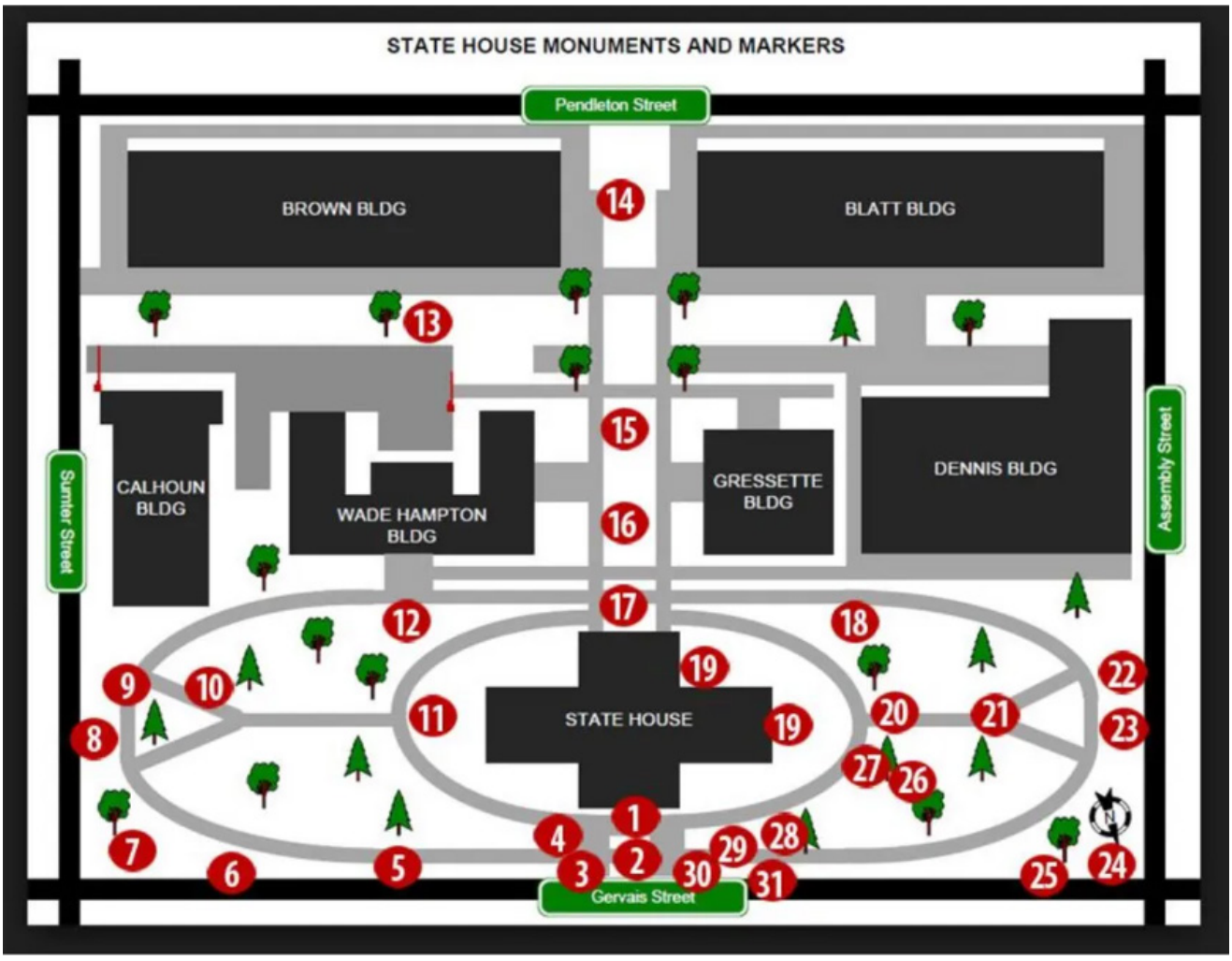
HOW TO

Visit the Statehouse Grounds

Visiting the Statehouse is an important part of advocacy work. Whether you're meeting with legislators, attending a committee hearing, or participating in an advocacy day, planning ahead helps ensure your visit runs smoothly.



Before You Go

- Confirm the date, time, and location of your meeting or event. Many take place in nearby legislative office buildings, not inside the Statehouse itself.
- Allow time for traffic and parking in downtown Columbia.
- The South Carolina Statehouse is located at 1100 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC 29201.
- Plan to arrive 15–30 minutes early to allow time for security screening and walking between buildings.

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Parking Information

There are several nearby parking options, both free and paid:

Free Metered Parking
Street parking is free after 6:00 p.m. and on weekends. Be mindful of posted time limits during business hours.

Accessible Parking
Accessible spaces are available near the Visitor Center and on the Sumter Street side of the Statehouse.

Nearby Parking Garages

- Taylor Street Garage – 1100 Taylor Street (entrance on Assembly St.)
- Cannon Garage – 1227 Taylor Street
- Washington Street Garage – 1100 Washington Street

Most garages accept cash or credit cards. Rates are hourly.

Entering the Statehouse

- The public entrance is on Sumter Street (the west side of the building).
- All visitors pass through security screening, including metal detectors and bag checks.
- Large bags or signs may be restricted.
- Once inside, the first floor includes the main lobby, visitor information, and entrances to the House and Senate chambers.

Legislative Office Buildings

Most legislators' offices and committee hearings are held in the two legislative buildings across from the Statehouse.

Blatt Building (House of Representatives)

- Address: 1105 Pendleton Street
- Houses the offices of House members and House committee rooms.
- Visitors enter through the main entrance on Pendleton Street, where you'll go through security screening.
- House meetings, hearings, and press conferences are typically held here.
- The building sits directly behind the Gressette Building.

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Gressette Building (Senate)

- Address: 1101 Pendleton Street
- Houses the offices of Senators and Senate committee rooms.
- Public entry is on Pendleton Street, with security screening at the door.
- Senate meetings, hearings, and press conferences are typically held here.
- The building sits directly behind the Statehouse, adjacent to the Blatt Building.

Meeting with Legislators

- Check in at the reception desk inside the Blatt or Gressette building if you have an appointment.
- Be courteous and patient. Legislators' schedules can change quickly during session.
- If your legislator is unavailable, leave a note or handout with their administrative assistant.
- Keep your conversation brief, clear, and respectful.

Additional Tips

- Dress professionally. Business or business-casual attire is best for legislative meetings.
- Be respectful. Staff and law enforcement are there to help; following directions helps visits run smoothly.
- Bring printed materials. Leave behind a short, clear handout if you're meeting with lawmakers or staff.
- Allow extra time. Committee meetings may run long or move between rooms
- Photography is permitted in public areas but not during floor sessions.