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**COLORADO CAPITOL BUILDING**



*Colorado Department of Public Relations.*



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## THE COLORADO CAPITOL BUILDING

The Colorado Capitol Building stands proudly at the crest of a knoll on Capitol Hill in Denver on land donated by Mr. Harry C. Brown. Its many pillars and gleaming pure gold dome welcome thousands of guests yearly with the same warmth and hospitality that surrounded visitors the day it was opened back in 1908.

More than 22 years were required to complete this granite building which contains 160 beautifully appointed rooms. More than 200 stone cutters from Maine, Vermont, California and Texas were employed. The outer walls measure five feet thick.

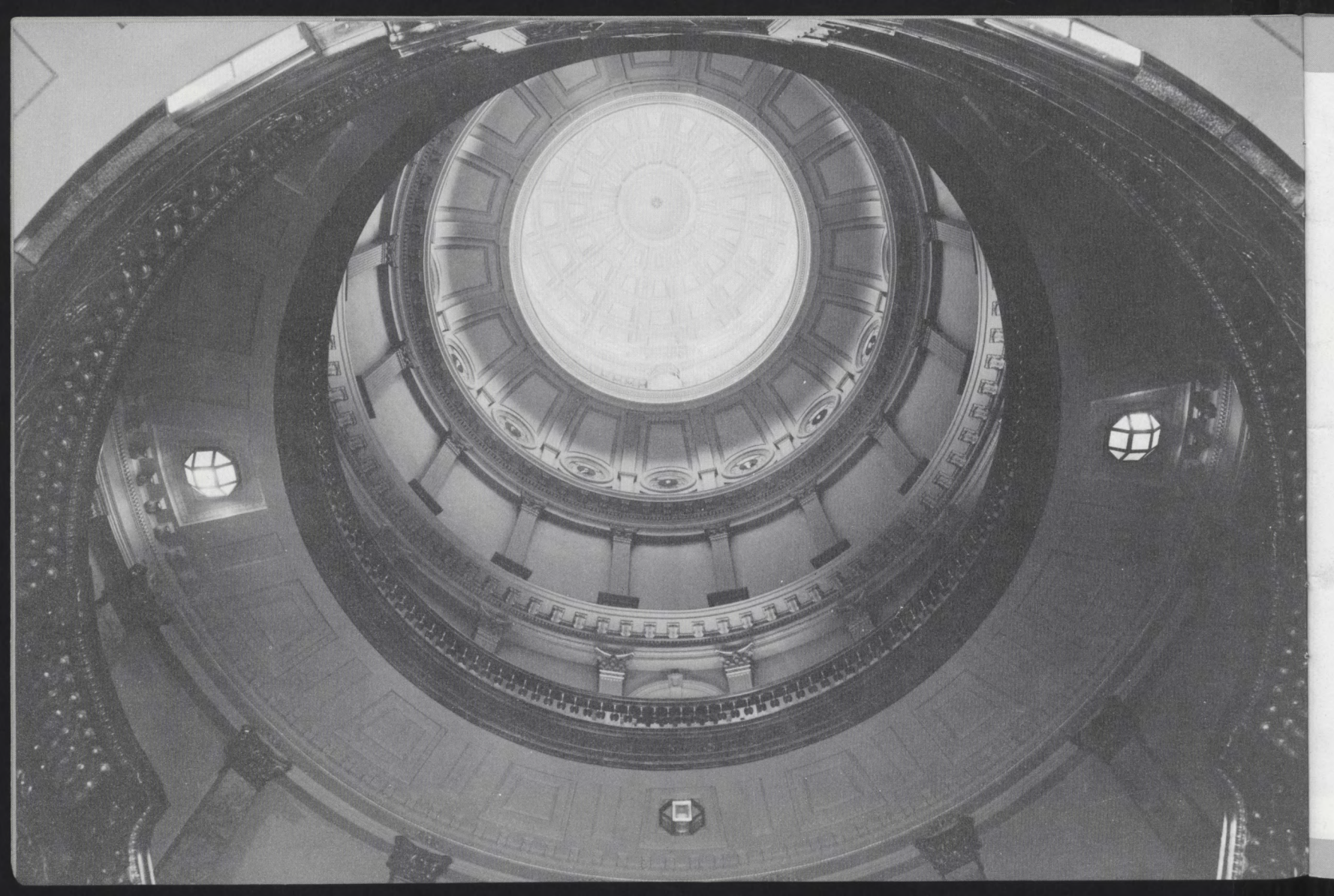
The cornerstone, located at the North East corner of the building, weighed 20 tons in its rough state. In the cornerstone are to be found a Bible; an American flag; Constitutions of the United States and Colorado; many state records and historical data; a collection of coins and a walking stick made from a piece of the keel of Old Ironsides.

The impressive dome, which is 272 feet above the ground, is covered with 24 carat gold donated to the state by various citizens through the Colorado Mining Association. The original donation in 1908 totaled 200 ounces. In 1950 another 50 ounces were donated through the cooperation of the same association which was used for repair and refurbishing. The gold was applied and polished in 1950 at a cost of \$20,000.00 which did not include the value of the gold.

All material used in the capitol is native except the steel girders and trusses and the ornamental brass. The outer walls are of granite that was quarried near Gunnison. The foundations and wall backing are of Fort Collins sandstone. The wainscoting and many of the interior pilasters are of Colorado Onyx from Beulah. All cast iron work was fabricated in Denver. Weight of steel beams and girders is 630,753 pounds. 122 columns are of cast iron and weigh approximately 210 tons. The foundation is made up of 332,616 cubic feet of stone. The dome required 58,507 cubic feet of masonry. While there are no bricks showing anywhere in the building, 5,482,114 bricks were used in the walls!

The floor plan is designed on an axis in the form of a Greek cross measuring 383 feet long by 315 feet wide. Each face of the structure is dominated by a high Corinthian portico. Broad corridors, paved with white marble, extend from each of the four entrances to the Grand Staircase in the Rotunda. Immediately above a circular well pierces the structure to the tower beneath the dome where the Inside and Outside Observation Galleries are located.

The original cost for the building was nearly \$3,000,000.00. It is estimated that it would require at least \$15,000,000.00 to duplicate it today.



## THE ROTUNDA

The most impressive spot inside the Capitol Building is the magnificent rotunda which is in the center of the Greek cross plan on which the building was built. When standing on the first floor, the gold sun burst which tops the inside of the dome is 150 feet overhead. The diameter is 45 feet. The rotunda encloses more than 220,000 cubic feet of open space.

This massive area is visible from four levels, all of which are open to the public. The inside of the dome can be viewed from (1) the Main Floor (2) the balcony of the Grand Staircase on the Second Floor (3) the Third Floor Balcony and (4) the Inside Observation Gallery which is reached by a series of 94 steps located near the North entrance of the House of Representatives Gallery.

The entire Rotunda is made up of a cascade of 128 pilasters. These are arranged in eight rows of 16 pilasters each. The interior of the dome is illuminated by 60 indirect spot lights. Forty-eight spotlights are on the third floor and twelve are on the walls of the Inside Observation Gallery.

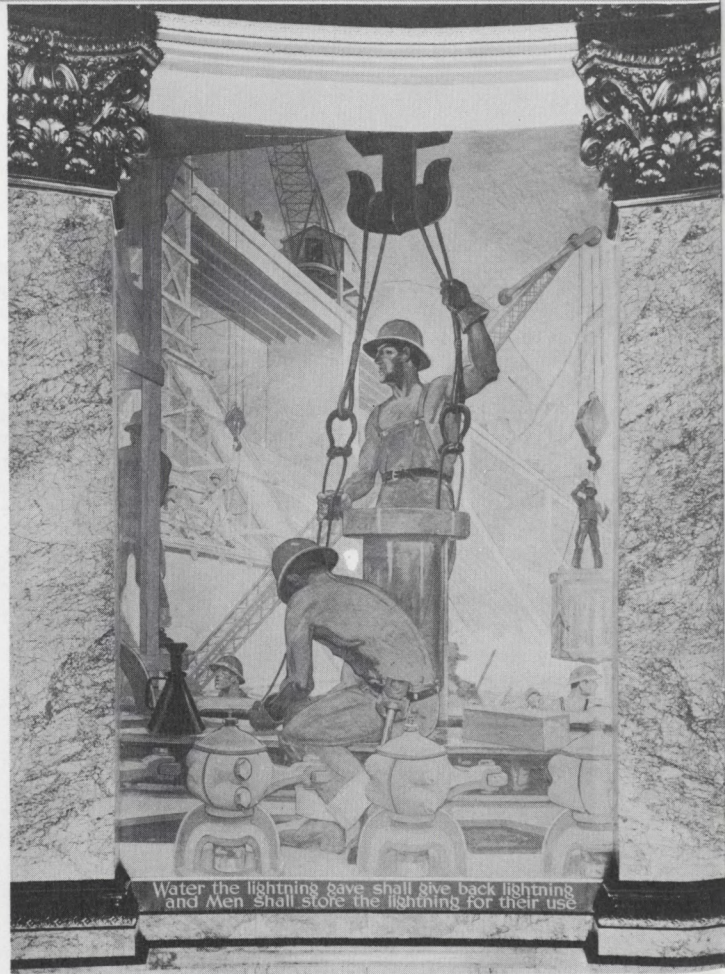
When the building was redecorated in 1955, interior decorator R. L. Noble referred to the ancient town of Corinth where Corinthian architecture got its name. He selected the colors Corinthians used in their buildings, keeping in mind the sky and land colors of the West. Corinthians loved color, so Mr. Noble applied color to this Corinthian building with a broad brush. It is the only building in the United States of its type that uses authentic Corinthian colors so boldly and vividly. For this reason the Colorado Capitol Building stands alone in the nation in color design!

Near the top of the dome is the Colorado Hall of Fame, which is made up of stained glass portraits of 16 pioneers who helped in the initial growth and development of the state. Best viewed from the Inside Observation Gallery these people are William N. Byers, Newspaperman; William Gilpin, 1st Governor of Colorado Territory; J. W. Denver, Governor of Kansas Territory (part of which became Colorado) when gold was discovered; John Evans, Second Governor of Colorado; Casimero Barela, State Senator and Stockman; Nathaniel P. Hill, U. S. Senator from Colorado and Mining man; Kit Carson, Colorado Pioneer who helped open the west; Alexander Majors, organized Pony Express; General Bela M. Hughes, originated Overland Stage Coach Co.; R. G. Buckingham, M.D., public spirited physician who aided in educational development; John L. Dyer, famous as the pioneer "Snow Shoe Preacher"; Ouray, Chief of Utes, who was instrumental in deeding large land areas to the U. S. Government; William J. Palmer, Railroad builder and public spirited citizen; Frances Wisbart Jacobs (the only woman) pioneer woman who founded many charities in Colorado, one of which was the Community Chest; Jim Baker, famous early frontiersman, lived for years with Utes and was considered by many to be one of them; Benjamin H. Eaton, Governor of Colorado and developer of great irrigation systems.

All the Hall of Fame windows are of the finest stained glass available and are framed with a spray of columbine, the Colorado state flower.



Then shall the River-namers track the Sunset  
singing the long song to the Shining Mountains



Water the lightning gave shall give back lightning  
and Men shall store the lightning for their use

## ROTUNDA MURALS

Probably the best remembered spot in the Capitol Building is the main floor of the Rotunda where eight huge murals tell, in glowing colors, the history of water in Colorado and its value to the development of the west. The murals were a gift from the Boettcher Foundation in 1938 and were painted on canvas by Colorado artist Allen True. The lyrical inscriptions that accompany each panel were composed by the poet, Thomas Hornsby Ferril, also of Colorado.

*The first panel is inscribed with the following poem.*

Here is a land where life is written in water  
the West is where the water was and is  
Father and Son of old Mother and Daughter  
Following Rivers up immensities  
of Range and Desert thirsting the Sundown ever  
Crossing a hill to climb a hill since Drier  
Naming tonight a City by some River  
a different Name from last night's Camping Fire.

Look to the Green within the Mountain Cup  
Look to the Prairie parched for water lack  
Look to the Sun that pulls the Ocean up  
Look to the Cloud that gives the oceans back  
Look to your Heart and may your Wisdom grow  
to power of Lightning and peace of Snow.

THOMAS HORNSBY FERRIL

*The inscriptions that accompany each picture are as follows.*

1. Men shall behold the water in the Sky  
and count the Seasons by living grasses.
2. Then shall the River-namers track the Sunset  
singing the long song to the Shining Mountains.
3. Here shall the melting Snows renew the Oxen  
here Firewood is and here shall men build cities.
4. Water shall sluice the Gold yellow as leaves  
that fall from Silver Trees on Silent Hills.
5. And men shall fashion Glaciers into Greenness  
and harvest April rivers in the autumn.
6. Deep in the Earth where roots of willows drank  
Shall Aqueducts be laid to nourish cities.
7. Water the lightning gave shall give back lightning  
and Men shall store the lightning for their use.
8. Beyond the Sundown is tomorrow's Wisdom  
today is going to be long long ago.





## OBSERVATION GALLERY

A famous newspaper man once said "No vaster, sublimer view was ever spread out before the eye of sinful man than that which sweeps away into snow and clouds from the West Portico of the Capitol." One trip to the Observation Gallery will convince any visitor of the truth of his statement.

This level is reached by a series of 94 steps which start on the Third Floor near the North door to the House of Representatives Gallery. The staircase is open to the public from 9 A.M. until 4:30 P.M.

An Outdoor Promenade surrounds the entire

dome. Large brass markers spaced about the western half of the building point out Lookout Mountain, Mount Evans (with the highest automobile highway in America), Arapahoe Peak, Mount Audubon, Longs Peak, Red Rocks Theater, Cub Mountain, Devil's Head and Pikes Peak! These and many other mountains are easily viewed from the Promenade.

Views to the North reveal the sky-line of downtown Denver while the East and South present the residential sections of Denver.



## THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Colorado has 65 representatives who meet every year in the House of Representatives, the largest meeting room in the Capitol Building.

While the general appearance is much the same as it was when opened more than half a century ago, the walls have been covered with sound-proof tile and the entire lighting system redesigned and made more powerful. The large chandelier in the center of this room as well as the wall lamps were originally illuminated with gas. A large

arched skylight in the center of the ceiling was covered to make way for the more efficient flood lights that now illuminate the room.

The large windows behind the speaker's stand open out onto a private balcony in the West Portico.

There are two entrances to the House Galleries that are located near the West side of the Rotunda on the Third Floor. They are open to the public at all times.



## THE SENATE CHAMBER

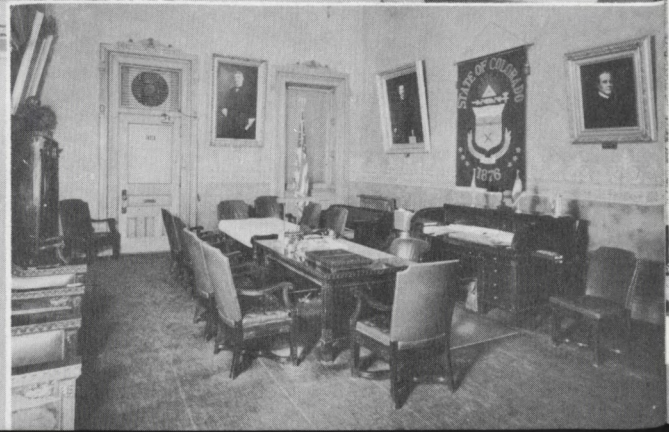
Colorado has 35 Senators who meet yearly in the Senate Chamber.

At one time called "The Cave of the Winds" because of poor acoustics, complete sound engineering has corrected the condition and now hearing is easy from any seat. The Great Chandelier, a duplicate of that in the House of Representatives, weighs nearly 1,500 pounds and contains 48 lights, one for each state.

Colorado's second Hall of Fame is located in the beautiful stained glass windows of the south wall.

The six windows contain portraits of John Routt, Territorial Governor and 1st State Governor; Edward Walcott, U.S. Senator; Charles Hughes, U.S. Senator; David Moffat, tunnel and railroad builder; Samuel Nicholson, mining man; Otto Mears, known as the Colorado Pathfinder for his work in building excellently engineered mountain highways.

There are four entrances to the Senate Galleries which are located in the South Wing of the Third Floor. They are open to the public at all times.



## THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Colorado's major governmental activities center in this room which is the Governor's office.

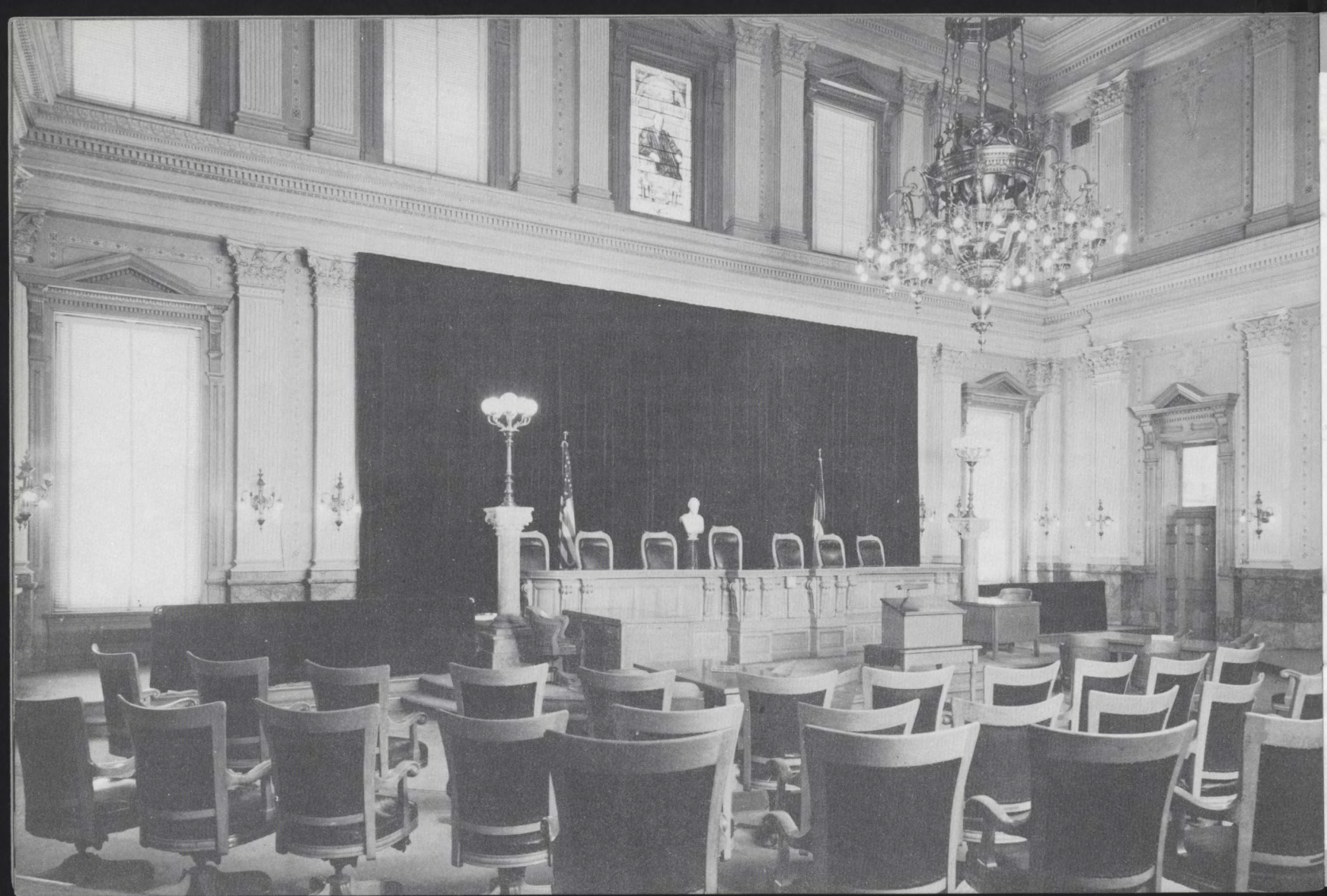
In 1958 the Governor's suite was completely remodeled, redecorated and refurnished. There are now eight major rooms in the new suite, including an outer reception room, inner reception room, the Governor's office shown here, and an administrative suite of five offices.

The Governor's office features wall-to-wall carpeting of tawny gold wool with the great seal of Colorado woven in full color into the design. The walls are magnificent natural-finished

matched American walnut panels. The chandeliers, which originally hung in the old reception room, were revised for indirect lighting and now highlight this office. The ceiling is dusty heather, embellished with gold ornamental plaster. Conference chairs are burnt orange and the upholstered chairs spruce green. The office is equipped with built-in television and radio, as well as motion picture equipment.

Adjoining this room is a private bath and dressing room which boasts a cedar-lined closet.

*Small photo shows Governor's office as it appeared before renovation.*





## THE SUPREME COURT

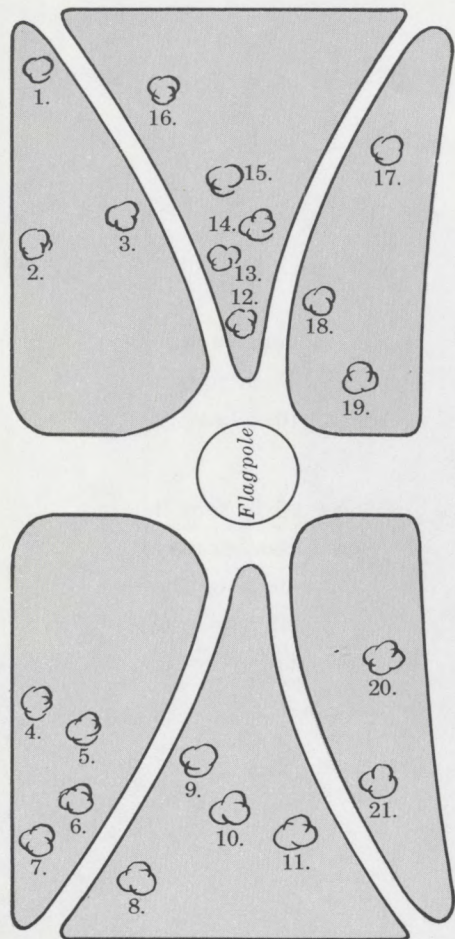
One of the most important rooms in the Capitol Building is the Supreme Court, which appears much as it did years ago. Deep Maroon draperies (added later) background the Judicial Bench and add contrast to the marble bust of William Thatcher, the only statue in the entire building. William Thatcher was the first man to serve as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in this building.

The floor is entirely carpeted from wall to wall. The one stained glass window is of Chief Justice Robert W. Steele.

Ingeniously constructed secret panels in the Bench hold pitchers for ice water. Each judges chair behind the bench is equipped with a heavily upholstered foot stool.

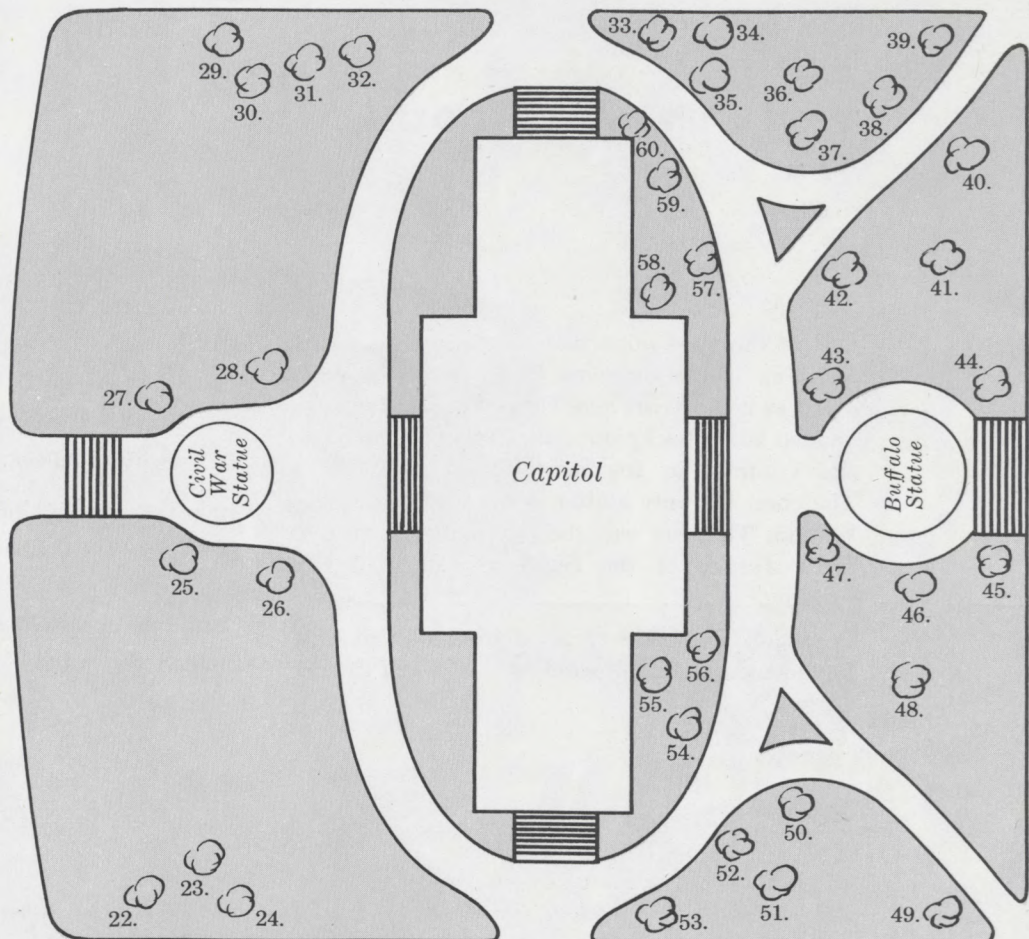
The two story room is rather unusual in that it has no gallery. The Supreme Court Chamber may be viewed during a regular guided tour of the building or visited during Supreme Court Sessions which are usually held every Monday morning during the winter.

Broadway



Lincoln

Colfax



Fourteenth

## THE CAPITOL LAWNS

Surrounding the capitol building are the famous Capitol lawns composed entirely of a rich growth of blue grass. Nearly fifty varieties of trees provide shade and ornament about the grounds. Trees from Europe and Asia and American trees not native to Colorado have been identified by markers.

The two Black Walnut trees located on either side of the Civil War Memorial in front of the west portico were given to Colorado by Abraham Lincoln.

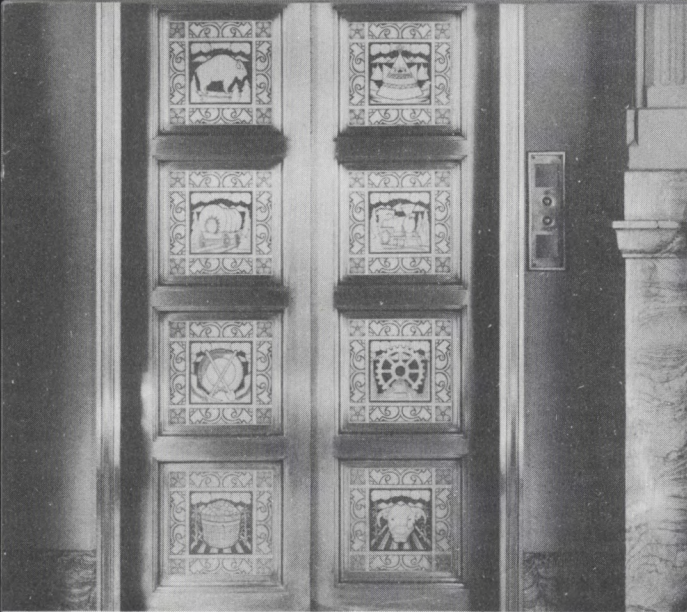
The following list of numbers refers to the tree locations on the map of the grounds.

## TREE KEY Colorado State Capitol Grounds

- |                                   |                           |                                    |                            |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. French Hawthorn                | 15. Western Catalpa       | 31. Colorado Blue Spruce           | 46. Walnut                 |
| 2. White Willow                   | *16. Hackberry            | 32. Colorado Blue Spruce           | *47. Black Locust          |
| 3. Silver Maple                   | *17. Kentucky Coffee Tree | 33. Rocky Mountain Juniper         | *48. American Elm          |
| 4. Wiers Cut Leaf Maple           | 18. Russian Olive         | 34. Rocky Mountain Juniper         | 49. Colorado Blue Spruce   |
| 5. White Willow                   | 19. White Willow          | 35. White Fir                      | 50. Silver Maple           |
| 6. American Plane Tree (Sycamore) | 20. Weeping Willow        | 36. Black Walnut                   | 51. Walnut                 |
| 7. Hackberry                      | 21. Hackberry             | 37. Cut Leaf Maple                 | 52. Horse Chestnut         |
| 8. Chinese Elm                    | 22. White Fir             | 38. Silver Leaf Poplar             | 53. Rocky Mountain Juniper |
| 9. Oak Leaf Mountain Ash          | 23. Colorado Blue Spruce  | 39. White Fir                      | *54. Norway Maple          |
| 10. Black Cherry                  | 24. Colorado Blue Spruce  | 40. Silver Leaf Poplar             | 55. Slippery Elm           |
| 11. Western Catalpa               | 25. Colorado Blue Spruce  | 41. American Plane Tree (Sycamore) | 56. Bechtel Crab           |
| *12. European Horse Chestnut      | *26. Black Walnut         | 42. Green Ash                      | *57. European Mountain Ash |
| *13. Ginkgo                       | 27. Colorado Blue Spruce  | *43. Black Locust                  | 58. Cut Leaf Weeping Birch |
| 14. Norway Maple                  | *28. Black Walnut         | 44. Colorado Blue Spruce           | *59. European Linden       |
|                                   | 29. White Fir             | 45. Colorado Blue Spruce           | 60. Beech                  |
|                                   | 30. Colorado Blue Spruce  |                                    |                            |

In order to assure continued growth of all trees, specimens numbered 5, 19, 20, 31 and 38 were removed in 1958.

*\*Indicates specimen trees.*



## ELEVATOR DOORS

These elevator doors, the only kind like them in the world, tell in striking bronze panels, the romantic history of Colorado.

The bison depicted in one panel indicates the wild, remote country before man appeared. Indian teepees symbolize the long reign of the Red Man. The covered wagon shows the arrival of the first pioneers as they search out new lands. The pick and shovel crossed before a miners pan indicates the discovery of gold, silver and other metals that were responsible for much of Colorado's rapid growth. The train announces the arrival of modern transportation. The agriculture and livestock panels stand for those two industries which are Colorado's major sources of income. The cog wheel stands for industrial development and modern industry that play such an important part in Colorado's present and the even greater progress that is destined for the future.



## PRICELESS COLORADO ONYX

The Colorado Capitol Building has, beyond any question, the most priceless trim to be used in any building. The red stone, used in wainscoting and pilasters through the three top floors is very rare Colorado onyx. This colorful stone, discovered in large boulders near Bulah, Colorado, has never been duplicated anywhere in the world. The entire supply was used in the Capitol Building interior!

So careful were the stone cutters and polishers that seven full years were required to complete the installation of this stone at a cost of \$158,303.37. Each panel was carefully matched both in color and design and many conferences had to be held to decide just which cut of the stone would bring out the most brilliant hues and the most beautiful patterns. As hard and smooth as glass, this stone has great depth and the rich colors seem to glow from the very center of the stone.

It is claimed that more than a thousand designs have been found in the stone that resemble famous people, animals and objects. Easily seen are George Washington and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, both on the outside west walls of the rotunda.

Look carefully at this lavish use of Colorado onyx, for you shall never see it again in any other building in the world!



## CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL

This fine statue stands in front of the West Portico of the Capitol Building. The memorial, which was designed and donated to the state by John D. "Jack" Howland, illustrates a typical Civil War soldier. The figure was modeled by J. Otto Schweizer of Philadelphia and cast in Bronze. An inscription at the top of the monument reads "To the Memory of Colorado Soldiers who died in the Civil War." This is followed by a list of fatalities.

On the north face of the monument is a simple wreath, inside which is inscribed the words "For the Unknown Dead."

The two black walnut trees located at either side of the memorial have special significance since they were given to Colorado by Abraham Lincoln.



## "THE CLOSING ERA"

This bronze group on the east lawn represents an Indian hunter examining his prey, a dying buffalo.

To commemorate the construction of the statue, famous poet John Greenleaf Whittier wrote

"The mountain eagle from his lofty peaks  
For the wild hunter and the bison seeks.  
Through the changed world, but finds alone  
Their graven semblance in the eternal stone."

After the lines were written, the plans were changed and the statue was cast in bronze and mounted on a base of Colorado granite from Cotopaxi Quarry. The cast was made by artists in Florence, Italy and shipped to this country where it was first exhibited at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893.

"The Closing Era" is the work of Preston Powers, who once taught art in Denver, and was paid for by subscriptions from Colorado women.

## AS THE SCENE CHANGES.....

The dinosaur has left his giant spoor upon the rocks of Colorado. Time was when crocodiles were native here. The earth once thundered to the mammoth's tread. Then came the forms we know today: bison, antelope, deer, elk, old Moccasin Joe.

Man came quite late—some twenty thousand years ago, and left upon our eastern plains a few chipped points to tantalize the experts. These were the Yuma and the Folsom men. Eighteen millenniums passed; then, around the time of Caesar, the Basket Makers appeared on the southwest mesa lands. As the centuries passed, their primitive pit dwellings were succeeded by pueblos and then by the cliff-dwellings of Mesa Verde. By the time the Cliff-Dwellers had vanished, the nomadic tribes of history had appeared upon the plains.

The first white men to enter the region were the Spanish explorers who gave to almost every mountain and stream in southern Colorado the name it bears today. Our heritage from the French fur traders is almost negligible. Organized exploration had to await the coming of the Americans: Pike, Long, Fremont, and Gunnison. In their wake came the Mountain Men: Bridger, Baker, Wootton, Carson, the Bents—the real trail-blazers of Colorado.

The first settlements were made in the San Luis Valley in the 1850s by Spanish-Americans from New Mexico.

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The discovery of gold near Denver in 1858 by the Russell party resulted in the first Anglo-American settlements. The strikes of Gregory and Jackson brought legions of Argonauts across the plains—miners, merchants, land-promoters, and gamblers. On February 28, 1861, when houses of brick were replacing log cabins, Colorado Territory was created.

The Civil War era was a time that tried men's faith in the land. Then came the railroads in 1870, along with new methods for treating ore. Baronial ranches grew up around vast herds of longhorns. Settlers swarmed into the fertile valleys. The Leadville strike of 1878 put silver production ahead of gold, and opened the era of great mining and railroad enterprises. As wealth poured into the banks, Colorado towns blossomed with colleges, opera houses, and brown-stone palaces.

Colorado rallied quickly from the national panic of 1893. The discovery of gold at Cripple Creek offset the drop in silver. Dry farming and irrigation extended the farm area. New crops, such as sugar beets, created new wealth. Wool production soared. Expansion of trade made Colorado the commercial emporium of the West; good roads and the motor car made it the playground of the Nation. The state has vast wealth under ground but its major source of wealth today is in its farms and ranches.

