

A TIMELINE of forgotten capitals

- **Philadelphia, PA:** Sep. 5-Oct. 24 1774; May 10, 1775-Dec. 12, 1776; Mar. 4-Sep. 18, 1777; July 2, 1778-June 21, 1783; Dec. 6, 1790-May 14, 1800
- **Baltimore, MD:** Dec. 20, 1776-Feb. 27, 1777
- **Lancaster, PA:** Sep. 27, 1777
- **York, PA:** Sep. 30, 1777-June 27, 1778
- **Princeton, NJ:** June 30-Nov. 4, 1783
- **Annapolis, MD:** Nov. 26, 1783-Aug. 19, 1784
- **Trenton, NJ:** Nov. 1 - Dec. 24, 1784
- **New York City, NY:** Autumn 1788; March 4, 1789-Aug. 12, 1790
- **Washington, D.C.:** Nov. 17, 1800-present

UPCOMING EVENTS & TOURS at select forgotten capitals

[Fort McHenry, Baltimore](#) - Guided Tours

["Wondrous Space"](#) - Franklin Institute, Philadelphia

[The Maryland State House](#), Annapolis - Guided Tours

[St. Paul's Cathedral & Cemetery](#), New York - Guided Tours

["Live from New Amsterdam: The First American Global City"](#) - New York Historical Society, New York

VISITOR GUIDE

January 2024

Prior to the Residence Act of 1790, the seat of our federal government shifted between New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. The process was cumbersome, but it enriched our heritage. In January, make a New Year's resolution to learn more about American history. Take a step outside the Beltway to discover our Forgotten Capitals. It's an easy commute to select spots that played a key role in shaping our identity.

New York, founded 1624

- [Federal Hall](#) - Site of first Congress, Supreme Court, and Executive Branch offices.
- [St. Paul's Chapel \(at Trinity Church\)](#) - Washington joined services here after taking Presidential oath of office.
- **Stone Street** - One of Manhattan's oldest cobblestone streets with old world Amsterdam charm.

Annapolis, founded 1649

- [Maryland State House](#) - Where Washington resigned his military commission to become President.
- [William Paca House](#) - MD Governor & signer of the Declaration of Independence.
- [US Naval Academy](#) - Crypt of John Paul Jones & the Ship/Seapower Museum.

Philadelphia, founded 1681

- [Independence Hall](#) - Declaration of Independence and the Constitution debated and adopted here.
- [Betsy Ross House](#) - Birthplace of the American flag.
- [Museum of the Revolution](#) - History of our first steps toward liberty, equality, and self-government.

Baltimore, founded 1729

- **Broadway Market** - Earliest public market est. 1786.
- [Mt Vernon Historic Area](#) - City's oldest neighborhood.
- [Historic Ships](#) - Snapshot of life at sea during early era.

CONTACT US

Discover the history, architecture, and life on the Hill. Please contact **Julianne Young** at Julianne.Young@mail.house.gov to schedule.

