuments are.

Front Yard Monuments

These are the monuments we would see as we walked out of the Visitors Center and headed to the entrance to the Capitol. Here is a photo of the walkway we would take. I have taken many class photos at this spot. If you go sometime in the future, make sure to take a photo here and send it to me.



Tejano Monument

This is one of the first monuments we see when we head out of the Visitors Center. It is pretty new, being added in 2012. This monument pays tribute to the Spanish and Mexican explorers and pioneers who first settled Texas.



Confederate Soldiers

This is usually the second monument we see. It was built in 1903 by veterans who fought for the Confederate States of America. They built it to honor their friends who died in the war. There is some controversy over the Civil War monuments. Many want them taken down since they honor people who fought for slavery. Others want them to remain as a reminder of our history.



Volunteer Firemen

We would walk across the main walkway to see this memorial next. This monument was built in 1896, making it one of the oldest monuments. It was built to honor the firemen of Texas who have lost their lives fighting fires.

Volunteer firemen have other jobs. They don't even get paid to fight fires! Do you know anyone in your town who does this today?



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African American History Memorial

This monument is easy to miss. It's behind the fireman in the yard. You do have to walk a little bit, but it is worth it. It is one of the bigger monuments and very beautiful. The monument honors the many contributions of African Americans. The middle depicts the Juneteenth celebration and many heroes are also on this statue, including Barbara Jordan.



Cowboy Memorial (not the football team)

This monument is located in the yard, but it is closer to the Capitol because it is older. This monument was built in 1925 to honor the cowboys of Texas. The Texas cowboy helped build our state. In fact, Texas cowboys are pretty famous. Many people from other countries sometimes think we are all cowboys because we live here.



Terry's Texas Rangers

After leaving the cowboy monument, we would walk back towards the main sidewalk and see this one. This monument is also a Civil War monument, although many people think it is just about the Texas Rangers. Remember that Terry's Texas Rangers were a special force during the Civil War, taking on many dangerous assignments. This monument was also built in 1905 by veterans of the Civil War.



Alamo Memorial

Right across the sidewalk from Terry's Texas Rangers is this monument, built to honor those who died at the Alamo. This is my favorite monument because you can stand inside and touch the names of those who died that are inscribed on the stone pillars. This was built in 1891. After this, we would begin to walk around the side of the Capitol.



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Side Yard Monuments

These are monuments we would see as we walked around the side of the Capitol building. As you walk around the side of the building, you would see this special stone on the side of the building. It was the first block laid when they began building this Capitol.

I don't have a photo of the cornerstone, but you can click [here](#) to see one and learn all about the celebration they had when they first put the cornerstone in place.

Hood's Brigade

This is the third Civil War monument we will see. This one was also paid for by Civil War veterans. It was built in 1910 to honor Hood's Brigade. You might remember that John Bell Hood, the leader, lost a leg and the use of one arm, but he kept fighting anyway until the war was over.



Disabled Veterans

Although I think of this as a side yard monument, it is closer to the back yard. However, it is off to the side of the back yard in some very nice shade trees. It is a small monument, but it is important as it honors Texas veterans who have been disabled in any war. This monument was built in 1980.



Peace Officers' Memorial

Very close to the Disabled Veterans Memorial is the Peace Officers Memorial. This monument was built in 1999, but it has the names of all Texas peace officers who have been killed in the line of duty since 1823 when Stephen F. Austin organized the first Texas Rangers.



Vietnam War Memorial

This is one of the newer monuments, built in 2014. It honors the 3,417 men and women who died in the Vietnam War. This is a really detailed monument, and I like that you can sit on the benches nearby and look at it. It is also usually in the shade, and I'm tired by this point in the walk.



Backyard Monuments

These monuments are located in what I call the back yard. We usually don't see these until after we finish the tour of the inside of the building, but I'm going to go ahead and show them to you here. They are located between the Capitol Building (the home to the Texas legislative branch) and the Supreme Court (the Texas judicial branch). This is a photo of the Supreme Court of Texas.



WWI

This monument, installed in 1961, honors the 198,000 Texans who fought in the Great War. Do you see those low hedges and cement wall to the left of the monument? Those are to protect the windows IN THE GROUND. That's right. Windows in the ground! Part of our Capitol is underground!!



World War II

This is the World War II monument that was installed in 2007. More than 830,000 Texas soldiers fought in this war. This is an interesting monument because there is one just like it in Washington, D.C.



Statue of Liberty

This monument has an interesting story. It was installed by the Boy Scouts in 1951. When they remodeled the Capitol in the 1990s, they moved it from the front yard to the back yard. They found a time capsule the Boy Scouts had made inside the base. It is supposed to be opened in 2076. They moved the time capsule to a Boy Scout camp near Bastrop. I sure would like to know what was inside!



Pearl Harbor

This monument was installed in 1989 by the Pearl Harbor Survivors of Texas to honor those who were present when Japan launched their surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.



Pioneer Woman

This monument was put up in 1998 to honor the pioneer women who helped build Texas. The monument on the next slide stands right in front of her. I love that she watches over them.



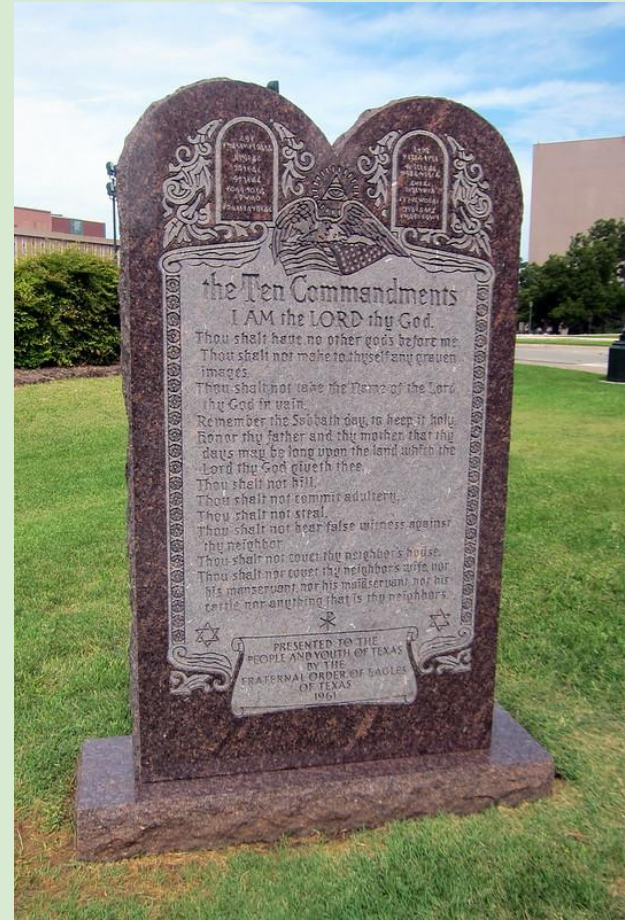
Texas Children

This is usually my students' favorite monument, installed in 1998. For one, it is a monument to honor the children of Texas, so of course, that is nice. The other neat thing is that you can stand right in the middle of them and get your photo taken. Do you see the pioneer mom standing in the background?



Ten Commandments

This monument was installed in 1961. It has the Ten Commandments engraved on it.



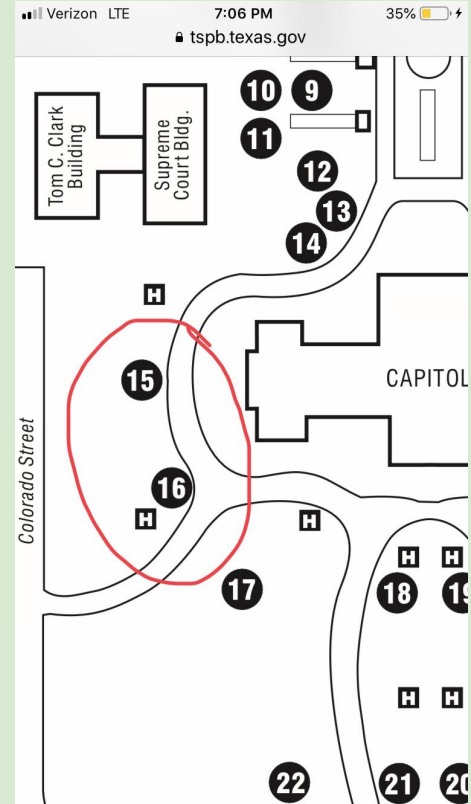
Korean War Memorial

This memorial has a beautiful bronze eagle on top. The base has the names of the over 1,700 Texans killed or missing in action during the Korean War. It was put up in 1999.



Monuments I Have Never Seen In Person

There are three monuments I have never seen. That's because they are out of the way for our tour. Two of them are located on the side of the Capitol, away from the direction we usually walk. The two in the circle are for the Spanish American War and Texas National Guard.



Spanish American War

This monument was put up in 1851. It is often called "The Hiker" because soldiers in this war called themselves hikers. The company that made this statue made one for 23 other states as well.



Texas National Guard

This monument honors the 36th infantry, Texas National Guard. The shape is a copy of their shoulder patch, which they called the "The T-Patch." The unit fought in World War I and World War II. The monument was put on the grounds in 1959.



The Price of Liberty

This monument was built in 2018 to honor the soldiers fighting the War on Terror and their families that they must leave behind. I have never seen this monument because it is located near the Texas State Archives building (seen in the photo to the right). If you want to see the monument, click [here](#).



The archives building contains our special historical artifacts. It is right across the street from the Capitol. We usually unload the bus right across the street.

Photo Credit: Wally Gobetz [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)

Bonus Video

Our next tour is of the INSIDE of the Capitol, both above and below ground. Before you go to that one, you might want to watch this video about the history or our Capitol Grounds. It is short, but it is pretty cool and has a better view of the grounds than this photo. Click [here](#) to watch the video.

