

TOUR OUTLINE

The building was originally called the **Iowa Historical Memorial and Arts Building**; the wings were built in stages between **1897 and 1910**. **Oliver Smith**, the architect, also designed the buildings at the **State Fair**. There is a street named after him in **Urbandale**, "**Oliver Smith Drive**."

The building is now known as the **Ola Babcock Miller Building** (**Miller Building** for short). **Viola Babcock Miller** was a **Secretary of State**; she **founded the Iowa Highway Patrol**; and was the **first woman to sit on the Executive Council**.

Construction has proceeded in **three stages over the past three years**:

Rotunda (finished two years ago).

East wing

West wing (currently)

State Library has been in building throughout the move. **June '99** started moving us out to offices in the **West wing**.

There have been **three major moves** for the **State Library** in the past **three years**:

Collections and offices housed off the **rotunda** were moved out.

All **State Library offices and collections** were moved to **West wing** or **storage**.

We have completed our move into the **East wing**.

THIRD FLOOR

Formerly housed Native American artifacts when the building was home to the **State Historical Museum**. This is the only floor the **State Library** hasn't occupied since the building was built.

Today the home of **Library Development and Administration**. **Library Development** works to improve library services to Iowans around the state, mostly working with libraries.

The Library Science collection is shelved here. The video collection was shelved here through December, 2001. At that time, the general collection was re-located to Heartland AEA in Cedar Rapids. **Management, Medical, and Library Science videos were kept and shelved as separate collections** next to their related book collections. The video shelving area will become **Library Development** office space.

Tell the tour group that any **books and videos** they see **on the tour can be borrowed** today and taken with them. Once back home, materials can be borrowed on **ILL** through **SILO**; videos can be ordered by contacting **A/V Services** via **phone, fax, letter, or e-mail**. For reference and reader's assistance with **Library Science** questions, call **Sandy or Roy**.

False ceilings made of sheet rock were added to conceal electrical conduit. All three floors are connected with **fiber optics cables**, to increase the response time on staff computers.

Wainscoting on each floor contains **heating, cooling, and electrical wiring**.

Architects attempted to restore the original **paint colors**.

Lighting was copied as closely as possible from the original.

Paint colors are as close to the originals as possible: Some came from the **original architect's plans**; others were identified by **scrapping** through the **layers of old paint**.

Originally wood floors throughout. **Carpet** was designed in keeping with the era in which the building was built.

Center skylight is original as is the **skylight in the room to the right**. The architects added a **second glass ceiling**, above the skylight ceiling, which protects the skylight. At night, the skylight has **backlighting** which looks like **moonlight**.

Wooden cabinets by break room are new; **marble facings** on each floor are new.

Break room will be moved to ground floor in a year; will become **storage room** for supplies.

The desk in the **ICN room** was designed by two State Library staff members—Judy Jones and Nancy Haigh. This room will become a computer classroom with 24 stations. The **main ICN room** will be on the **3rd floor** in the **rotunda**. The **current third floor ICN room** will still have **ICN capabilities**. When the meeting rooms are finished in the rotunda, there will actually be three meeting rooms with **ICN capability**.

LAN room--server; main computer is at ISU.

Each floor has a **fire door** and an **Area of Rescue Assistance** with a **phone at wheel chair height** inside the alcove.

State Librarian's office OK to tour. **Shelving** has been **refinished** and moved up here from its former home in the basement.

Rotunda--third floor. If asked, damage to paint in dome interior will be corrected after exterior of dome is finished.

Meeting room--third floor will be for all occupants of the building including the **Library Commission**; will have **skylight**. It will also have **ICN capabilities**.

Restrooms--men's and women's on **alternate floors**. Great care was taken to replace the marble walls in all the restrooms. Small pieces of marble were cut to ensure that the veins would run in the direction which was specified in the original architect's plans. Today the veins in marble from the original quarry site run in the wrong direction. Matching marble was found in a quarry in Indiana.

Dome--designs are **corn**; made of **plaster**, not wood. **Photographs** were found of the original **clouds** on the dome, which restoration painters copied.

The **mosaics** on all the floors in the rotunda are **original**. They were brought here from England. The **marble columns** on the third, second, and first floors of the **rotunda** are made from **marble** which was brought from **Italy**. The **decoration at the top of the columns** is **more complex** on the **second floor** than it is on the first floor, and **even more complex** on the **third floor**. The

Greek architectural styles they represent are: **Doric--first floor**; **Ionic--second floor**; **Composite--third floor**. **Composite** is a **combination** of the **Ionic** and **Corinthian** styles.

Elevators--originally only one elevator on **East wing**; **second elevator** is **new**. **Design on elevator door** is based on the **former cage**.

Likewise the **molding** around the walls on the **third floor** is more **elaborate** than it is on the **second floor**.

Alcoves had busts in them originally. Only **one bust** remains. It is **currently under restoration** at the Archives. Whether the State Library will find things to fill the alcoves has yet to be decided.

At the top of the stairs, behind the wall leading to the West Wing, workers are currently laying a floor. This area will become the **new main ICN room** for the building.

SECOND FLOOR

Interlibrary loan--Off rotunda.

Medical Library--This is the original location of the Medical Library.

The staff of the Medical Library provides a **variety of services** of interest to the general public, such as: **Subject searches and bibliographies; verification of citations; medical definitions; and requests for medical materials not owned by the State Library.** A new resource for online health information, HealthInfoIowa, can be searched from home computers. Requests and questions can be given **over the phone or sent through e-mail**, accessible through the **State Library's web site**.

Skeleton--real--male adolescent. At one time, the skeleton was loaned out regularly to medical students so that they could study him at home. The **display case** came from the Historical Society. It will be **refinished**, and the lettering will be taken off the top of the case.

Shelving--Built-in shelving is original; **Color** is the original **Library Bureau green**. The Library Bureau Company was founded by Melville Dewey.

Lighting for the stacks is **indirect**: It sends the lighting upwards. **Openings** on the canopy fronts will be closed up, and the end panels will reach to the top of the canopy fronts. **Connecting bars** are **power bars** for the electrical wiring.

A **trough** was built under the floor to **power the free standing fixtures**.

The **fire sprinklers** on this side of the building do not contain water: They spray a **powder** which will extinguish fire without damaging the book collections. All the **sprinklers** are **zonal**--they only come on in **heat sensitive areas**.

Green lights are based on photos of originals.

Chandeliers originally had only **two** arms. The modern architect added a **third arm** to give us more lighting.

Service desks are the same on each floor--also based on photos of originals. But apparently the desks were higher and the librarians sat on high stools behind them.

Alcove. As we look across, we can see the area where the new **Supreme Court building** is being built. The **windows** here were made of **glass brick** at the time of the renovation. The glass brick was not original, so it was replaced. The **wooden pattern** on the window is **original**; it is **repeated** at different places in the building, **most noticeably** on the **railing** outside at the front of the building.

The **tables** here are **original** to the building, if not to the State Library.

Public access terminals are on each floor. They currently have **Horizon, Internet** and **e-mail**.

Electrical outlets are hidden in the floor by the large **public work tables** so that customers can plug their **lap tops** in. Eventually the **outlets** will be moved to the **top of the tables**, and will

provide **internet access** for lap top users. **Lights** will be installed in all **public workstations**. **Windows** on the **East end** of the building will be **boarded up** until next spring. During the construction, there was a **lift** on the outside of the building. Stone was removed to do this; the exterior won't be finished until next spring.

Shelving. Most shelving in the building is **84"**; standard shelving is **90"**. **84"** shelving is easier for patrons to use. **Every other shelf goes all the way to the wall. Every other shelf is 36" from the wall** in fulfillment of the ADA requirement.

FIRST FLOOR

This is the State Library's **main reading room**. It houses the **Public Policy** collection of **monographs and serials**, the **State Data Center** of **census materials, patents**, and the **federal documents collection**, which will eventually be moved to the ground floor.

The **Public Policy** general collection and **reference collection** includes a wealth of **business information** and, specifically, information on **businesses in Iowa**. **Books and articles** can be borrowed through **ILL**. The **federal documents** collection is also a useful source of **business information**, as well as **statistical information**. The collection also includes material on **public administration, leadership, personnel management, and policy issues** of interest to local government. **Reference service and reader's assistance** for this area of the collection are available by **phone or e-mail**.

The **State Data Center** provides a comprehensive collection of **census information**, including **Census 2000**.

The **patents** collection is the **only patents depository in the state**. In a nutshell, a **patent is granted by the government to an inventor to exclude others from making or profiting from the invention**. The public can **come into** the State Library and do a **free patents search**. This can provide valuable background information, although most inventors still find it best to use a patent attorney when the application is eventually submitted. (**NOT** a substitute for an attorney).

The patents Depository also includes **trademarks**. A **trademark is a word, phrase, symbol, or design which identifies and distinguishes the goods or services of one party from those of another**. The Patents Depository has **application forms for trademarks**. **Trademark searches** can be done on the **internet**, or by calling the **Patents Depository**.

The **mezzanine** is being used to store seldom used **Law Library materials**. It is **not ADA accessible** because there is no elevator, but the law materials are only used by State Library staff. **Shelving** goes up through the mezzanine floor: It is the **means by which the mezzanine is supported**.

East window is the focal point of the room. As with the East window on the second floor, it will be uncovered next spring when the outside construction is completed. The **rocking chairs** are original--They were rescued in disrepair and restored. In the 1950's, a **bridge** was added across the window **to connect the two mezzanines**. It has been removed in keeping with the original construction of the building. A **staircase**, opposite the existing staircase, which had been added

to connect the first floor to the mezzanine and the second floor, **was removed**. It is now in use at the **Anamosa State Reformatory**.

The **exterior** of the **original card catalog** has been completely **restored**. The **interior** is **new**. Some of the draws have catalog cards in them. One of the drawers contains an **original handwritten catalog card** from 1892. In those days, Melville Dewey required Library School students to take a class in **penmanship**.

Eventually, all areas of the building will have **signage**. **Times New Roman** lettering will be used in keeping with the popular style of the early 1900s.

The "**Blue Room**", which was originally the State Librarian's office, is now a meeting room. The walls are painted with the only **blue paint** in the building. Traces of the **original frieze** were found under layers of paint. Eventually, the frieze will be recreated, using **gold leaf**.

The **plates** and other **library memorabilia** were a **gift** from a **collector**.

The **tracings** on the **walls** in the **first floor rotunda** were discovered when restorers scraped paint off until they found the **original tracings**. **Restorers** are currently copying them.

GROUND FLOOR

A **handicapped ramp** is currently **under construction** on the **ground floor**. It will provide access from the outside of the building for people with physical disabilities. The ramp will enter the building in a small room off the rotunda, just outside the library.

This floor houses **state documents** and will eventually house **federal documents**. The **Technical Services Division, including offices for State Documents staff**, once housed in this wing, has moved to the ground floor of the west wing.

The **State Documents** collection includes everything that has been published by Iowa's state agencies since 1979. It contains a wealth of information of interest to public libraries: **Everything from the rules and regulations of the State of Iowa and the State Code to the latest in licensing requirements, maps, driving regulations, and tourist information**. A lot of the collection is **not yet accessible through Horizon**: **It is best to contact State Documents directly for information**.

Compact shelving was necessary to shelve the vast state documents collection. The **floor** had to be **reinforced** to support the compact shelving since, when loaded, it is twice as heavy as regular shelving: **Compact shelving weighs 300 lbs. per square inch; standard shelving weighs 150 lbs. per square inch**.

Tracks have been laid for compact shelving because this space will eventually be occupied by federal documents. The **West wing** was not built as a library: **It does not have load bearing capacity** suitable for library collections. That is why most of the State Library's collections are housed in the East wing.

The **entry way door** will only be used as a fire exit.

Nearly all the **tables** are **original** throughout the building.

Other items to note:

Start tour on 3rd floor (take elevator to 3rd, then walk down).

Tour should last no more than 45 minutes.

Tour groups should not be larger than eight people. If more than eight people want to tour at the same time, please split the groups up and organize a second tour.