

STATE OF IOWA

1920

REPORT ON

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY

FOR THE

BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1920

LOUIS G. LASHER, Adjutant General,
Custodian

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

To His Excellency, the Hon. W. L. HARDING, *Governor of Iowa.*

My Dear Sir: I have the honor to submit my biennial report as custodian of public buildings, grounds and property for the period ending June 30, 1920, as is required by law.

It is desired to direct your attention to my recommendations, which are thought to be of vital importance for the proper preservation and maintenance of the property under my charge, and to also particularly call your attention to the recommendations I renew from my last report. It is assumed the Thirty-ninth General Assembly will consider any suggestions you may make along these lines, and I ask your co-operation.

Assuring you of my appreciation for the valuable advice and assistance you have rendered me in the administration of this department, I am

Sincerely yours,

LOUIS G. LASHER,

The Adjutant General, Custodian.

BIENNIAL REPORT OF CUSTODIAN.

ROSTER OF THE DEPARTMENT WITH LAST PAYROLL

Name	Position	M'thly Salary
Wm. R. Spry.....	Asst. Custodian & Chief Engineer.....	\$183.33
Charles Schroppel.....	1st Assistant Engineer.....	125.00
Wm. Edwards.....	2nd Assistant Engineer.....	116.67
Wm. Smith.....	3d Assistant Engineer.....	116.67
F. J. Willis.....	Electrician.....	125.00
J. W. Kelso.....	Asst. Electrician & Machinist.....	116.67
W. B. Winder.....	Carpenter.....	125.00
Joe Czizek.....	Painter.....	125.00
George McMahon.....	Florist.....	116.67
Clarence Bogan.....	Head Fireman.....	108.33
C. T. Merrill.....	Fireman.....	100.00
L. H. Hines.....	Fireman.....	100.00
Wm. Littler.....	Fireman.....	100.00
Frank Witty.....	Fireman.....	100.00
Charles Button.....	Fireman.....	100.00
J. R. Turner.....	Night Watch.....	100.00
Nelson DeFord.....	Night Watch.....	100.00
Robert Adamson.....	Night Watch.....	100.00
W. Knotts.....	Yard Man.....	100.00
R. R. Baker.....	Janitor.....	100.00
E. W. Bowsby.....	Janitor.....	100.00
George Bosley.....	Janitor.....	100.00
A. L. Johnson.....	Janitor.....	100.00
Leo C. Clark.....	Janitor.....	100.00
Findley Cox.....	Janitor.....	100.00
George Huss.....	Janitor.....	100.00
C. Ray Jordan.....	Janitor.....	100.00
M. H. Jordan.....	Janitor.....	100.00
George Logan.....	Janitor.....	100.00
J. F. Offill.....	Janitor.....	100.00
L. M. Randles.....	Janitor.....	100.00
Carroll Remington.....	Janitor.....	100.00
Voelav Sykora.....	Janitor.....	100.00
A. W. Scott.....	Janitor.....	100.00
Trueman Stone.....	Janitor.....	100.00
C. Vennerstrom.....	Janitor.....	100.00
Curtis Van Nordstrand.....	Janitor.....	100.00
Alfred Hines.....	Janitor.....	100.00
R. V. Hiatt.....	Watchman, Capitol Grounds.....	100.00
Mrs. C. W. Boutin.....	Matron.....	100.00
Elizabeth Allen.....	Elevator Tender.....	80.00
Mrs. Bessie Collins.....	Elevator Tender.....	80.00

EXTRA COMPENSATION AUTHORIZED BY THE RETRENCHMENT
AND REFORM

Name	Position	M'thly Salary
Wm. R. Spry	Asst. Custodian & Engineer	\$16.67
Charles Schroppel	1st Assistant Engineer	18.75
Wm. Edwards	2nd Assistant Engineer	17.50
Wm. Smith	3d Assistant Engineer	17.50
Fred Willis	Electrician	18.75
J. W. Kelso	Asst. Electrician & Machinist	17.50
W. B. Winder	Carpenter	18.75
Joe Czikak	Painter	18.75
George McMahon	Florist	17.50
Clarence Bogan	Head Fireman	16.25
C. T. Merrill	Fireman	15.00
L. H. Hines	Fireman	15.00
Wm. Littler	Fireman	15.00
Frank Witty	Fireman	15.00
Charles Button	Fireman	15.00
E. G. Porter	Fireman Bryant School House	115.00

RECOMMENDATIONS

Under the provisions of the Iowa code, it is my duty to recommend such improvements and repairs as will better the conditions of state property which comes under the jurisdiction of this department, and in obedience thereto, I make the following suggestions to the General Assembly.

1. There is a constantly increasing need for guide service in the state capitol building. Visitors from all over the country, as well as from foreign countries, are almost daily occurrences, and with the valuable and interesting paintings, mosaics, decorations and lunettes, as well as the interesting facts regarding the building itself, it seems essential that uniformed guards should be provided. Between the dates April 1 to December 31, 1920, actual record shows 4,652 men, 4,124 women and 2,786 children were given permits to visit the dome alone, a total of 11,562, and this does not include those who came to visit the building without going to the dome.

2. Where proper consideration is given to the value of the property involved the mass of detail in connection with the proper supervision of the various and numerous departments and activities connected with the office of Custodian, it must be con-

sidered that the duties connected therewith should be placed in the hands of one wholly responsible and who could devote his entire time thereto. Under the present arrangement the responsible officer is unable to effectively function, as his paramount duties as adjutant general require all his time, and he cannot personally supervise. I recommend the appointment of a Custodian of Buildings and Grounds, essentially a man who is familiar with all the details entering into the administration of a responsible position as this.

3. All buildings should be equipped with Pyrene fire extinguishers in sufficient number to cover all offices in all buildings—not less than fifty.

4. A new set wash bowls in Senate, House and gents' toilets. Marble in ladies' toilet, third floor gallery.

5. Elevator locks on elevator in Historical building.

6. Cut opening into attic from Senate side south corridor.

7. Cut opening into room 19 from south Senate corridor.

8. General repairs to the stone in and around Capitol building.

9. Sand blast the Capitol building.

10. Place a telephone exchange in Capitol building to care for all departments.

11. Renew gold leaf on Capitol dome.

12. Provide for the printing of a guide book covering: Public buildings and property, Capitol extension, and including description and history of the paintings, mosaics and lunettes.

RENEWED RECOMMENDATIONS

I herewith renew the recommendations submitted to the Thirty-eighth General Assembly, to which no consideration was given:

1. There is need of improvement in the rooms occupied by the law library, to provide for better heating in winter. On account of the high ceiling it is almost impossible to keep the library in condition for work in winter. A glass floor on the second balcony might remedy the defect, or there should be provision for office rooms properly enclosed.

2. The wood ceiling over the Senate chamber should be replaced by one of fireproof construction in order to guard against a great danger from fire.

3. The iron frames for prism glass both at the Capitol entrances and at the engine house should be repaired or supplanted.

4. Air washers should be again installed in the basement for the purpose of cleaning the air in the ventilators of dirt. Much dirt is now being drawn into the building through the ventilators. In addition to the vacuum plant, there should be a portable vacuum cleaner to reach many places not accessible now.

5. The tile floor of the building has outlived its usefulness and it should largely be supplanted by more modern floors. The tile is hard to keep in place and because of dirty water running beneath the tiles an unsanitary condition exists. The tile floor of the first story should be taken up, and some of the steam pipes under this floor should be removed. A terrazo floor should be laid.

6. Electric light fixtures in the office of the governor should be taken out and new and modern electric fixtures be installed; the present ones are old gas fixtures worked over; also new fixtures for the entire first floor.

7. Electric signs should be placed at the entrances to the two elevators. There is some demand at times for elevators to go to the north and the south galleries of the legislative halls, and it would be wise to install two automatic electric elevators.

8. During legislative sessions there is much confusion at the doors of the chambers, and a part of this might be overcome by having doors cut through from the vestibules into the Senate and House cloak rooms.

9. New draperies or curtains for the windows in the Senate and House chambers should be provided. The ones in use now are old and unsanitary.

10. The archives Department should be removed from the upper floor of the Historical building because of the great weight which is accumulating and be placed on a ground floor. The alley at the rear of the building should be paved, and there is great need of repairs to windows and other woodwork. There should be new doors at the rear of the building.

11. There should be better provision made for the care of the battle flags. The present cases should be repaired, and there should be immediate provision for the flags of the world war.

12. There should be some protection, by railing or otherwise, for the windows on the third floor, as there is constant danger when they are open of accidents. New window stops should be installed for most of the Capitol.

13. In the interest of economy, steel cases should be purchased for the regular Capitol post office on the basement floor. Steel fixtures should also be purchased for the legislative post office, as the present arrangement was intended to be only temporary.

WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS

Installed the pedestal urinals in the gents' toilets, House, Senate and basement.

Equipped all State house windows with the adjustable window stops. Repaired all prism glass around Capitol Building.

Installed drinking fountains in the House, Senate and basement.

Rebuilt sky light over Grand Stairway and at the Historical Building.

Installed elevator door locks on both Capitol Building elevators.

Built book stack in Law Library.

Installed 4,500 foot book shelves in sub-basement for Historical Department.

Built partition in Board of Control. Built partition and shelving in Adjutant General's Department.

Built partition in Banking Department.

Installed winding stairway in Superintendent of Public Instruction Office.

Built fly doors in toilet room of Supreme Court.

Built partition and shelving in Des Moines Street Storeroom.

Built garage for State cars on Des Moines Street.

Built shelving in Supreme Court Storeroom.

Built partition and shelving in basement of Bryant Building.

Built Voting Machine room, north gallery of House Chamber.

Built two large wall cases in Food and Dairy room, Bryant Building.

Built shelving in sub-basement at Historical Building.

Built Vestibule in west end basement, Capitol.

Run new sewer in sub-basement, Historical Building.

Painted Committee Room No. 1, Superintendent of Public Instruction Rooms, Agriculture Rooms, North and South Stairways from Basement to 3d floor, South end of Basement, Post Office and Ladies' Toilet.

EXPENDITURES FOR DEPARTMENT

Salaries	\$ 94,115.00
Extra help	1,375.67
Fuel	55,457.47
Furniture and stores	23,877.75
Telegraph and telephone	165.18
Express, freight and cartage	280.40
Miscellaneous expenses	487.83
Supplies drawn from Supply Department	4,061.86
Total	\$179,811.16

BIENNIAL REPORT OF CUSTODIAN

COST OF SUPPLIES

Paper	\$ 3,224.27
Envelopes	1.06
Pencils, pens, etc.30
Baskets, brooms, brushes	195.48
Books	13.92
Paste, Ink, etc.	1.74
Sundries, soap, etc.	612.09
Total	\$ 4,051.86

GENERAL EXPENSES

Furniture and stores for Capitol	\$ 16,796.89
Telegraph and telephone	79.70
Express, freight and cartage	2,142.46
Water and light	4,786.42
Miscellaneous expenses	19,882.21
Improvements and repairs	3,154.00
Total	\$ 46,841.68

Detailed statement of fees collected during period from June 30, 1918, to July 20, 1920:

Sale of Chairs belonging to Chambers occupied by General Assembly:
55 chairs @ \$7.50 each \$412.50

Disposition of fees:

Paid to State Treasurer, receipts' numbers 4579 to
4593, on file \$412.50