Nov. 15, 1837

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Nov. 15, 1837, the day Missouri’s first Capitol burned

It was late evening when someone saw smoke coming from the building. Oddly enough, there was a fire alarm, but not a fire department in the 11-year-old City of Jefferson. Within three years, Jefferson City would see its first fire company situated near the Capitol.

Not many details are known about the fire. The original Governor’s Mansion was next door. During the Capitol fire, wet blankets were put on the roof of the mansion, which helped to keep that structure from burning.

Within three years, a new Capitol would be built. Its wooden dome would be hit by lighting in 1911, resulting in a *third* Capitol, which remains in-use to this day.

The site where the first Capitol stood became the location for a new Governor’s Mansion in 1871, and still stands today.

November 15, 1837, the date marking the day the first Missouri Capitol burned to the ground, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: Missouri secretary of state Web site; Jefferson City Fire Department history webpage; ‘A Look Back,’ from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Feb. 3, 2013)