

Madison, Wisconsin

In the early 1800's, James Duane Doty bought 1200 acres for \$1,500 on the high ground between lakes Monona and Mendota. He platted a grid of streets and took his paper city to the territorial legislature in Belmont WI. In 1836, he talked them into moving the legislature to Madison. It became the state capital in 1848 when Wisconsin became a state. The capital city, Madison, is named for the fourth President of the U.S.

State Capital Building

The first capital was constructed in June 1837 for \$60,000. This was rebuilt in 1869, and then rebuilt again over the period of 1906-1917 to construct the large structure that you see today. The dome is made of granite on which rests the gilded bronze statue "Wisconsin" symbolizing the state motto "Forward". This is the only dome in the nation made of granite and is the second highest in the U.S., just 17 inches shorter than the building it is modeled after, the nation's capital in Washington D.C.

Overture Center

This cultural art center completed last year, is a state of the art facility containing three theaters, four art galleries, a Museum of Contemporary Art, meeting rooms, and a beautiful glass lobby. It has been funded by W. Jerome Frautschi with a donation of \$205 million dollars. The Overture Hall theater seats 2250 and has exceptional acoustics and an intimate theater experience. The Overture Hall boasts a dedicated concert organ built in Germany weighing 175 tons that is moved forward when needed and then moved back for storage to the rear of the stage. It also houses the Capital Theater seating 2500, an old opulent movie theater initially built in 1928 for silent films

Olbrich Botanical Garden

This garden comprises 16 acres of outdoor gardens, a conservatory and a Thai pavilion. The gardens have displays of perennials and annuals emphasizing a rose garden and herb areas. The year-around tropical conservatory houses many exotic plants, a waterfall and floating plants. The unique Thai pavilion and garden is the only one in the continental United States.

University of Wisconsin – Madison

The territorial legislature created the University of Wisconsin in 1835 just west of the capital along the shores of Lake Mendota. The first class of two graduated in 1854. It became the primary university in the state because the Letters and Science College, was combined with Colleges of Agriculture, Engineering, and Medicine. It is a major research university, with nearly 9,000 of its 41,500 students working on graduate degrees. The first Madison curling rink was constructed in 1921 under the bleachers of the old football stadium.