

# Independence

National Historical Park  
Philadelphia  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

The place to start your tour is the park visitor center at 3rd and Chestnut Streets. There you can find out about current programs and activities and view the 28-minute film "Independence," which introduces the park's story. The visitor

center is only one block from the parking garage on 2d Street, between Walnut and Chestnut, where we suggest you park your car.



Reconstructed City Tavern at the corner of Walnut and 2d Streets, is one of the park's prime historical attractions. Feel free to stop by for a brief look or for lunch or dinner served in a relaxed 18th-century atmosphere.

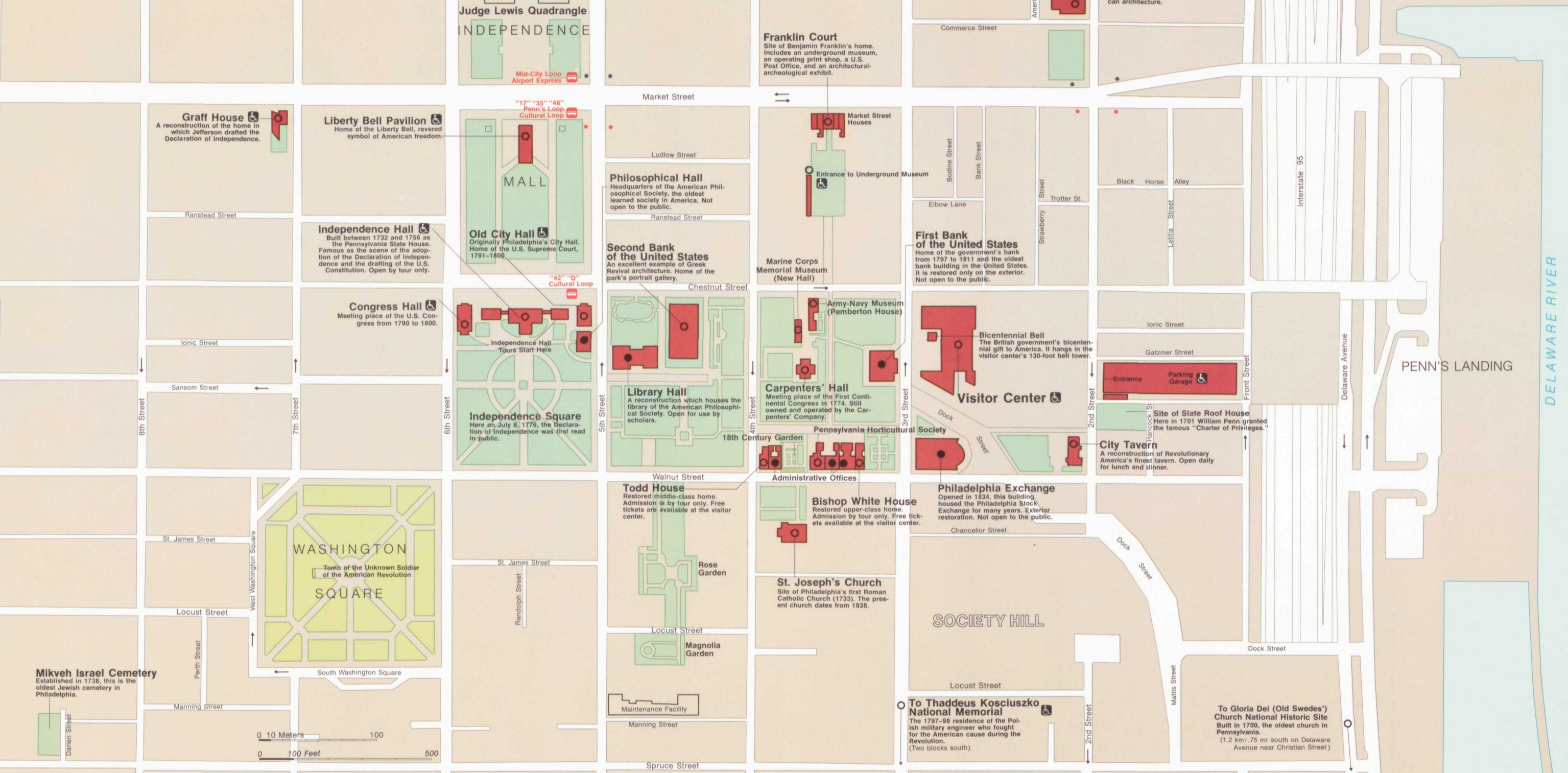
Welcome to Philadelphia and to Independence National Historical Park, where so much of our Colonial, Revolutionary, and Federal-period heritage is preserved. Here, along these old streets and amid these venerated houses and public buildings, Americans began their quest for freedom and independence. Here, too, the United States was born and took shape. We invite you to make the most of your tour of this great historic resource and wish you a relaxed and rewarding visit.

## Park Areas Not Shown on the Map

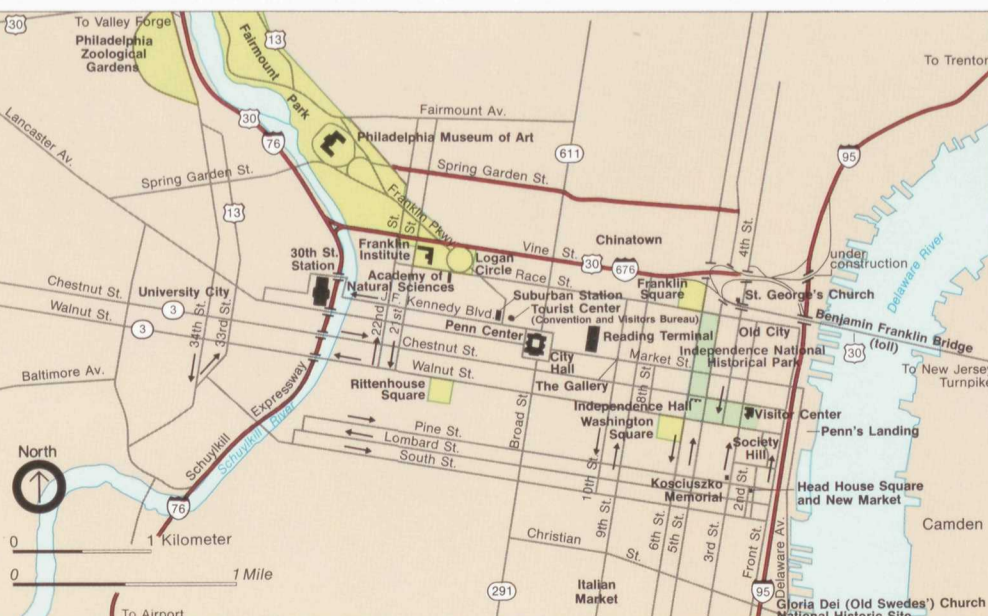
**Deshler-Morris House**  
The home that President George Washington rented during brief periods in 1793 and 1794. (5442 Germantown Avenue, Germantown)

**Benjamin Franklin National Memorial**  
A colossal statue honoring Philadelphia's most famous citizen. Located in the rotunda of the Franklin Institute. (20th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway)

For detailed directions to these park areas, stop at the information desk in the visitor center.



## Visiting the Park



- Independence National Historical Park
- Park building open to public
- Park building closed to public
- At least partial wheelchair access
- Bus stop (not all stops shown)
- East bound subway entrance
- West bound subway entrance

**How to Reach the Park** Each of the following sets of directions will lead you to the parking garage on 2d Street between Walnut and Chestnut Streets. **Eastbound** via I-76 (Schuylkill Expressway): Exit at Vine Street (I-676 and U.S. 30) and follow to 6th Street. Turn right on 6th and follow to Chestnut Street (3 blocks). Turn left on Chestnut and follow to 2d Street. Turn right on 2d Street. **Westbound** via Benjamin Franklin Bridge (U.S. 30): As you come off the bridge, follow the signs to 6th Street (south). From there, follow the same directions as outlined for Eastbound to reach 2d Street. **Southbound** via I-95: Take the Center City exit to 2d Street. **Northbound** via I-95: Exit at Tasker Street. Continue straight ahead on Reed and follow to Delaware Avenue. Turn left on Delaware Avenue and follow to the exit for Market Street (on right). When you reach Market, make an immediate left onto 2d Street.

**Planning Your Tour** Although it is small in total area, the park contains a variety of sites that cannot easily be seen in one day. If you have only a short time to spend, we urge you to visit Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell Pavilion first. If you have more time, here are some additional suggestions on what to see:

**Half-Day Tour**  
Carpenters' Hall (exterior)  
Independence Hall  
Liberty Bell Pavilion  
Franklin Court

**Full-Day Tour**  
Carpenters' Hall  
Independence Hall  
Congress Hall  
Old City Hall  
Graft House  
Liberty Bell Pavilion  
Franklin Court  
Second Bank of the United States

**Where to Start** Begin your tour at the visitor center by seeing the 28-minute film "Independence." Here, too, park rangers can answer your questions and help you to plan your visit. They can also provide information concerning special services for non-English-speaking visitors and for those with disabilities. To help you enjoy the park more fully, books and maps are available at bookstores in the visitor center and the west wing of Independence Hall.

**Hours and Admission** Most park buildings are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The hours of some buildings are extended in summer. There are no admission charges, except at the Deshler-Morris House in Germantown. The hours are subject to change without notice.

Admission to Independence Hall, the Bishop White House, and the Todd House is by tour

only. Free tickets for the Bishop White House and the Todd House should be obtained at the visitor center on the day of your visit. No tickets are required for tours of Independence Hall or for entry to other park buildings. Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis.

**For Your Safety** Don't let your visit be spoiled by an accident. Please be careful crossing Philadelphia's busy streets and watch your step on brick walkways and cobblestone surfaces.

**Administration** Independence National Historical Park is administered by a superintendent, whose address is 313 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. For more information, either write the superintendent or call the park visitor center at (215) 597-8974.

# Philadelphia and the New Nation

The Delaware River, shown here in a 1778 East Prospect View of Philadelphia, was at the center of the city's life during the 18th century. It drew William Penn here in 1682. Later it brought prosperity through a commerce



which exchanged raw materials of the New World for finished products of the Old. It was also a highway bringing settlers to the region. The richness and freedom of Pennsylvania, founded as a haven for Quakers, attracted people of diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds, many of whom settled in Philadelphia. By the time of the Revolution, the city boasted a population of some 25,000, making it the metropolis of British North America.

## Benjamin Franklin and His City

Benjamin Franklin is a fitting symbol of colonial Philadelphia. His boundless energy and firm belief in progress put him at the head of numerous civic improvement projects and human betterment activities. Over the course of half a century, his efforts, and those of his less well-known fellow citizens, helped transform Philadelphia from a simple Quaker town at the edge of a wilderness into the most socially advanced city on the continent.

Among the public enterprises Franklin launched or helped to create were the first firefighting company in America, the first fire insurance company, street lighting and paving, the reorganization of the town watch, a local militia, and Philadelphia's first hospital. His in-

By age 24 Benjamin Franklin (right) owned his own printing business and a newspaper, *The Pennsylvania Gazette*. These proved so lucrative that within 20 years he was able to retire to a life of "philosophic studies"—actually the beginning of his long career as politician, statesman, and diplomat.

Right: The Market Street Houses, three of which were built by Franklin.



quiring mind led him to great discoveries and inventions, but he, like most city leaders, was also concerned with the dissemination of "useful knowledge" and the education of others. He was a prime mover in the founding of the Philadelphia Academy (now the University of Pennsylvania), the establishment of the first subscription library, and the inception of the American Philosophical Society.

In politics, he was an early advocate of confederation, sought to wrest control of Pennsylvania from the Penn family, and, in London, effectively represented the colonies in their growing dispute with England, foreshadowing the larger roles both he and his city would assume in what John Adams called "the most

complete, unexpected, and remarkable [revolution] in the history of nations." In his 70s, as a member of the Second Continental Congress, Franklin drafted a Plan of Union for the Colonies, organized the Post Office, and served on commissions which sought Canadian cooperation against the British and advised Gen. George Washington on matters of defense. He also served on the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence and helped to negotiate treaties of commerce and defensive alliance with France. At 81 he took part in the Constitutional Convention and urged unanimous adoption of the Constitution. Franklin spent the last 5 years of his life in his "good house" near Market Street in what is now Franklin Court.

## Birthplace of a Nation

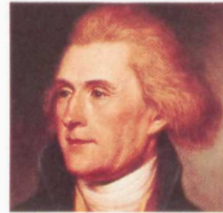


A small exhibit of Windsor chairs and other memorabilia inside Carpenters' Hall reminds visitors that it was here, in 1774, that delegates to the First Continental

Congress met to air their grievances against King George III.



Working alone in his rented rooms in Jacob Graff's house (above), Thomas Jefferson (right) authored the "original rough draft" of the most famous document of the Revolution—the Declaration of Independence.



Built between 1732 and 1756 as the Pennsylvania capitol, the State House (now Independence Hall) is famous as the place where the Dec-

laration of Independence was adopted and the U.S. Constitution was drafted. Flanking the State House and its two Wing buildings are Old City Hall (far left), home of the U.S. Supreme

The Liberty Bell, traditionally associated with the events of the American Revolution, has become an international symbol of freedom.



The Second Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention held their sessions here in the Assembly Room of the Pennsylvania State House (now Independ-

ence Hall). Here the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776, the Articles of Confederation were ratified in 1781, and the Constitution was framed in 1787.

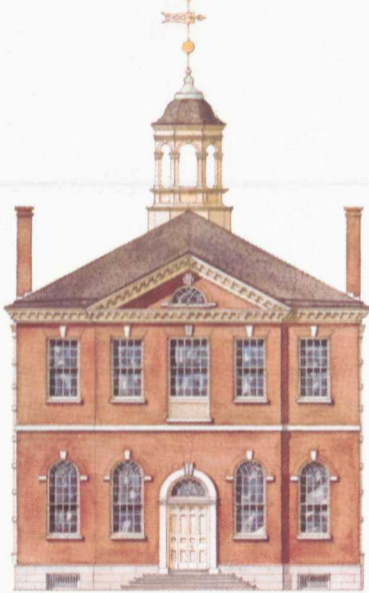


Built on the eve of the Revolution, Philadelphia's elegant City Tavern (above) hosted grand public entertainments as well as private functions.

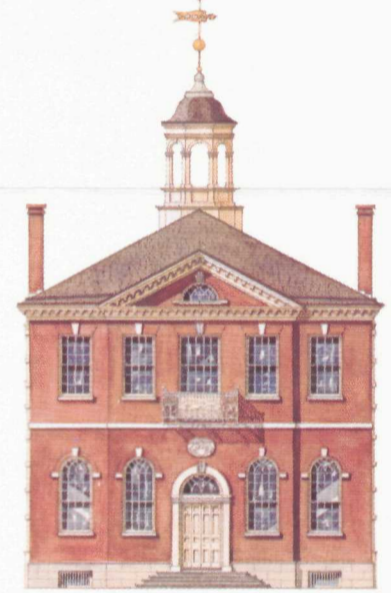


The sun carving on the back of the chair used by George Washington during the Constitutional Convention fascinated Benjamin Franklin throughout the proceed-

ings. After the Constitution was adopted, he confidently proclaimed the design "a rising and not a setting sun."



Court from 1791 to 1800, and Congress Hall (right), formerly the County Courthouse and the meeting place of the U.S. Congress from 1790 to 1800.



When the First Continental Congress met to decide ways of recovering certain colonial rights and liberties violated by various acts of the British government, Philadelphia was the logical choice for the meeting. The principal city of the Colonies, it offered not only all the amenities the delegates needed but also a central location between North and South, a major consideration in an era of slow, tedious, and sometimes dangerous travel.

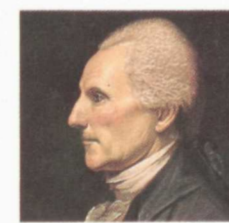
The Congress convened at Carpenters' Hall in September 1774 and addressed a declaration of rights and grievances to King George III. The delegates also agreed to boycott English goods and resolved that, unless their grievances were redressed, a second Congress should assemble the following spring. England did nothing to

satisfy American complaints, and by the time the Second Continental Congress gathered at the Pennsylvania State House on May 10, 1775, the situation had worsened. Armed conflict had broken out at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts, and Congressional delegates were now called upon to direct a war which few desired. Reluctantly they moved from protest to resistance, assuming authority over provincial troops at Boston and appointing George Washington commander in chief "of all continental forces, raised, or to be raised, for the defence of American liberty."

For nearly a year, while fighting continued, Congress sought unsuccessfully for ways to resolve the dispute between England and the Colonies. No demand for independence was

made until June 1776, when Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee offered a resolution declaring "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States," and calling for the establishment of foreign alliances and a plan of confederation. In response, Congress appointed a committee to draft a declaration "setting forth the causes which impelled us to this mighty resolution." Most of the work of the committee fell to young Thomas Jefferson who, basing his draft on the broad foundation of universal human rights, crafted a document which transcended the politics of the moment. Congress passed Lee's resolution on July 2, and two days later adopted the Declaration. The 1778 alliance with France legitimized American independence.

A committee organized to cope with the matter of confederation quickly provided a draft report, "Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union," which Congress debated intermittently for nearly a year before adopting it as the first constitution of the United States on November 15, 1777. Ratified on March 1, 1781, the Articles of Confederation were more a "league of friendship" among independent States than a true act of Union, but they governed the United States from the final years of the war, through the peace negotiations, and into the early years of nationhood. Their failure to provide for a strong central government, however, led to the calling of a "Grand Convention" in Philadelphia in 1787 to revise the document. Revision proved impossible and convention delegates set about



Virginian Richard Henry Lee introduced the resolution for independence into the Second Continental Congress. He refused to serve as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention and led the Virginia opposition to the new Constitution.

to create an entirely new charter that would supplant the Articles as the law of the land. The result was the Constitution of the United States, formally adopted on September 17, 1787, and ratified the next year.

By this time Philadelphia was no longer the home of the national government. Mutinous Pennsylvania soldiers, demanding back pay from their State government, had surrounded the State House in 1783, and a nervous Congress decamped to Princeton. It subsequently moved to Annapolis and Trenton before finally ending up in New York City. One of the first orders of business for the Pennsylvania representatives to the new government under the Constitution was to try to bring the capital back to Philadelphia, where the Nation had been born and nurtured, and where it had taken its first tenuous steps toward an uncertain future.

## The National Capital

The U.S. Government under the Constitution began in New York City on March 4, 1789. In 1790 it came to Philadelphia, the result of a compromise whereby Southern congressmen agreed to support Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton's financial proposals in return for locating a permanent capital somewhere on the banks of the Potomac River. Philadelphia was named temporary capital while the new Federal city was being prepared.

Many Philadelphians hoped that, once here, the government could be persuaded to stay, and they spared no effort to make it comfortable. The new County Courthouse, on the west side of the State House, was prepared for the use of Congress, while the new City Hall, on the



As Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton was instrumental in putting the country on a firm financial foundation. His disputes with Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson led to the beginning of America's two-party system of government.

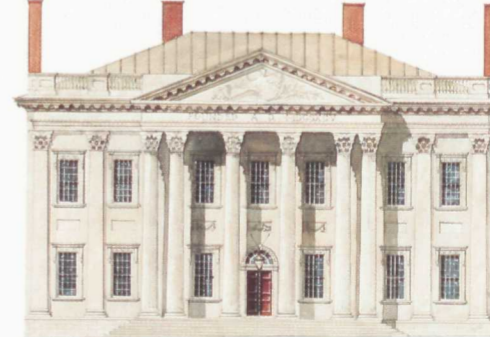
east side, was readied for sessions of the Supreme Court. Robert Morris made his elegant mansion available for President Washington and his family.

The decade during which Philadelphia served as the capital was a time of "firsts" and precedent-setting decisions, including the inauguration of Washington for his second term, the formal addition of the Bill of Rights to the Constitution, the establishment of the Mint and the First Bank of the United States, and the admission of the first new States (Vermont, Kentucky, and Tennessee) to the Union. It was here too that the Federal Government weathered the first internal threat to its authority (the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794) and the first external threats from foreign powers. In 1793, French minister Edmund Genet's disregard of America's proclaimed neutrality in the war then raging between England and France drew a stern rebuke



For the most part, the new government utilized existing buildings, such as the County Courthouse (now Congress Hall), whose restored

Senate Chamber is shown above. The First Bank of the United States (right) was one of the two new buildings constructed.



from the Washington Administration, the first of a series of diplomatic disputes which, 5 years later, ended the Franco-American alliance of 1778 and brought the two nations to undeclared war. The United States and England were also on the brink of hostilities over problems arising out of the 1783 peace treaty and the seizure of American ships. Jay's Treaty, debated and ratified in Congress Hall, resolved the difficulties and averted war.

When Philadelphia ceased to be the capital in 1800, it never regained its supremacy as the country's principal city. But the events which took place here made Philadelphia an enduring symbol of the ideas and ideals of this Nation's beginnings.