

## Louisiana's Old State Capitol: Our Front Door

Careful observation, analysis, and research can help us learn more! Until 1884, this was the main entrance to the Old State Capitol, pictured on the right. The building is located on a hill with the front door facing the Mississippi River.

In 1884, the building was restored after a devastating fire. New Orleans architect William Freret added a fourth floor as well as a grand circular staircase and central rotunda inside. He also changed the main entrance by adding a new one on the North side of the building, facing North Boulevard in downtown Baton Rouge.

Can you guess why the location of the main entrance was changed? Can history and the changing habits of man tell us why? Think about how the town has changed over time, how transportation has changed, and, if you've visited, what you first see as you enter.

What kind of research would improve your answer? What does observing just the main entrance tell us about our history, our humanity, how this building fits within it?

