

Iowa State Capitol

**Capitol Interior
Cell Phone
Walking Tour**



Iowa State Capitol Self-Guided Tour

\$1.00

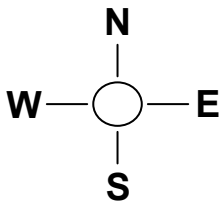
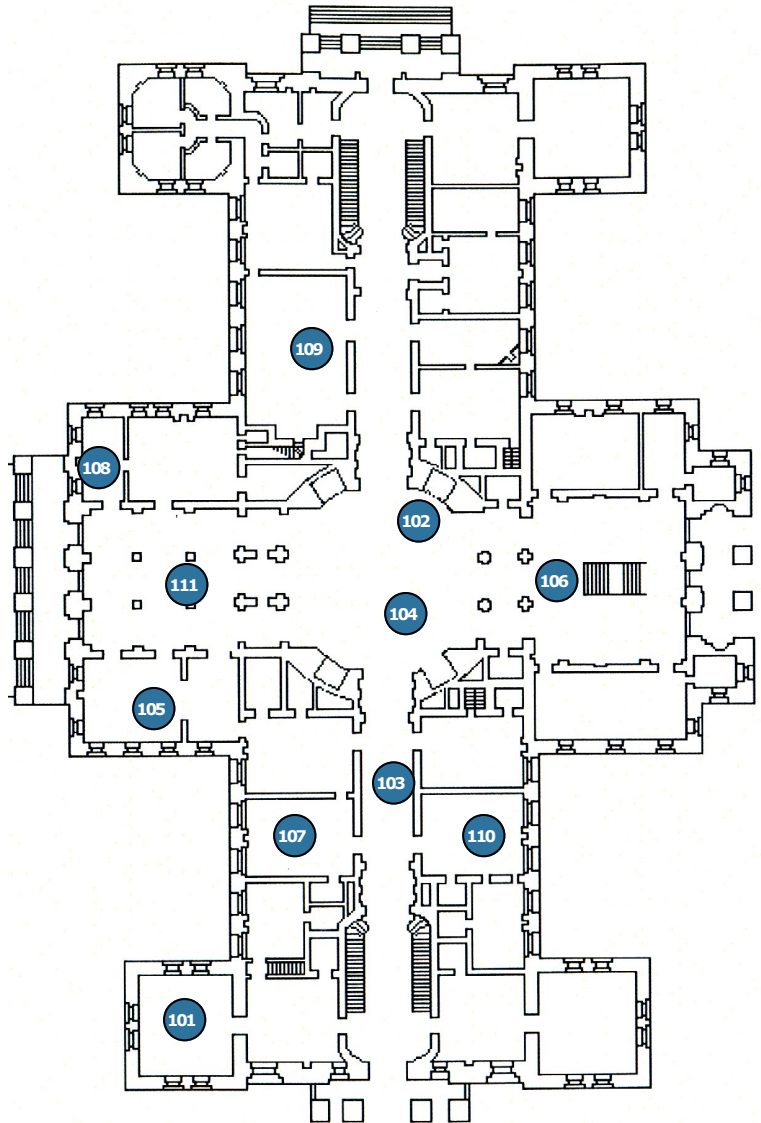
Stop
Number
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Capitol Interior Cell Phone Tour Map

First Floor

- 101—Auditor's Office
- 102—Battle Flags
- 103—Doll Collection
- 104—First-floor Rotunda
- 105—Governor's Office
- 106—Grand Staircase
- 107—Lieutenant Governor's Office
- 108—Secretary of State's Office
- 109—Supreme Court
- 110—Treasurer's Office
- 111—U.S.S. *Iowa* Model

First Floor



Cell Phone and Smartphone Audio and Video Tours—515-802-3004

Capitol Interior Cell Phone Tour Map

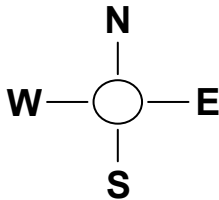
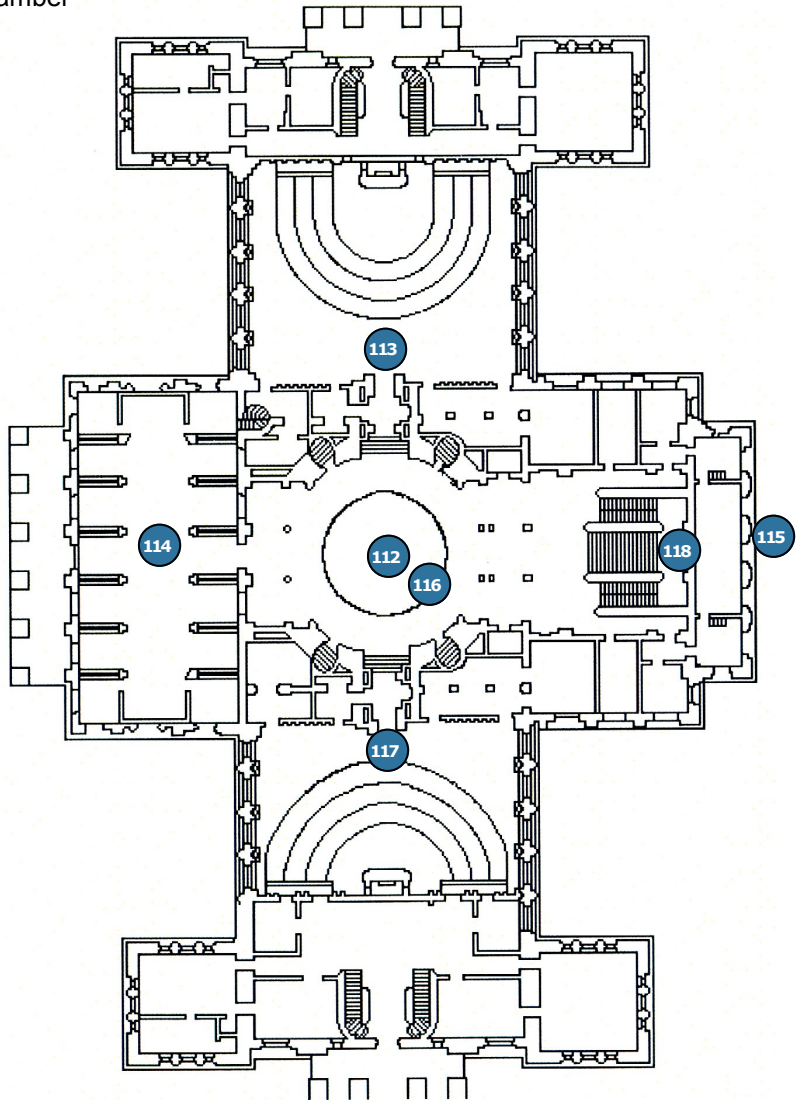
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Number



Second Floor

- 112—G.A.R. Banner
- 113—House of Representatives Chamber
- 114—Law Library
- 115—Mosaics
- 116—Second-floor Rotunda
- 117—Senate Chamber
- 118—Westward Mural

Second Floor



To begin your tour, dial the number and enter the stop number.

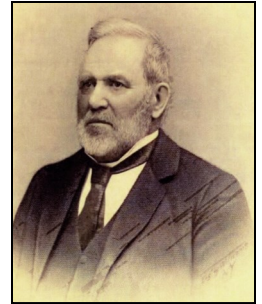
Capitol History

In 1870, the Iowa Legislature passed an act creating a Board of Commissioners. The purpose of the board was to select a plan for a new Capitol, authorize construction, and keep the cost under \$1.5 million.

A competition was held for construction ideas and many plans for the “new Capitol” were submitted. The Commissioners subsequently chose an architectural plan submitted by John Cochran and Alfred Piquenard.

In 1869, Cochran and Piquenard had been hired to design the Illinois Capitol in Springfield.

With two assistants, Mifflin Bell and William Hackney, Cochran and Piquenard also took on the project of designing and overseeing the building of the Iowa Capitol.



Robert Finkbine
Superintendent of Construction

Construction began on the building in 1871. Cochran left the firm before work began on the Iowa Capitol. Piquenard passed away in 1876. Bell left the project to go to Washington, D.C., and Hackney was the only architect to stay until the Iowa Capitol was completed in 1886.

A Capitol Commission was selected to oversee the construction of the Capitol. This commission chose the type of stone for the foundation. The foundation was constructed in 1871. During the following winter, the foundation stone crumbled and had to be replaced. It was determined that the stone had been waterlogged. A smaller four-member commission subsequently replaced the first Capitol Commission. By 1873, a second foundation was completed and the cornerstone was placed in the southwest corner. The inscription on the cornerstone reads: **IOWA. A.D. 1873.**

Capitol History

As work progressed on the Capitol, changes were made in the original design—most notably the design of the dome. Piquenard had envisioned a tall, slender dome, but Bell modified that design to create the shorter, larger dome now part of the Capitol.

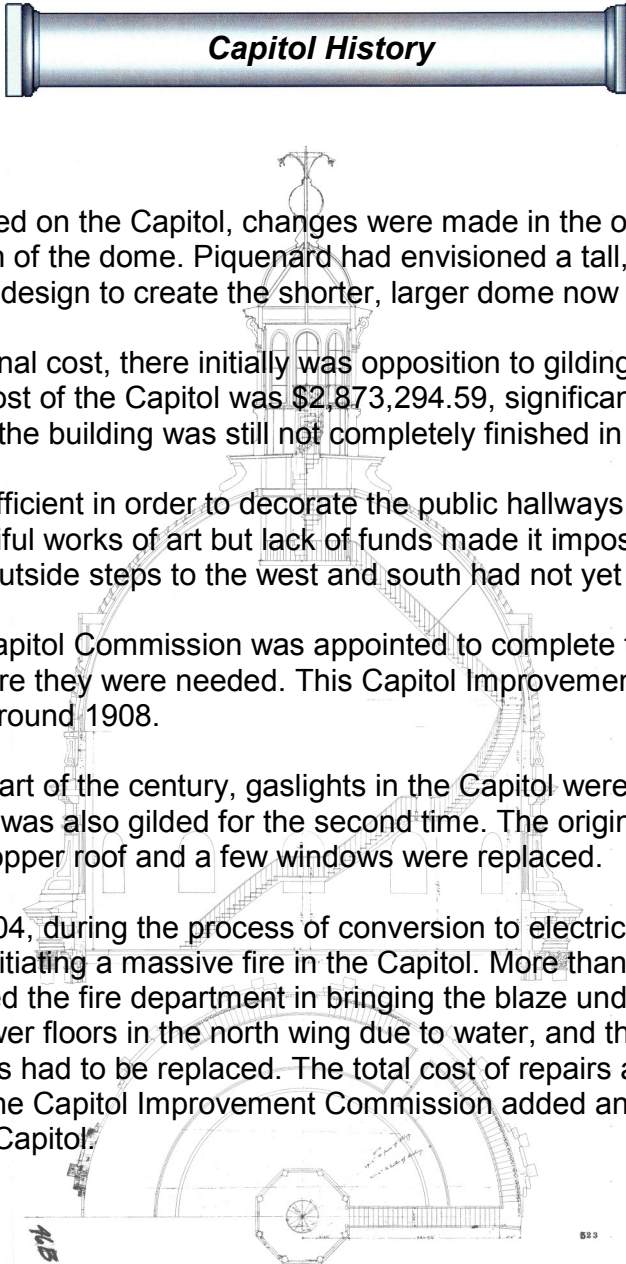
Due to the additional cost, there initially was opposition to gilding the large dome. Even though the final cost of the Capitol was \$2,873,294.59, significantly exceeding the original estimate, the building was still not completely finished in 1886.

Funding was insufficient in order to decorate the public hallways. Space had been planned for beautiful works of art but lack of funds made it impossible to hire the artists. Additionally, the outside steps to the west and south had not yet been completed.

In 1902, a third Capitol Commission was appointed to complete the building and to make repairs where they were needed. This Capitol Improvement Commission completed work around 1908.

During the early part of the century, gaslights in the Capitol were converted to electric lights. The dome was also gilded for the second time. The original slate roof was replaced with a copper roof and a few windows were replaced.

On January 4, 1904, during the process of conversion to electric lights, a worker left a candle burning, initiating a massive fire in the Capitol. More than two hundred volunteers assisted the fire department in bringing the blaze under control. There was damage to the lower floors in the north wing due to water, and the ceiling in the House of Representatives had to be replaced. The total cost of repairs after the fire and the money spent by the Capitol Improvement Commission added an additional \$500,000 to the cost of the Capitol.



Capitol Facts

In addition to serving as the seat of Iowa government, the Capitol is a showcase for artwork, woodcarving, artifacts, and decorative wall and ceiling painting and stenciling. The building's interior features 29 types of marble, as well as many wood varieties.

For more than a century, the golden dome of the Iowa State Capitol has been a symbol of Iowa government and politics. The 23-karat, gold-covered dome rises 275 feet above the Capitol grounds. The gold leaf covering the dome is so thin that 250,000 sheets pressed together would measure only one inch thick. The most recent regilding began in 1998 and was completed in 1999 at a cost of approximately \$482,000.



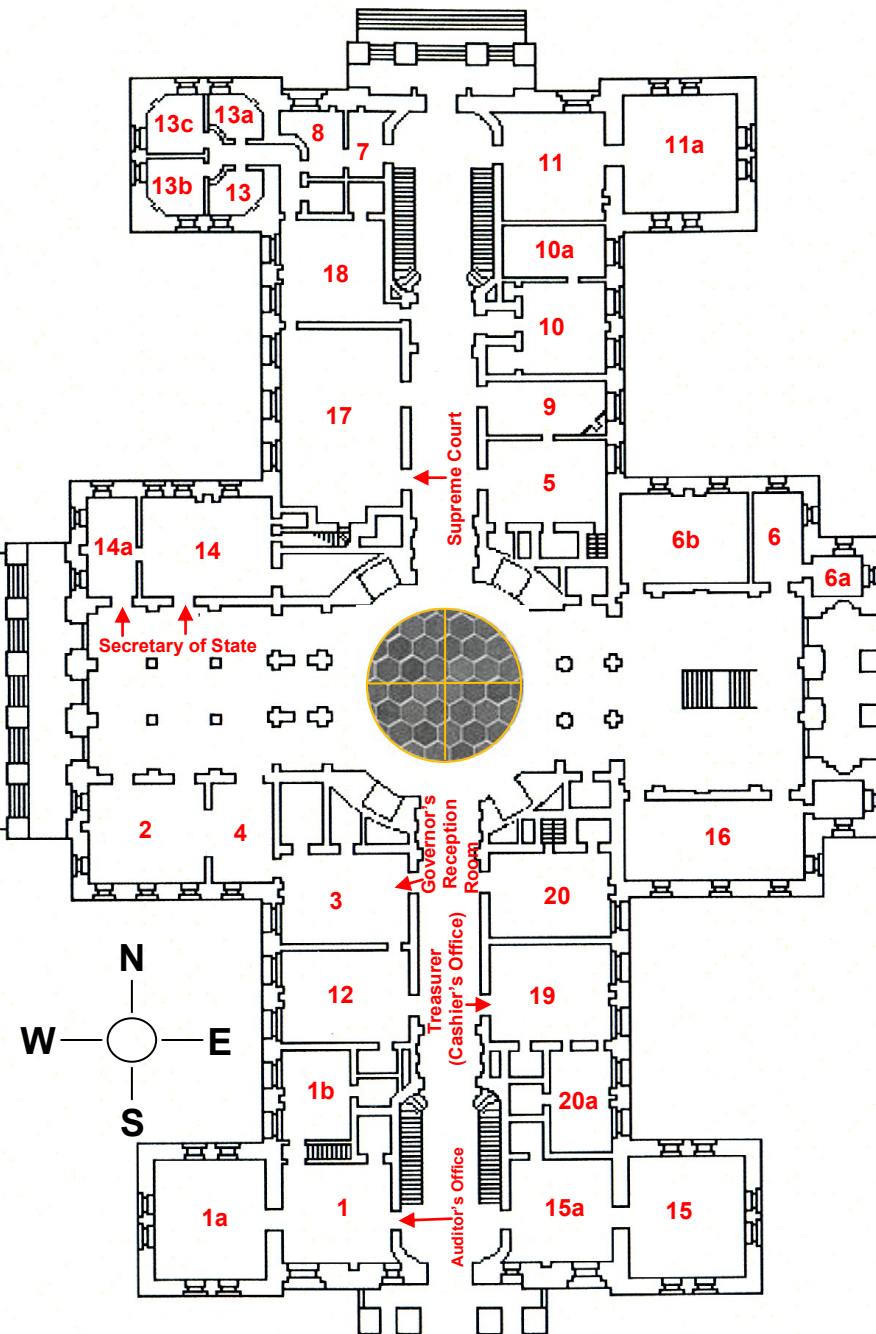
A fire in 1904 destroyed the ceiling and caused extensive damage in the House Chamber. (The Supreme Court Chamber on the first floor below the House was also damaged.) The fire apparently started from a workman's candle left unattended during electrification of the Capitol. Fortunately, many of the original furnishings are still in place in the chambers, which are elegantly decorated and feature beautiful woodwork and marble. Because of the 1904 fire, the artwork on the chamber ceiling of the House of Representatives, is not original but created in 1905 by Elmer Garnsey.



IOWA STATE CAPITOL—GROUND FLOOR



IOWA STATE CAPITOL—FIRST FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

- 1) Auditor's Office* (1a, 1b) - 111
- 2) Governor's Private Office
- 3) Governor's Reception Room* - 109
- 4) Governor's Staff
- 5) House Committee Chairs - 119
- 6) House Democratic Caucus (6a, 6b) - 117, 117A, 118
- 7) House Majority Offices - 101
- 8) House Majority Offices
- 9) House Assistant Minority Leader - 120
- 10) House Minority Leader (10a) - 121
- 11) House Republican Caucus (11a) - 122
- 12) Lieutenant Governor's Office
- 13) Original Supreme Court Justices Offices (13a, 13b, 13c)
- 14) Secretary of State* (14a) - 105
- 15) Senate Democratic Caucus Staff (15a) - 112
- 16) Senate Committee Room - 116
- 17) Supreme Court* - 103
- 18) Supreme Court Consultation Room - 102
- 19) Treasurer (Cashier's Office)* - 113
- 20) Treasurer's Office (20a) - 114

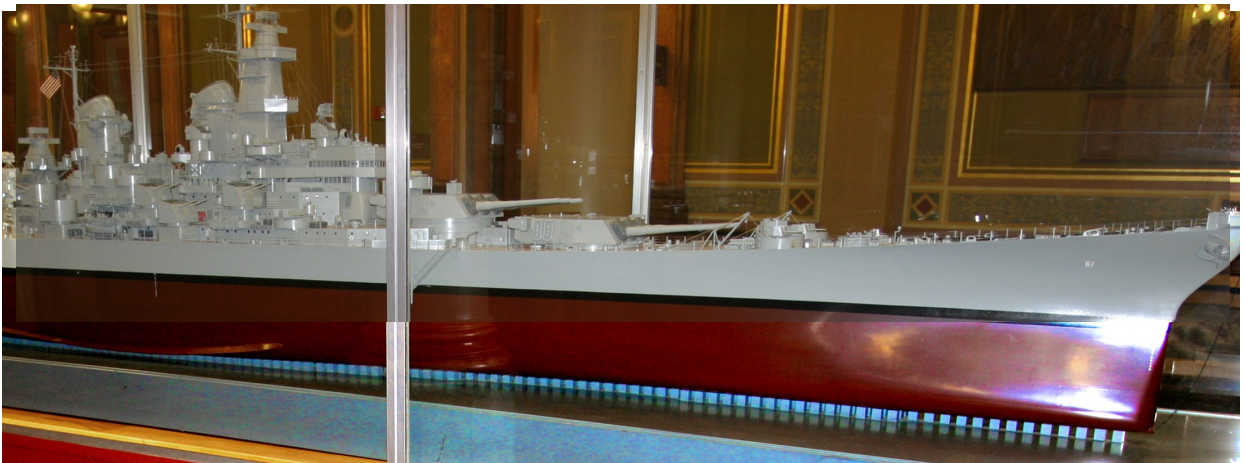
*Indicates areas the public can enter without a tour guide.

Stop 111



Tours begin in the west hallway. This is the location of the Secretary of State's Office and the model of the battleship USS *Iowa*.

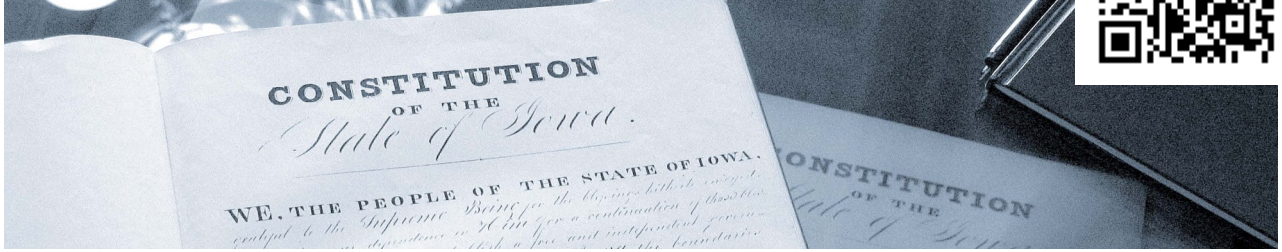
The model is 18 feet seven inches long and weighs approximately 1,350 pounds. It is on loan from the U.S. Navy Department. This battleship was in commission during both World War II and the Korean conflict. It was again commissioned in 1984 and utilized until 1990. A photo slideshow of the USS *Iowa* is displayed near the model.



USS *Iowa* Model

Stop 108

First-Floor Tours



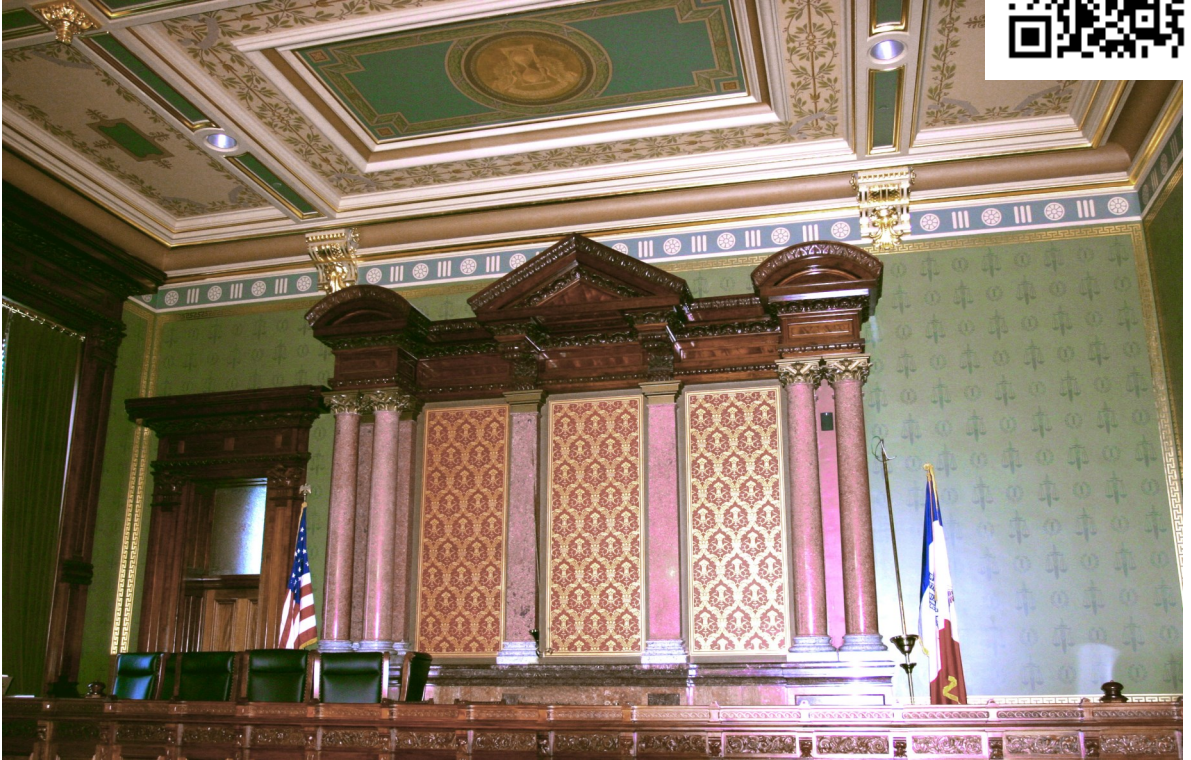
Iowa Secretary of State

The **Iowa Constitution** is on display in the office of the **Secretary of State**. The Iowa Constitution, signed in 1857, was restored in 1988, and is protected in a specially designed case.

The tour continues down the north hallway and into the Capitol Supreme Court Chamber—the first door on the left.

Stop 109

First-Floor Tours



Capitol Supreme Court Chamber

For nearly 120 years, until the new Judicial Building was completed in 2003, Iowa's justices heard cases in the **Old Supreme Court Chamber**. The large, elaborately carved mahogany bench, specially built for the chamber, remains in place. This room now serves as a committee room for the House of Representatives.

When exiting the chamber, turn to the right and continue to the flag case in the center rotunda.



Bench Carvings

Stop 102

First-Floor Tours



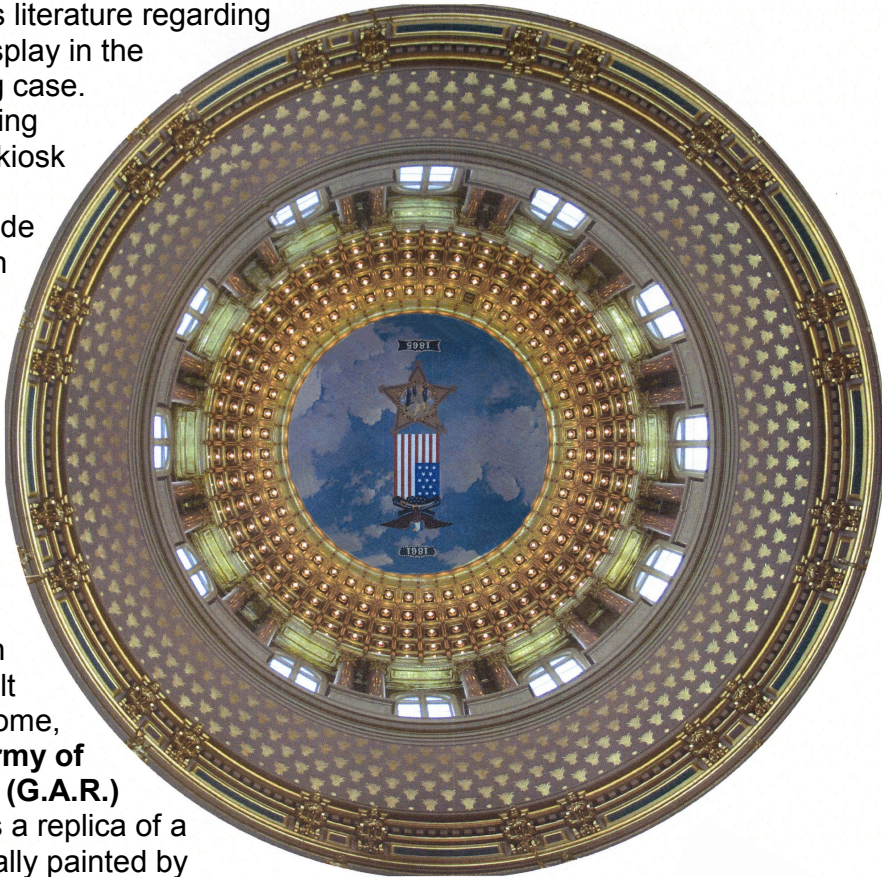
After leaving the Supreme Court Chamber, the tour continues to the rotunda where there is literature regarding the flag on display in the northwest flag case.

This is a rotating display. The kiosk near the case will include information on the particular flag currently on display.

The tour continues to the center of the rotunda.

The banner, stretched high under the vault of the inner dome, is a **Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) emblem**. It is a replica of a banner originally painted by Joseph Czizek on the occasion of a Des Moines convention of the G.A.R. The banner, placed there as a reminder of Iowa's efforts to preserve the Union during the Civil War, is retained as a permanent decoration by order of Governor Nathan E. Kendall in 1922. A painted sky with clouds was added to the interior of the dome during recent renovations.

The tour continues to the south hallway.



Stop 110

First-Floor Tours



Capitol State Treasurer's Office

On the east side of the south hallway close to the rotunda area is the **Treasurer's Office**. The Treasurer's area is a three-room suite. The Treasurer's private office, to the south, is connected to the cashier's area through two doors. The vault no longer holds the state treasury but contains records and unclaimed property information. The State Treasurer also has staff in other areas on the Capitol Complex.

Stop 101

First-Floor Tours



Capitol State Auditor's Office

Further down the hallway, the **State Auditor's Office** is located in the south corridor on the first floor of the Capitol. Upon entering the Auditor's Office, one's eye is immediately drawn to the vault door. The vault is one of many in the building and retains its original decoration of a small circular painting and stencil design. The Auditor's business office has a beautifully painted faux wood ceiling and the Auditor's private office was one of the first rooms restored in the Capitol.

The next stop is close to the rotunda in the south hallway.



State Auditor's Vault

Stop 103

First-Floor Tours



A collection of **dolls depicting Iowa's first ladies** in their inaugural gowns is displayed near the Governor's Office. The idea for the dolls was suggested by Mrs. Robert Ray as a project to celebrate America's bicentennial in 1976. Much research was done to make the dresses as authentic as possible. When actual descriptions were not available, gowns typical of the period were substituted. The dolls are porcelain and the faces were done from a profile of Mrs. Ray. As future First Spouses take their place, they too will be represented.

Above the doll case is one of the world's largest reproduction photographs. The photograph, measuring 26 feet long and six feet high, shows Iowa soldiers of the **42nd Rainbow Division, 168th Infantry**, after its return from France in 1919.

The tour continues onward to the Governor's and Lieutenant Governor's Reception Room.



Stops 105 & 107

First-Floor Tours



The **Governor's Office** is a four-room suite. Many of the original furnishings and decorations, dating back to 1885, are still in use. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor have their formal offices here.

Portraits in the Governor's Office and the Lieutenant Governor's Office are chosen by the current Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Items showcased in the offices are gifts to the state of Iowa.



Governor Buren R. Sherman
(First Governor to occupy the
Governor's Office in the Iowa State Capitol)

Buren Robinson Sherman (May 28, 1836 – November 4, 1904) was the twelfth governor of Iowa, serving from 1882 to 1886. In 1885, Governor Sherman was awarded an LLD (Doctor of Laws) from the University of Iowa.

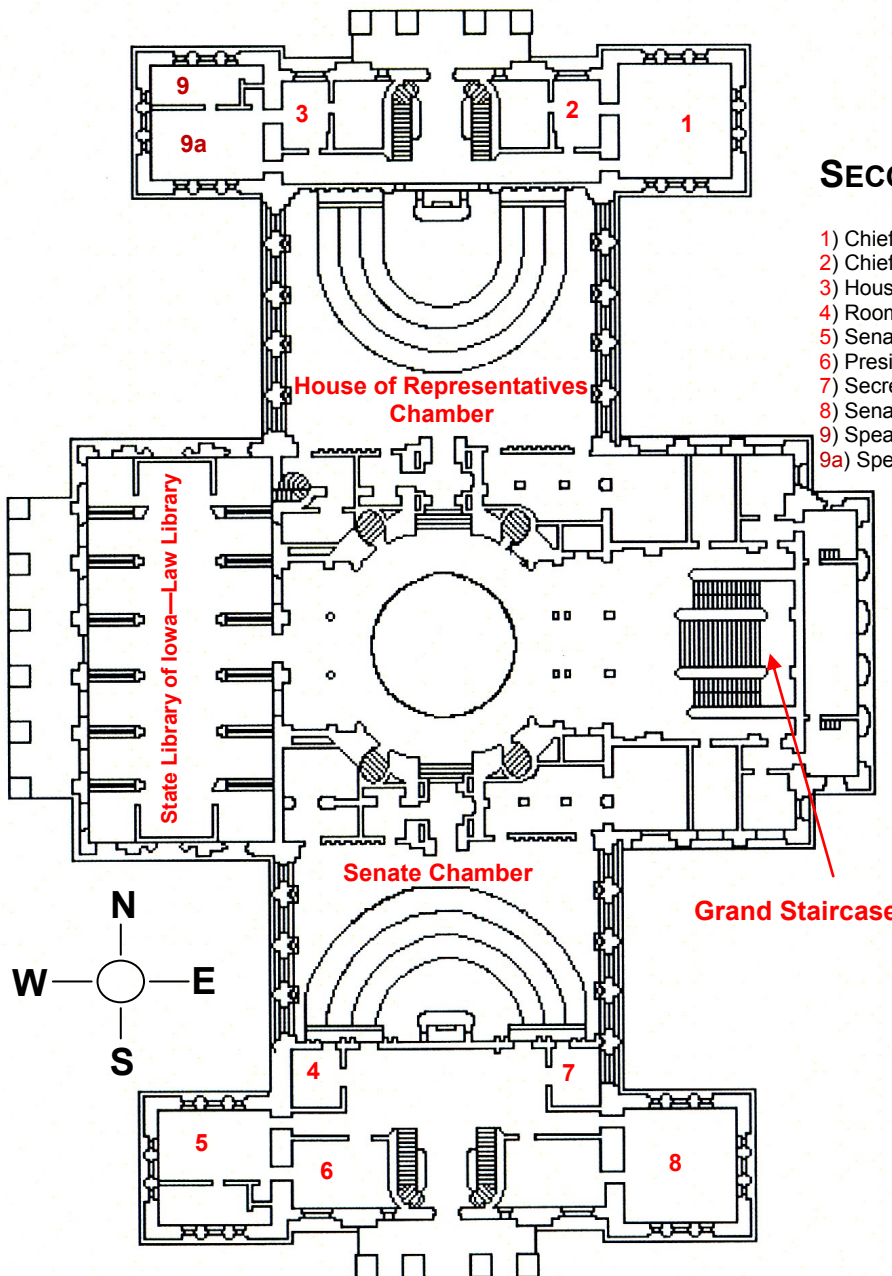
Three years after Sherman was elected governor of Iowa, he became the first occupant of the Governor's Office in the Iowa State Capitol. His successor, William Larrabee, first occupied the office for a full term.



Governor's Reception Room

The tour will continue on the second floor to the Grand Stairway.

IOWA STATE CAPITOL—SECOND FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

- 1) Chief Clerk of the House Staff
- 2) Chief Clerk of the House
- 3) House Majority Leader
- 4) Room 206
- 5) Senate Committee Room - Room 24
- 6) President of the Senate
- 7) Secretary of the Senate
- 8) Senate Committee Room - Room 22
- 9) Speaker of the House
- 9a) Speaker's Staff

Stop 106

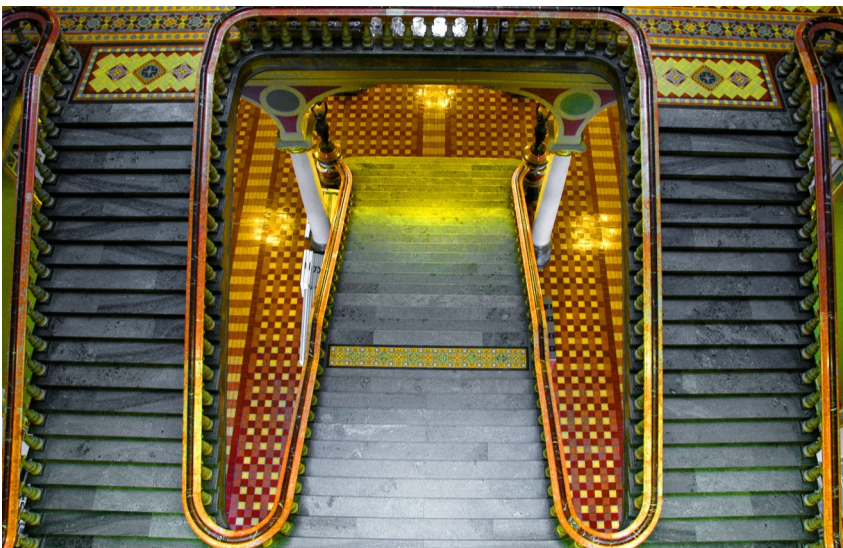
Tours Between Floors



The marble and granite **Grand Stairway**, connects the first and second floors. The two lighted statues at the foot of the Grand Stairway were originally gas lights. These statues were commissioned for the Illinois Capitol. They were subsequently given to the Iowa Capitol Commissioners to use in the Iowa Capitol.



Visitors may walk up the stairs or use the elevators to reach the second floor.



Grand Stairway

Stop 118

Second-Floor Tours



Westward

Extending the full width of the east wall over the staircase is the mural **Westward**, by Edwin H. Blashfield. This mural, an oil on canvas, is a symbolic representation of the westward movement into the state of Iowa. Blashfield began the painting in 1904 and completed it in 1905, at a cost of \$10,000. The painting is 40 feet wide and 14 feet high. The artist wrote:

... a symbolic presentation of the pioneers led by the spirits of Civilization and Enlightenment to the conquest by cultivation of the Great West. The canvas shows a 'Prairie Schooner' drawn by oxen across the prairie. The family rides upon the wagon or walk at its side. Behind them and seen through the growth of stalks come the other pioneers and later men. In the air and before the wagon are four floating female figures; one holds the shield with the arms of the State of Iowa upon it; one holds a book symbolizing Enlightenment; two others carry a basket and scatter the seeds which are symbolical of the change from wilder-ness to plowed fields and gardens that shall come over the prairie. Behind the wagon and also floating in the air, two female figures hold respectively a model of a stationary steam engine and an electric dynamo to suggest the forces which come with later men.

Stop 115

Second-Floor Tours

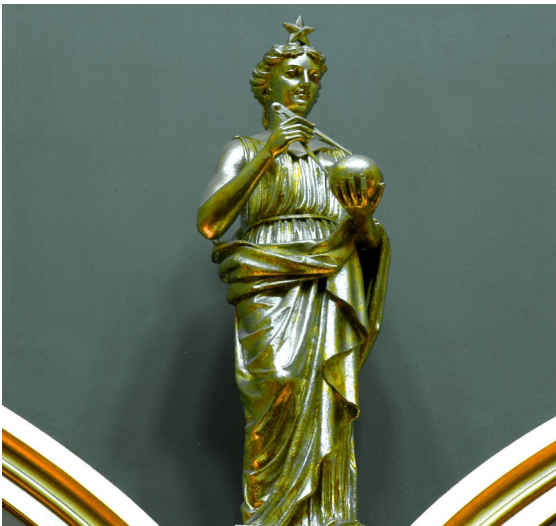


Located on the third-floor level above the mural *Westward*, are six **mosaics** in arched panels depicting Defense, Charity, Executive, Legislative, Judiciary, and Education. The mosaics were made in Venice, Italy, from small pieces of colored glass, following designs by Frederick Dielman of New York. Dielman also designed the mosaic panels, Law and History, in the Library of Congress.

Mosaics

and History, in the Library of Congress.

The tour continues to the center rotunda.



Science



Mosaics

Twelve **statues**, high within the rotunda, beginning north of the library door, represent History, Science, Law, Fame, Literature, Industry, Peace, Commerce, Agriculture, Victory, Truth, and Progress. Seraphin Cottin created these statues.

Stop 116

Second-Floor Tours



Eight **lunettes**, or half-moon-shaped paintings, surrounding the rotunda are the work of Kenyon Cox, a famous 19th century American artist. The lunettes represent Hunting, Herding, Agriculture, the Forge, Commerce, Education, Science, and the Arts. They represent the progress of civilization.



Stop 114

Second-Floor Tours



The **State Library of Iowa—Law Library** occupies the entire west wing of the second floor and contains over 100,000 volumes. A spiral staircase of iron grillwork at each end of the library leads to the tiers of law books and court decisions from each state and also of the federal Government. Also included in the library's collection are legal periodicals and materials produced by the Iowa Legislature.



State Library of Iowa—Law Library

Stop 117

Second-Floor Tours



Senate



The chambers of the **Iowa Senate** and the **House of Representatives** occupy most of the second floor. Here, the state's 50 senators and 100 representatives meet during the annual session of the Iowa General Assembly to create Iowa laws.

The **Senate Chamber**, measures 58 feet by 91 feet and a height of 43 feet. It retains its original décor. The wainscoting is of marble and the wood finishing of mahogany. The large columns on each side of the room are examples of scagliola, which is also used in other parts of the building. Scagliola is an imitation ornamental marble made of finely ground gypsum and glue.

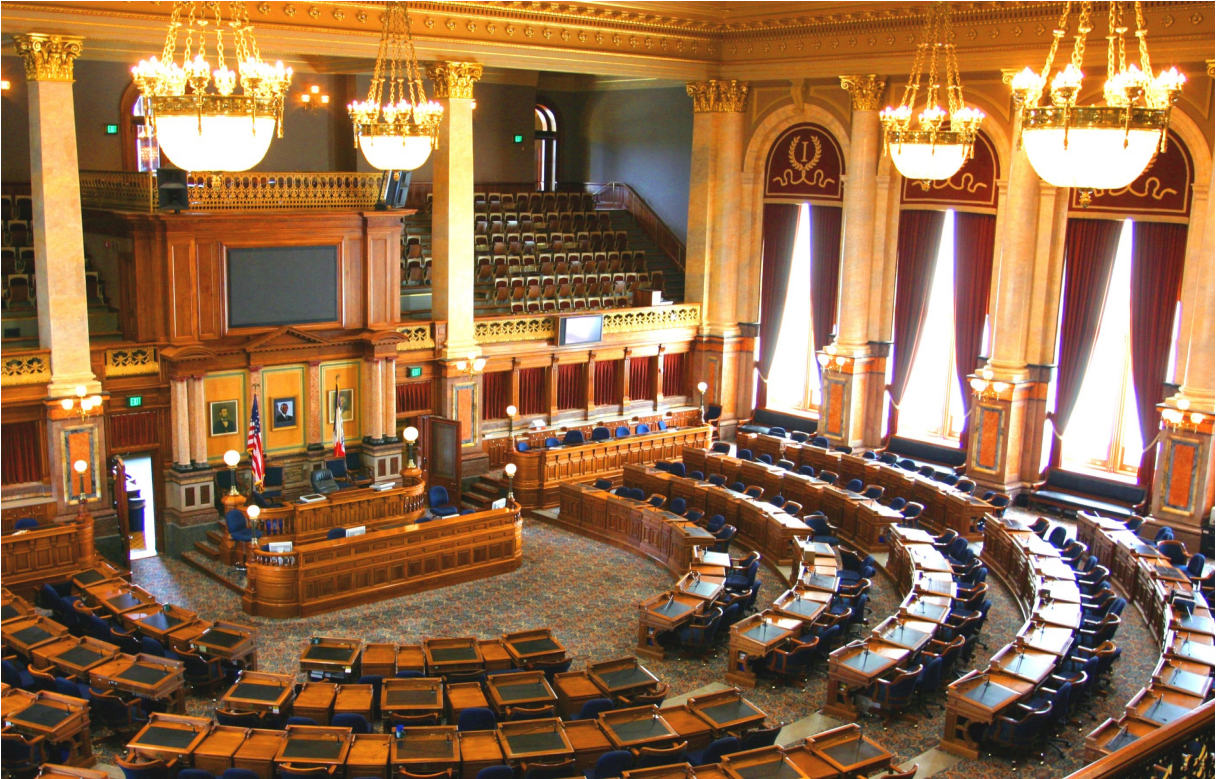
The four brass chandeliers weigh approximately 500 pounds each and were originally gas lights. The ceiling is decorated with paintings representing Industry, Law, Agriculture, Peace, History, and Commerce.

Stop 113

Second-Floor Tours



House of Representatives



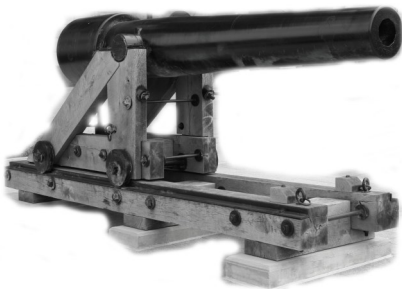
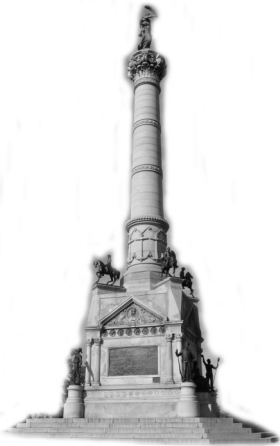
The Legislative Session begins at the Iowa State Capitol on the second Monday in January, each year. Legislative terms run two years for representatives and four years for senators. Each session lasts for approximately 100 days.

The **House of Representatives Chamber** was originally decorated in a manner similar to the Senate Chamber. Measuring 74 feet by 91 feet and a height of 46 feet, the finish of the room is of black walnut with marble wainscoting. Instead of the allegorical paintings that decorate the Senate Chamber ceiling, the House had portraits of presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, governors Robert Lucas and James W. Grimes, and many other prominent Iowans.

The House Chamber ceiling recently has been restored to the 1905 design that was created by artist Elmer Garnsey, following the fire of 1904.

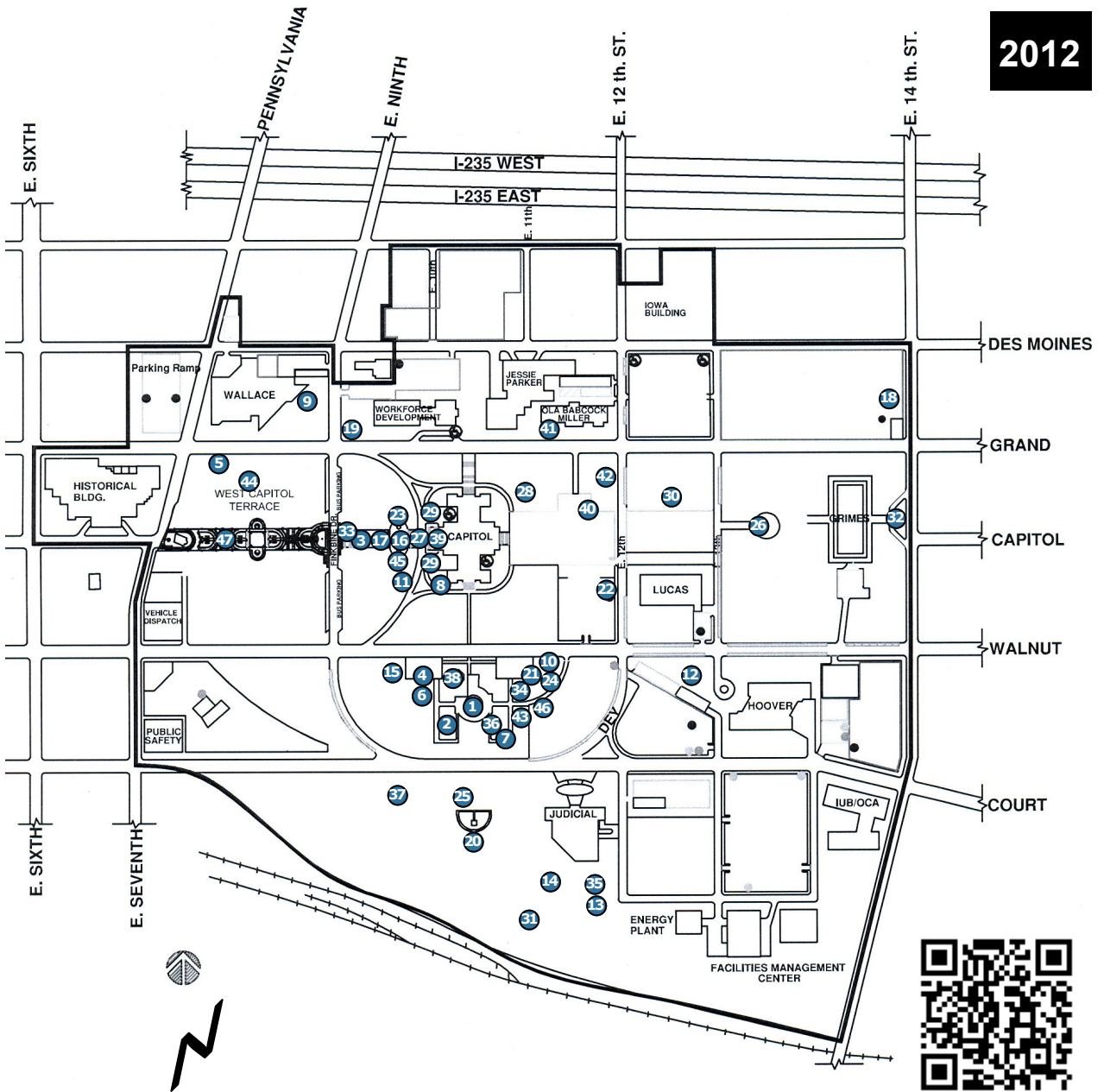
Capitol Grounds Monuments and Memorials

The **Capitol Grounds Monuments and Memorials** decorate the landscape around the Iowa State Capitol. The grounds total nearly 200 acres. More than a century of Iowa's history is highlighted in the monuments and memorials scattered across the Iowa State Capitol grounds.



Capitol Grounds Monuments and Memorials

2012



Capitol Grounds Monuments and Memorials

Stop Number



- 1—Allison Monument
- 2—American Revolution
- 3—Bicentennial Fountain
- 4—Bicentennial Time Capsule
- 5—Bryant Boulder
- 6—Centennial Time Capsule
- 7—Christopher Columbus
- 8—Cornerstone
- 9—Cosmic Seed
- 10—Crocker Memorial
- 11—Daniel Cooper Memorial Tree
- 12—Five Stones—One Tree
- 13—G.A.R. Flagpole
- 14—G.A.R. Memorial Bench
- 15—G.A.R. Memorial Tree
- 16—G.A.R. Sundial
- 17—Great Seal of Iowa
- 18—Iowa: a *place to grow*
- 19—Iowa Workers' Monument
- 20—Japanese Bell and Bell House
- 21—Korean War Memorial
- 22—Liberty Bell
- 23—Lincoln and Tad

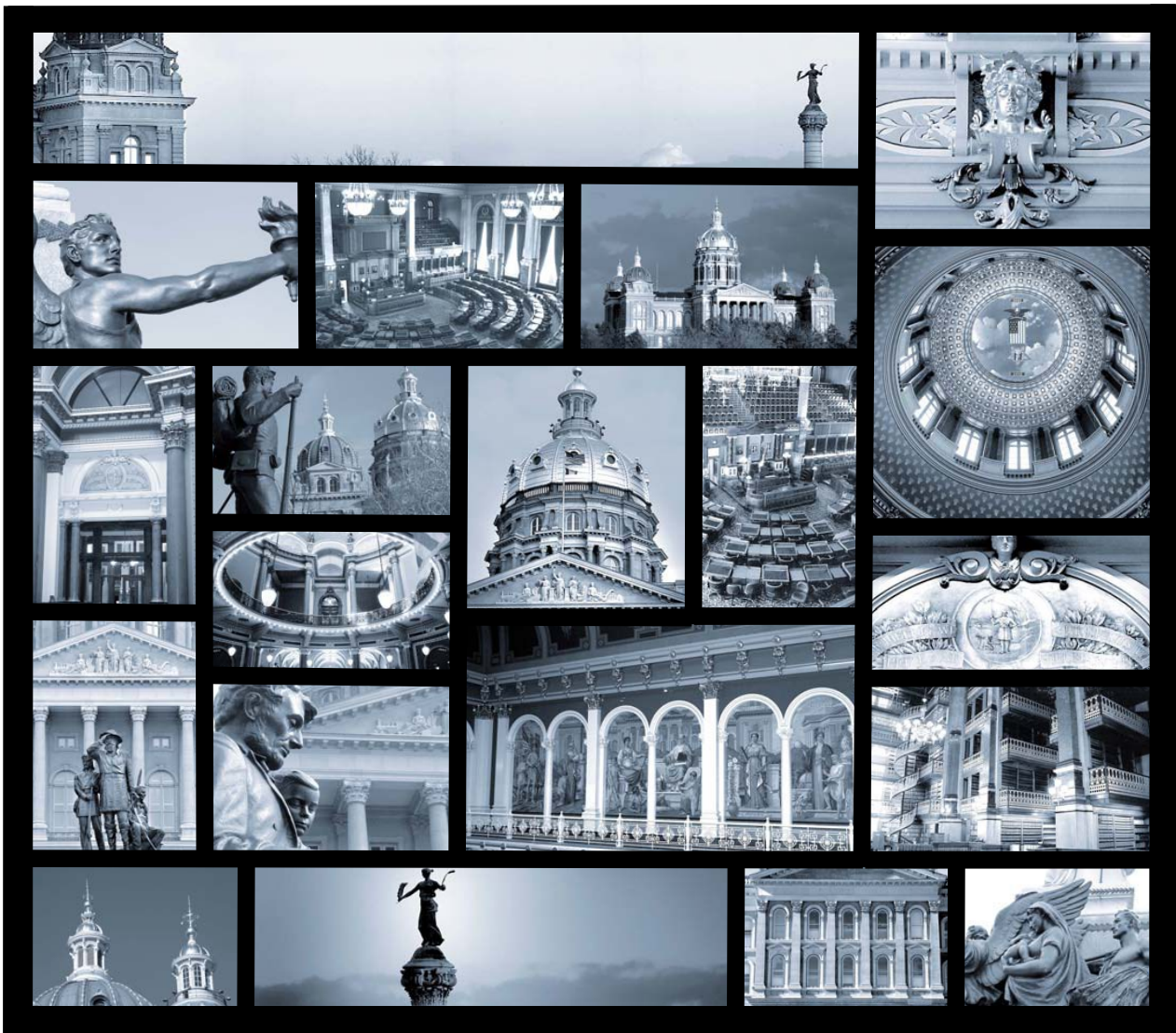
Stop Number



- 24—Martin Luther King Jr. Tree
- 25—Memorial Bench
- 26—Memorial Plaza (WWII)
- 27—Mortar
- 28—Oley Nelson Memorial Tree
- 29—Parrot Rifle
- 30—Peace Officers' Memorial
- 31—Peace Pole
- 32—The Pinnacle
- 33—Pioneer Statuary Group/Buffalo Fountain
- 34—Purple Heart Combat Veterans
- 35—Scott's Grave
- 36—Sesquicentennial Tree
- 37—Shattering Silence
- 38—Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument
- 39—Spanish-American War Trophy Cannon
- 40—Spanish-American War Monument
- 41—Spanish Howitzer
- 42—Statue of Liberty
- 43—Submarine Memorial
- 44—Teacher Boulder
- 45—V.F.W. Monument
- 46—Vietnam War Memorial
- 47—West Terrace Memorial Benches

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To begin your tour, dial the number and enter the stop number.



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Iowa State Capitol Tour Guides—515-281-5591
Legislative Information Office—515-281-5129



7/26/2011