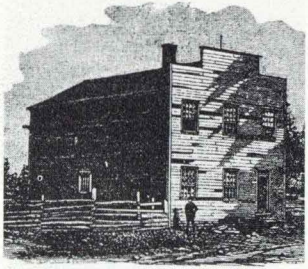


A guide to the
**IOWA STATE
CAPITOL**

HISTORY OF THE CAPITOL



TERRITORIAL CAPITOL

The territory of Iowa was created in 1838 with Robert Lucas, of Ohio as its first governor. He selected Burlington as the capitol. Population was moving westward and the 2nd Legislative Assembly chose to change the Capitol to Iowa City. The old Capitol Building was started and Iowa City became the Capitol in 1841.

In 1846, almost immediately after Iowa became a state, the first General

Assembly realized that the Capitol should be located in the center of the state and authorized a commission to select a site. A place selected in Jasper County was not satisfactory and the fifth General Assembly determined that the capitol

be located "within two miles of the Racoon forks of the Des Moines River." The present site was selected when Willson Alexander Scott gave the state 9½ acres of land.

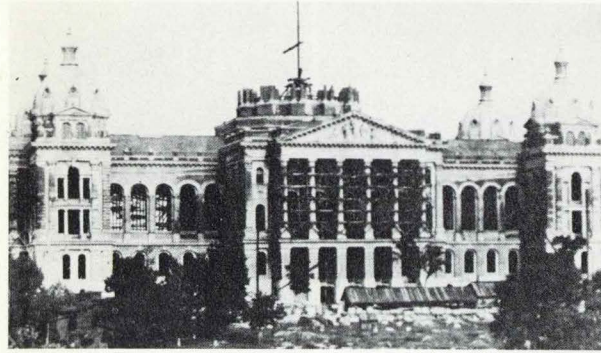
A temporary Capitol was built by a group of Des Moines citizens and in 1857 Governor James W. Grimes proclaimed that Des Moines was the Capitol of the state.

The present Capitol was authorized by the Twelfth General Assembly and in 1870 a Capitol commission



OLD ZION CHURCH

OLD CAPITOL, IOWA CITY



CAPITOL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, 1880

was established to hire an architect and choose a plan for the building that would not cost more than \$1,500,000.

The board hired John C. Cochrane and A.H. Piquenard as architects. The cornerstone was laid November 23, 1871. A poor quality stone used in the foundation caused the foundation to freeze and crumble the first winter. It had to be replaced. The cornerstone was relaid on September 29, 1873. The building could not be constructed for the original amount and successive legislatures appropriated additional sums, and the commission built within the limits of the appropriations. The building was dedicated in January, 1884 and the legislature met in its chambers. The Governor's office and other offices were occupied in 1885. The Supreme Court was dedicated in 1886. The building commission made its final report on June 29, 1886. The cost was \$2,873,294.

THE CAPITOL TODAY



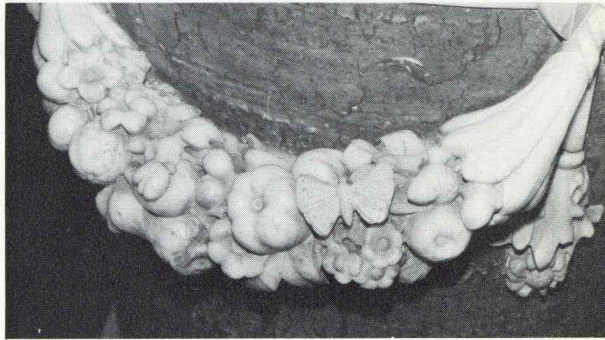
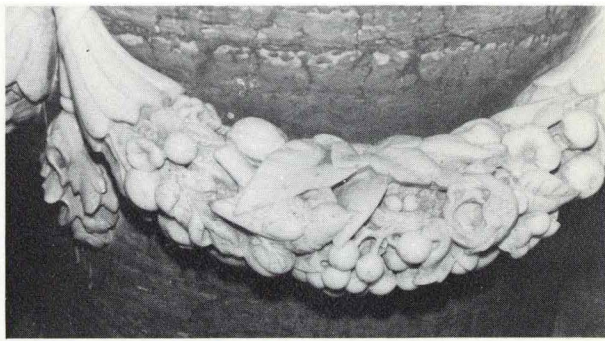
FIRE IN HOUSE CHAMBER, 1904

In 1904 the Capitol was being modernized when a disastrous fire broke out that badly damaged the House of Representatives. Following the remodeling, restoration and repairs of the building the total cost was \$3,296,256.

The Capitol Building as a symbol of the State and center of government stands high on the east side of the Des Moines River overlooking the city of Des Moines.

The design of the structure is of modified Renaissance architecture. The exterior of the building is entirely of stone with elaborate columns and handsomely designed cornices and capitals. The substructure is of dark Iowa stone topped by a heavy course of vari-colored granite cut from glacial boulders gathered from Iowa Prairies. The main part of the building is of buff sandstone from Missouri.

The Capitol Building is 363' 8" in length north to south by 246' 11" wide.



ORNATE CARVINGS ON MAIN STAIRWAY

As the space age began, Iowa continued to play an important part in the nation's history. In 1958, Dr. James Van Allen, head of physics and astronomy at the University of Iowa, discovered the radiation belts surrounding the earth, vital knowledge in man's exploration of space.

The original site for the Capitol was given to the state and covered 9½ acres. Presently the grounds cover 120 acres. In addition to the Capitol, the buildings include Lucas, Grimes, Wallace, Historical, Job Services, Vocational Rehabilitation and Hoover buildings.

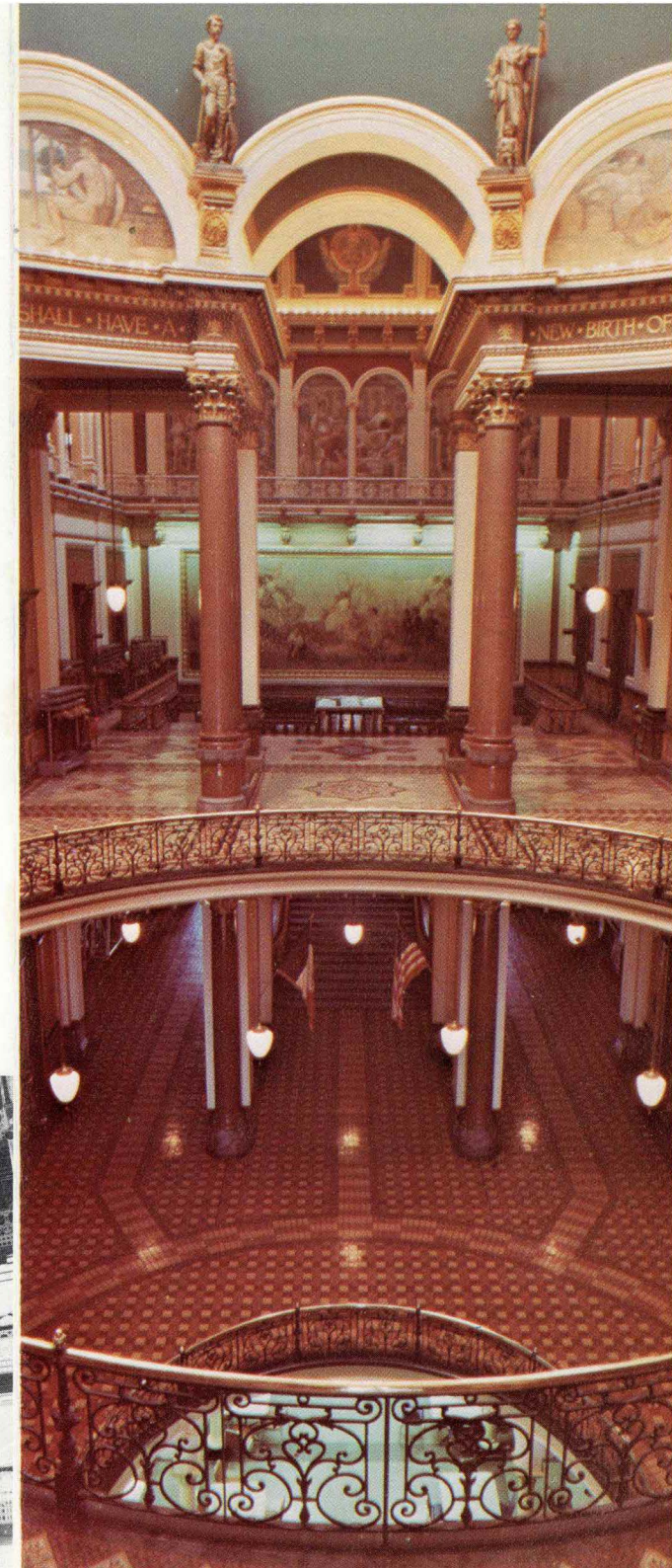
South of the Capitol Building, the most striking monument is the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Designed by Harriet A. Ketchum of Mt. Pleasant, work was started in 1894. The granite shaft rises 145' high crowned by the heroic figure "Victory." At the base there are four men representing different branches of military and naval service. The horsemen are four Iowa generals. It was erected to the memory of the soldiers and sailors who served in the Civil War. Iowans were used as models for the figures.

The Allison Memorial just beyond was erected by General Grenville Dodge honoring William Allison of Dubuque, Iowa's longtime Senator. A small memorial to Christopher Columbus erected by Iowa citizens of Italian ancestry stands nearby.

In the South garden the Japanese Bell and Bell House are located. This was a gift from the Prefecture Yamanashi Japan in appreciation of Iowa's help to them following a disastrous typhoon. It was dedicated in 1962.

The grave of Willson Alexander Scott, one of those who gave the original grounds to the state is south of the Capitol near where he lived.

West of the Capitol is an impressive statuary group depicting the Pioneers. The cannon and mortar on the grounds are from the Civil and Spanish-American Wars. The statue "Lincoln and Tad" was dedicated in 1961. The sculpture done by Fred and Mabel Torrey of Des Moines was donated by the Friends of Lincoln. The inscription written on the book in Lincoln's lap is: "To Every Boy and Girl in Iowa. The friends of Lincoln are honored here in 1961

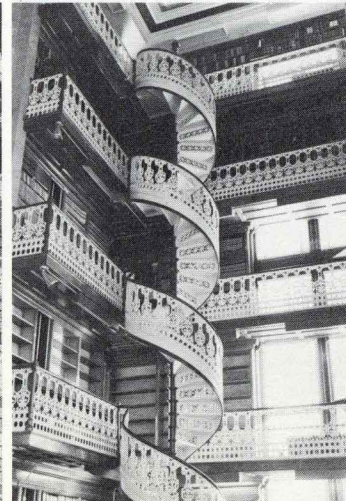
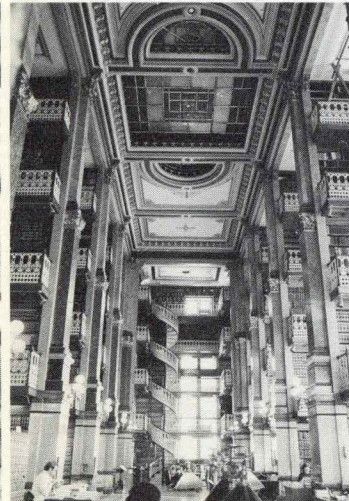
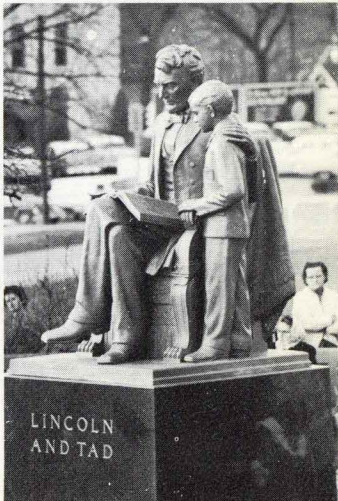
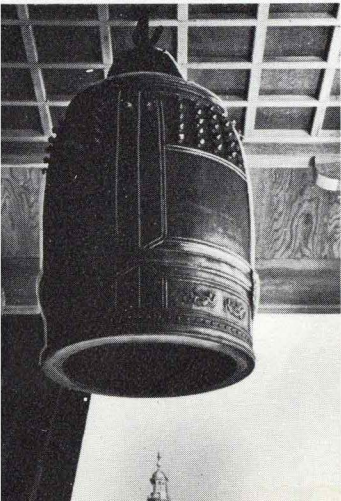


JAPANESE BELL

LINCOLN STATUE

LAW LIBRARY

CIRCULAR STAIRWAY



to here place Tad by his father Abraham Lincoln to say to you—stay close to the finest in life.”

The memorial to “Honor those who have served that we may live in freedom” was presented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary in 1976.

East of the Capitol is a replica in miniature of the Statue of Liberty presented by the Boy Scouts. The fine record of Iowa citizens in war bond drives was rewarded by a presentation in 1950 of the Liberty Bell. A granite block was dedicated to the soldiers of the Spanish-American War. A stone erected by the Women’s Relief Corps in honor of Crocker Post No. 12, Department of Iowa, was set in 1944. A bronze cannon taken in the Spanish-American War and the headpiece of the battleship Iowa are near the Historical Building.



HOURS OF CAPITOL BUILDING

Monday thru Friday 8:00 - 4:30

Saturday, Sunday & Holidays 8:00 - 4:00

Tours of the building are available Monday through Friday. Call 515-281-5591 or write *Tours & Information Desk, Main Floor, State Capitol Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.*

STATE FLAG

Iowa’s official state banner is patterned after the tricolors of France in honor of the French voyageurs who explored the Iowa region in 1673. The white center panel of the banner signifies the “white unwritten pages of Iowa’s history” and the center emblem, an eagle carrying a blue streamer, was adapted from Iowa’s State Seal.



STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA



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