

Meeting Sites of the Court

Welcome to the Supreme Court of the United States! Since 1935, this building has been home to the nation's highest Court, but did you know that the Supreme Court hasn't always been here in Washington, D.C.? By law, the Supreme Court must meet in the nation's capital. Where was the nation's capital located before Washington became the capital city?



The Supreme Court held its first session on February 2, 1790 in **New York City** in a building known as The Exchange. In late 1790, when the federal government moved to **Philadelphia**, the Supreme Court followed and met there in three adjoining buildings. In 1800, when the federal government moved to **Washington, D.C.**, there were no plans for a separate building to house the Supreme Court. For more than 130 years, the Court met in several spaces within the U.S. Capitol Building. The Supreme Court Building, designed by Cass Gilbert, was constructed in the early 1930s. On October 7, 1935, the Justices sat for the first time in their new building.