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# Old Capitol



The University of Iowa  
Iowa City, Iowa

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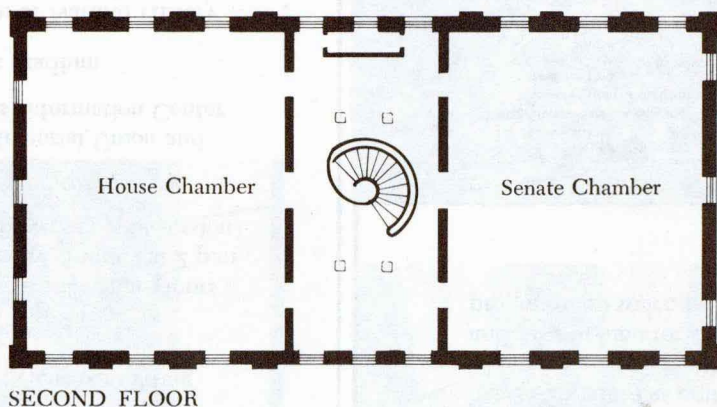
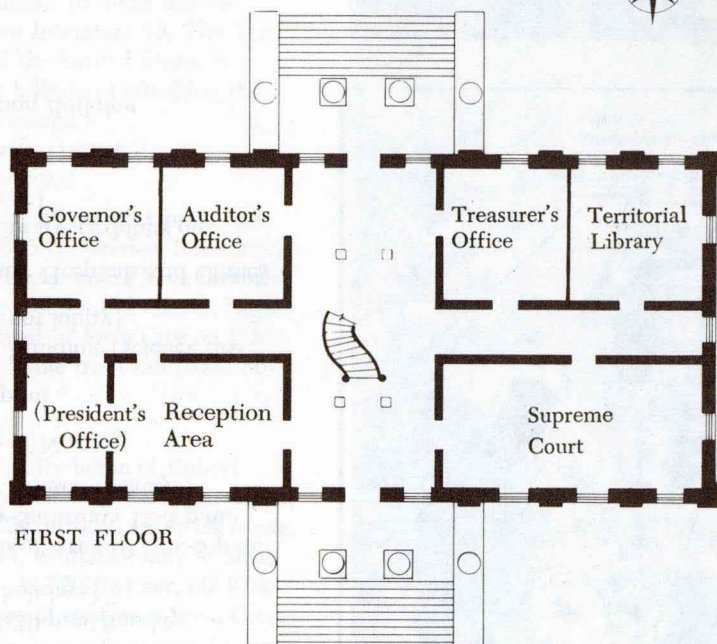
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STATE LIBRARY

Historical Building

DES MOINES, IOWA 50310

# Old Capitol Floor Plans



## GROUND FLOOR (not restored)

Never completed as originally planned, the ground floor houses the Old Capitol Museum Shop where visitors may purchase informational brochures and other high quality memorabilia of the historic building.

Also on the ground floor are display cases, the office of the director of Old Capitol, the Office of Public Information and University Relations, a drinking fountain, and restrooms.



## Old Capitol History and Restoration

Old Capitol was the first permanent seat of Iowa's territorial and state governments. Built in the early 1840s, it was used by Iowa's lawmakers and government officials until 1857, when westward expansion drew the state government to Des Moines. Old Capitol was then given to The University of Iowa and became the first building owned by the University, which was created in 1847.

Old Capitol is a classic example of Greek Revival architecture. It was designed by John F. Rague, the architect who designed the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois, in the late 1830s. Old Capitol is made of Devonian limestone quarried from bluffs along the Iowa River and floated to the building site on rafts. Individual stones weigh an average of four tons, and the exterior walls are in some places six feet thick. Original floor joists, roof trusses, and other supporting beams were hewn from native oak.

The cornerstone was laid July 4, 1840. The building was first used by Iowa's Legislative Assembly in December, 1842, but wasn't completed until after the time the state government had moved to Des Moines. It is estimated that the cost of the building was over \$125,000.

Old Capitol housed the University's administrative offices from 1857 to 1970, when the offices were relocated to allow for the building's historical restoration. During those 113 years rooms in Old Capitol were used for lectures and recitation, chapel services, the University's general library, the first home of the University's College of Law, the Graduate College

office, and even an armory. Old Capitol is the source and the symbol of the University.

The scholarly detective work that led to the restoration began in 1970 and was directed by Professor Margaret N. Keyes, assisted by a restoration committee and several University students. The restoration is unusual because it has returned a single building to three periods of use: the Territorial Government period, the State Government period, and the many years of use by the University. The University's use is represented in rooms that are of 1920s decor.

The continuing restoration of Old Capitol is made possible from public and private funds and the contribution of period furnishings. Closed for four years, Old Capitol was reopened on July 3, 1976. A National Historic Landmark, the building is a perpetual reminder of the beginning of government and public higher education in Iowa.

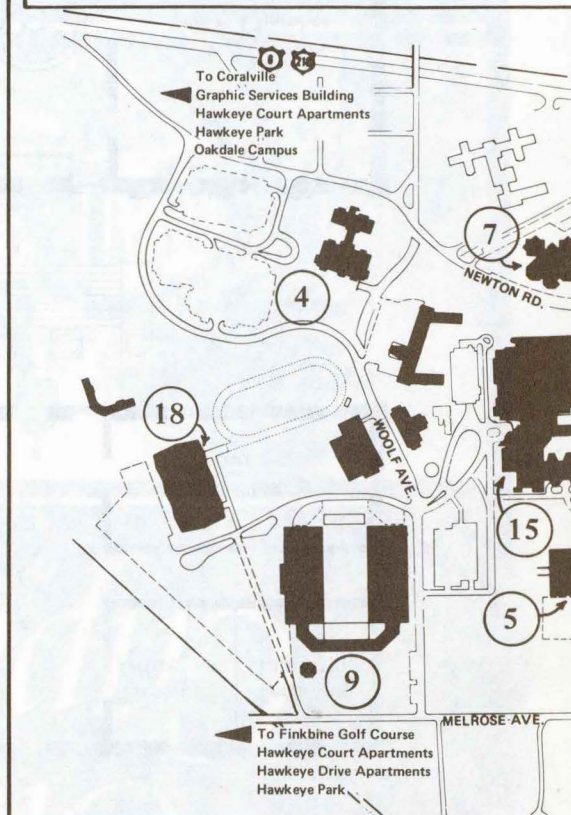


## Campus Points of Interest

1. Art Building (Eve Drewelowe Gallery, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday)
2. Basic Sciences Building
3. Danforth Chapel
4. Dental Sciences Building
5. Field House
6. Hancher Auditorium (tours Wednesday, Sunday at 2 p.m. when University is in session)
7. Health Sciences Library
8. Iowa Memorial Union and Campus Information Center
9. Kinnick Stadium
10. Museum of Natural History (Macbride Hall) (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 12:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday. Closed holidays)
11. Museum of Art (10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 12-5 p.m. Sunday. Closed holidays)
12. College of Nursing
13. Old Capitol
14. Physics Building (science displays, front lobby)
15. University Hospitals and Clinics
16. Main Library (exhibits on main floor)
17. University Theatre
18. Recreation Building

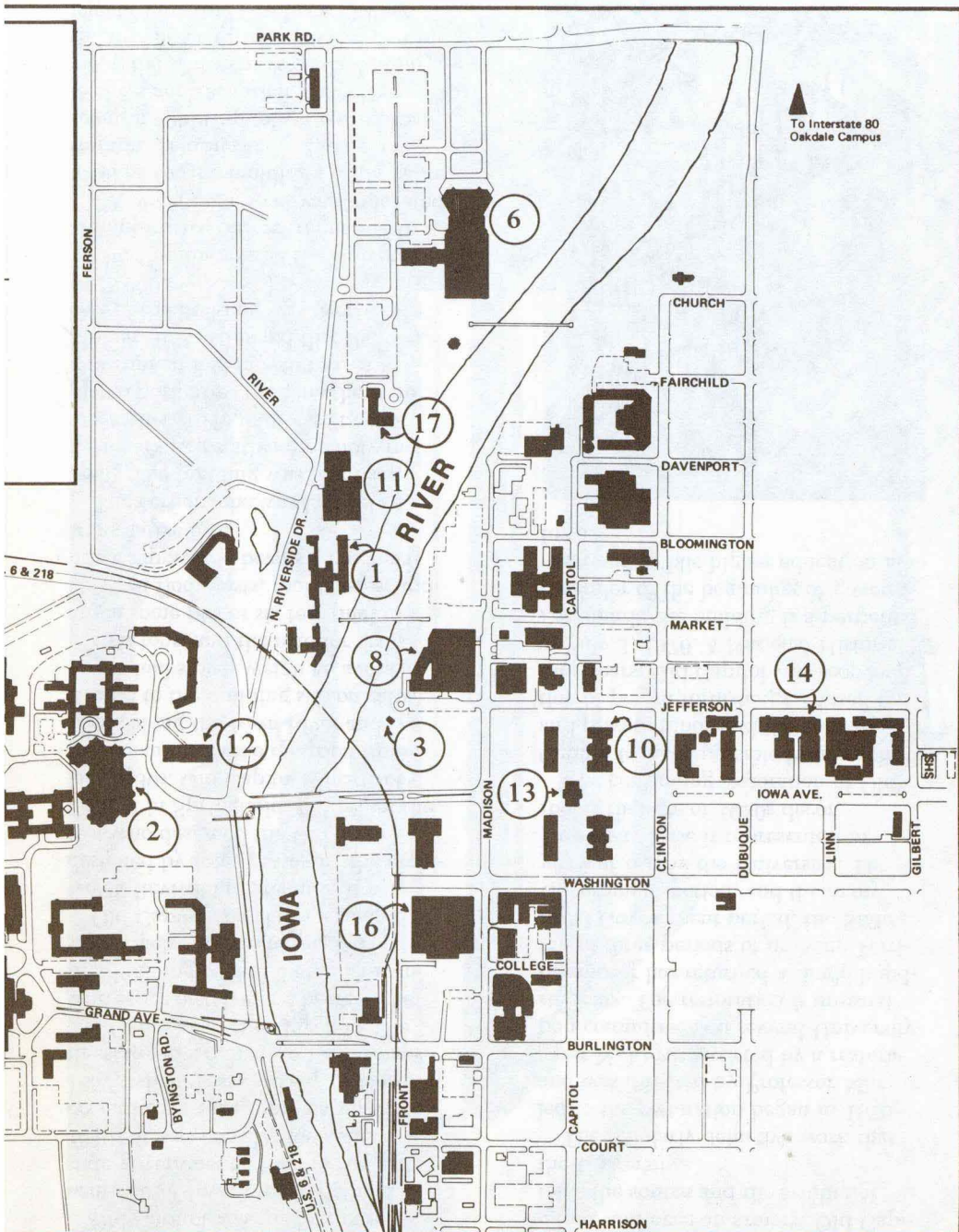


The Old Capitol National Historic Land is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 12 noon-4 p.m. Sunday. There are no hours on home football game Saturdays: 9 a.m.-12 noon. Closed Thanksgiving, December 24-25, and December 31-January 1. There is no admission charge. Contributions and gifts in kind for Old Capitol projects and programs are welcome.



Other Points of  
Interest in the Area







### *Hoover Birthplace and Library*

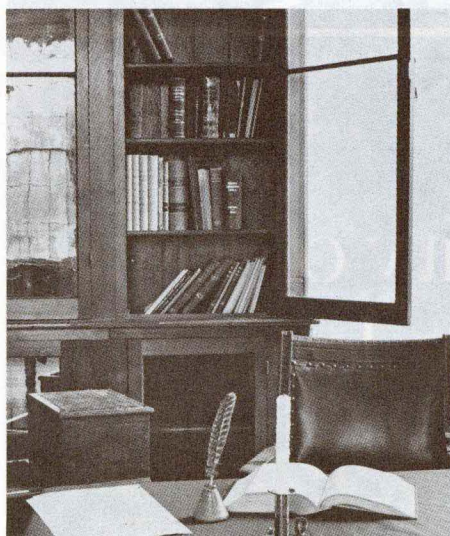
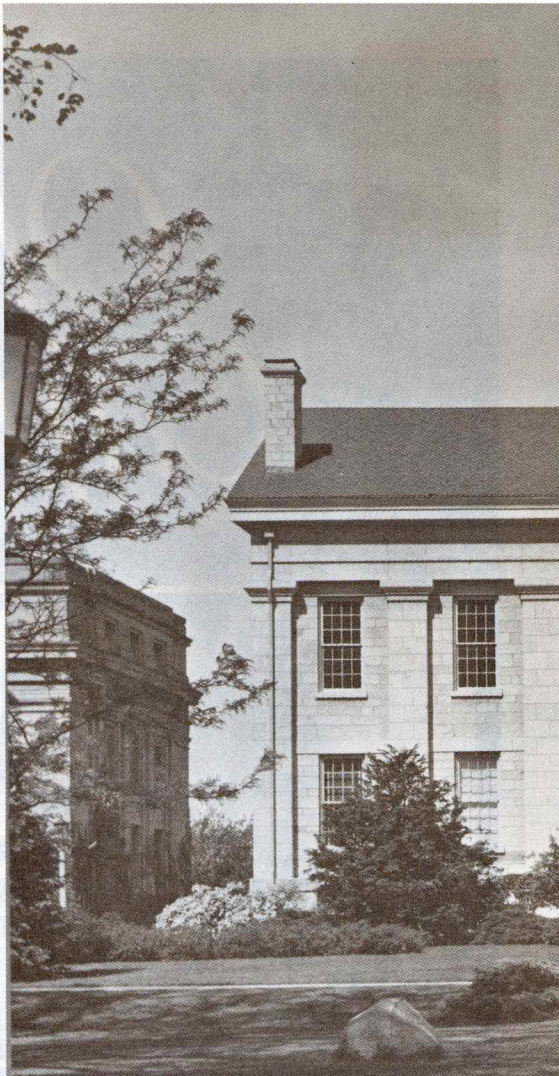
The Herbert Hoover Birthplace Museum and Presidential Library are at West Branch, 10 miles east of Iowa City on Interstate 80. The 31st president of the United States is buried on a hillside overlooking the birthplace cottage.

### *Amana Colonies*

The seven villages of Amana were settled in 1855 by German immigrant craftsmen. The colonies have retained much of their old-world charm. Eighteen miles west of Iowa City on U.S. 6. Also accessible from Interstate 80.

### *Plum Grove*

The Iowa City home of Robert Lucas, Iowa's first territorial governor, 1838-41. This restored red brick home, built in 1844, contains many antique furnishings. At 727 Switzer, off Kirkwood Avenue in southeast Iowa City.

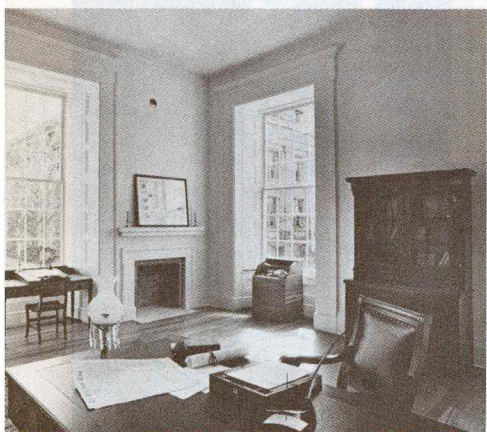


*Territorial Library*

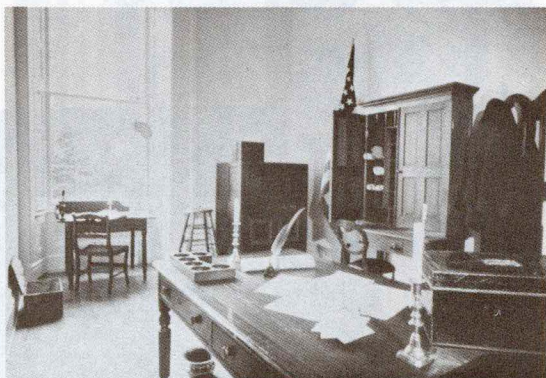


*House Chamber*





*Governor's Office*



*Treasurer's Office*





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