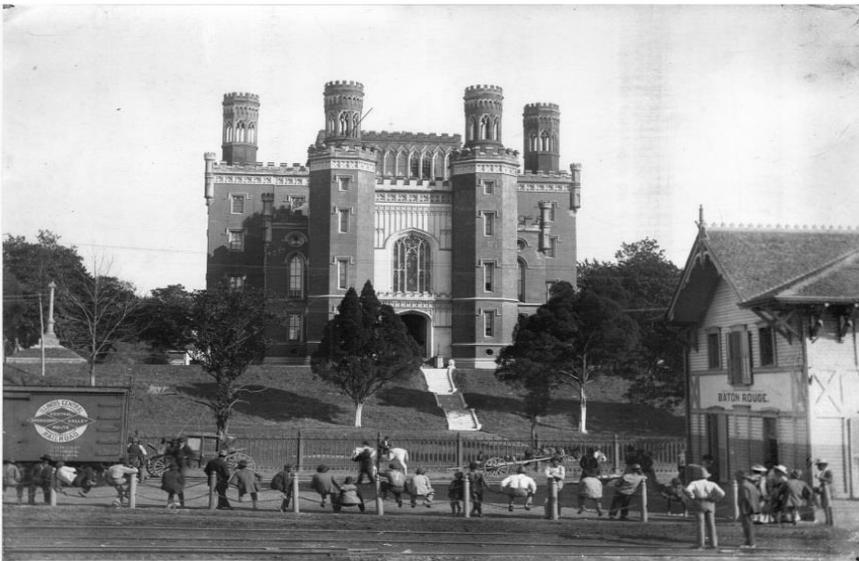


# Historical Changes in Detail

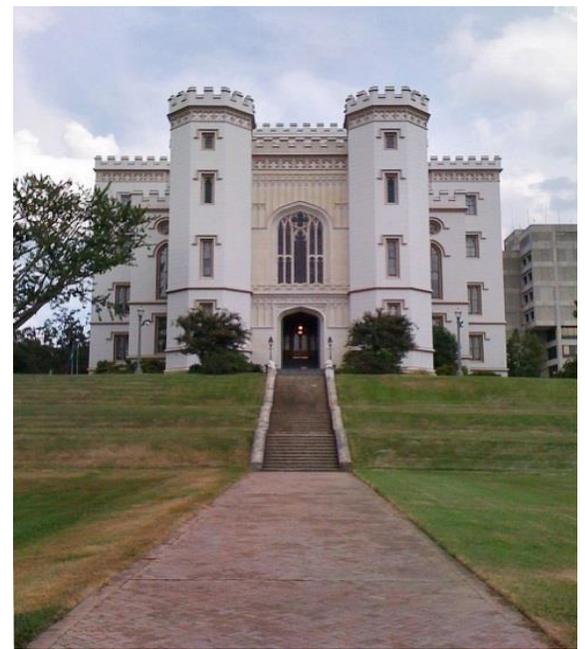
**A building's changes over times reflect the culture, the technology, and the people it represents. What does this artifact tell you?**

Produce a written paper showing how the Old State Capitol, an artifact that has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been designated a National Historic Landmark, has changed over time and why. Focus on one of the ideas below, or develop your own after visiting the Old State Capitol. Back up your statements with visual evidence and research.

- **Where to enter?** The main entrance is now on North Boulevard but it used to face the Mississippi River to the West.
- **New Architect/new look:** Many years after the State House, as it was called then, was destroyed by the Northern army, the Capitol was rebuilt on the same site. Explain why certain changes were made from the original 1850 building to William Freret's 1882 creation.
- **Where to go?** It is possible there once was an outhouse that looked like a "mini" castle on the grounds. Indoor restrooms were added in 1903 - for men only. Why?
- **The setting:** At one time, the grounds were fantastical gardens, but have changed over time. What is the significance of the features of today's setting for the Old State Capitol?
- **Adapting "to code:"** Today, buildings must be considered safe for the public according to regulations set by the state Fire Marshall. What decisions were made to accommodate mandatory staircases, additional exits, and fire suppression systems? How would you have done things differently?
- **Making it "cool" or hot:** When modern air-conditioning was added, decisions had to be made so that modern technology could be camouflaged within a "period appropriate" building. How was this done?



*Louisiana's Old State Capitol, c. 1882*



*Louisiana's Old State Capitol, 2012*



*Look carefully for a small white building to the right of the Old State Capitol built in the same style. It was used as a Post Office in later years and then torn down. What do you think its original use was for?*