NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Texas State Capitol

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Congress Avenue and 11th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of

state Texas code 048 county Travis code 453

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	_X_ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	_X_ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	N/A in process	___ yes: restricted	_X_ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	_X_ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name State of Texas

street & number

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of state Texas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Travis County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Austin state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Texas Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? _X_ yes ___ no

date 1964 ___ federal _X_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin state Texas

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
_X_ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
___ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date N/A
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Texas State Capitol building is a three-story structure, with a four-story central block, with exterior masonry-bearing walls faced in Texas red granite. Modeled on the design of the national capitol in Washington, D.C., the building features a dome at the crossing of its major axes. The dome rests upon a masonry drum, with the upper sections of the dome proper fabricated in metal, the exterior surface painted to simulate the granite of the exterior walls. The interior of the structure features monumental and elaborately detailed doorframes, with cast-iron staircases placed alongside the rotunda. The two legislative chambers occupy the second floor of the structure, with the basement, first, third, and fourth floors being devoted to office space.

The Texas State Capitol building is located at the crest of a hill overlooking downtown Austin and the distant Colorado River. The setting for the building was an integral part of the 1839 plan of the city of Austin prepared by Edwin Waller. The principal elevation of the capitol faces south, with the central block measuring 289 feet from north to south, and the east-west measurement of the building at its greatest length reaching 566 feet, 6 inches.

The overall conception of the design is clearly based upon that of the national capitol in Washington, although there are substantial differences in terms of architectural detailing and finishes. The north and south elevations are five-part compositions, the central bays of which serve as the principal entrances to the structure. The south entry is framed by a colossal three-story archway, while the north entrance is set within a three-story columnar portico. The east and west elevations were originally planned to feature similar porticoes, but these were eliminated from construction plans due to the increased cost of such elements. The central pavilions on the north and south elevations rise four stories, and are five bays in width. The projecting wings which house the two legislative chambers are recessed back from the central block, and contain five facade bays arranged in an AABAA pattern. The flanking pavilions, which also form the east and west elevations of the structure, are each three bays in width on the north and south elevations, and nine bays in width on the east and west elevations.

The dome which surmounts the intersection of the east-west and north-south interior axes of the building is a more vertically proportioned version of the dome of the national capitol. In height, it measures 250 feet from the floor of the basement to the base of the lantern. The Renaissance-inspired detailing of the exterior of the dome, including the columned drum, is executed in galvanized iron painted to match the color of the red granite which faces the masonry walls of the building. The lantern of the dome is topped by a cast zinc statue representing the Goddess of Liberty, in whose raised left hand is held a five-pointed star, an iconographic symbol borrowed from the state flag.

The exterior walls of the capitol are faced with red granite quarried near Burnet, Texas. The great majority of the stone is quarry faced, with the only dressed ashlar work being confined to the shafts of the columns and pilasters which articulate the bays of the facades. The most monumental blocks of granite are set in the first floor walls, with blocks of lesser scale and texture of finish being used on the upper floors. The stonework is carried up to the parapets on the north and south elevations of the central block.

The interior of the capitol is dominated, on the first floor, by the broad east-west hallway, which is flanked by suites of legislators' offices, and the vast space of the rotunda. The lobby spaces to the north and south of the rotunda serve mainly as preludes to the rotunda space. The second floor houses the chambers for the Senate and House of Representatives, with offices in the east and west ends for Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. The third and fourth floors contain more legislators' offices. The detailing of the interior reflects the classical character of the exterior. The monumental cast-iron columns of the interior feature Corinthian capitals, a device also found on the more elaborately detailed doorframes, most of which are of carved oak. The rotunda features galleries on the second, third, and fourth floors, supported on massive console brackets of cast iron. The Senate and House chambers are set to either side of the rotunda space. These primary public spaces were both originally lit by large skylights, the interior glazing of which consisted of large rectangular panes of inch-thick glass sandblasted with the state seal at their center. The opaque character of these panels diffused the light into the chambers. While several of these glass panels survive, many have been removed over the years. Spectators' space galleries ring the legislative chambers on three sides.

The only significant interior space to have been seriously altered from its original design is the legislative library, which is located in the north section of the central block. Originally built as a two-story space illuminated by a skylight and glass blocks in the floor, the space has had its skylight filled in and the glass block flooring removed. Some of the book stack shelving still remains in use today.

Shortly after its completion in 1888, the state capitol site was further improved by the erection of a composition cast- and wrought-iron fence surrounding the twenty-seven-acre capitol grounds. Executed by the Springfield, Ohio, firm of Mast, Foos and Company, the fence features five-pointed stars as caps for each of its pickets.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1882-1888 **Builder/Architect** Elijah E. Myers, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Texas State Capitol represents the high-water mark in the career of its architect, Elijah E. Myers, described by the architectural historians Henry Russell Hitchcock and William Seale as "the greatest capitol-builder of the Gilded Age". The building reflects the popularity of the national capitol in Washington, D.C. as the prototype for state capitol buildings in the post-Civil War era. The product of an architectural competition judged by a prominent architect, the Texas State Capitol building is the largest such structure in the United States.

The foundation for construction of the Texas State Capitol, which began in 1882, was actually laid in 1875 with the passage of the state constitution. Included in that document was a resolution to appropriate and set apart three million acres of public lands for the purpose of providing the funds needed to construct a state capitol and other public buildings. Supplementary acts passed in 1879 authorized this land either to be sold to pay for such construction, or to be used as the means of payment itself for such work. These supplementary acts also established the Capitol Building Commission, which was appointed on November 16, 1880. On November 20, 1880, the Commission called for the submission of designs for a new state capitol to cost one million five hundred thousand dollars. The deadline for the submission of these designs was February 1, 1881. Eleven designs were received by the deadline, which were studied by the three members of the Commission, as well as Governor O. M. Roberts. The Governor requested that an impartial architect be consulted to advise the Commission on the adoption of plans for the building, and on April 24, 1881, Napoleon LeBrun of New York arrived in Austin to serve in that capacity. On May 6, 1881, it was announced that the plans submitted under the "nom de plume" of Tuebor had been chosen as the winner of the competition.

These plans were the work of the Detroit architect Elijah E. Myers, the individual most responsible for the architectural character of post-Civil War state capitols, having designed four such structures and competed, without success, for the chance to design two others. At the time he entered the Texas competition, Myers had already gained fame from the completion of the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing, completed in 1878, and would shortly enter and win the competition for the Colorado State Capitol in 1883. Myers also designed the first Idaho State Capitol, built in 1885, a commission evidently not awarded on the basis of a competition. Myers entered the competitions for the Indiana and Wyoming state capitols in 1877 and 1885, respectively, but won neither. Myers was also noted for his designs for county courthouse and municipal buildings, the most noted being the City Hall of Richmond, Virginia, completed in 1894.

From the outset of his career as a designer of state capitol buildings, Myers was clearly influenced by the model of Thomas U. Walter's work on the national capitol at Washington, D.C., which had been completed in 1863. Of course, the concept of a tripartite design

9. Major Bibliographical References

Temples of Democracy: The State Capitols of the U.S.A., Henry-Russell Hitchcock and William Seale. 1976. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, New York and London.

The Preservation of the Texas State Capitol. Diane Susan Jones. Unpublished Masters Thesis, School of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin, 1980. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 27 acres

Quadrangle name Austin East, Tex **Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	14	621050	3349800
B	14	621400	3349700
C	14	620900	3349540
D	14	621260	3349440
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The twenty-seven acre site is bounded on all sides by the cast- and wrought-iron fence which defines the perimeter, generally bounded by 11th Street on the south, 14th Street on the north, Colorado to the west and Brazos to the east.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	**code**	**county**		**code**
state		**code**	**county**		**code**

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John C. Ferguson, Architectural Historian

organization Texas Historical Commission **date** December, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 12276 **telephone** (512) 475-3094

city or town Austin **state** Texas 78711

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

X **national** ___ **state** ___ **local**

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Curtis Tunnell

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 13 Jan. 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

GPO 911-399

for such a monumental structure had originated with Charles Bulfinch's plans for the nation's capitol, which were expanded upon by Walter. By the time the competition for the design of the Michigan state capitol was announced in June of 1871, several states had already begun to erect new seats of state government based upon Walter's work, the earliest of which was the California state capitol in Sacramento, completed in 1874, although begun over a decade earlier. It is significant to note that while the California state capitol precedes Myers' Texas design by more than a decade, the earlier structure has seen many changes to its original form. On the exterior, construction of a massive addition in 1949-1952 resulted in the concealment of the original east elevation. The remodeling of 1906-1908 significantly impacted the scale of the legislative chambers, with the ceiling height dropping eight feet to accommodate an additional fourth level of office space. The structural work undertaken on the California state capitol between 1975 and 1982 resulted in the restoration of many lost features, but did not restore the original ceiling heights of the legislative chambers.

Myers' entry in the Michigan competition, which he won, was a variant on the national model with respect to the character of the detailing of the exterior. While Myers chose to repeat the image of the domed central block flanked by wings containing the legislative chambers, as established by the new national capitol, he did not adorn the elevations with giant-order colonnades supporting sculpture-filled pediments. In terms of proportions, the Michigan capitol was more vertical than its prototype, with the central block being a full four stories above a full basement. The dome which Myers placed atop the design appears too small for the mass of the structure, and the colonnade around the drum of the dome projects out of its circular form to address the four projecting masses of the building below. Each of the floor levels was defined by stringcourses, and pediments adorned all the windows of the upper two floors.

The design Myers submitted in 1881 for the Texas state capitol represented a substantial change from his Michigan project, both in terms of scale and character. Perhaps by virtue of the large site available in Austin, Myers' design was a more elongated composition, more closely reflective of the national model. The dome, although still narrower than that designed by Walter for Washington, had attained a prominence far greater than that of the Michigan design. In detailing the exterior walls of the Texas capitol, Myers may also have responded to the national model in his choice of giant-order pilasters to frame the second and third floors of the building, dispensing with the multiple stringcourses used for the Michigan design.

These design tendencies should not, however, be taken to suggest that Myers was merely copying Walter's work in Washington, even though the building was first called to be faced in limestone, so as to present a more serene appearance. The substitution of red granite for limestone in 1885 surely adds to the original character of Myer's work, especially given the quarry-faced finish used on the majority of the exterior stonework. Perhaps the most dramatic and original element introduced by Myers was the colossal archway which framed the main entry to the south elevation of the building, an element

which has no counterpart in the design of any other state capitol building, although Myers would use the motif on smaller county courthouse designs.

The success with which Myers generated an original solution to the design of the Texas state capitol becomes more apparent when one looks at his last state capitol project, that for Colorado. Not completed until 1908, the Colorado capitol reads as a somewhat abbreviated version of the Michigan and Texas designs, with little of the vitality of either of those earlier projects.

The successful career which Myers had built as the architect of public buildings was, ironically, in a large part responsible for his dismissal from the position of designing architect by the Capitol Commission in April 1886. The inability of the Capitol Commissioners to obtain responses from Myers on questions concerning the various contract specifications for the building was the result of his work on the Colorado state capitol and other public buildings. It is significant to note, however, that the design of the Texas state capitol was executed according to Myer's drawings, which the Commissioners considered to be of sufficient elaboration and detail to allow for the construction of the building without Myers' direct assistance. Therefore, in spite of the deteriorating relationship between the architect and his clients, the Texas state capitol building can still be said to represent the best efforts of Elijah Myers in a field of endeavor in which he had established a significant and well-deserved reputation across the United States.

The Politics of Architecture in the Gilded Age: The Practice of Elijah E. Myers. Marlene Elizabeth Heck. Unpublished Masters thesis, The University of Virginia, Charlottesville. 1977.

Biennial Reports of the Capitol Building Commission, 1883-1888. Triplett & Hutchings, State Printers, Austin. On file at the Texas State Archives, Austin.

Texas State Capitol Building
Congress and 11th, Austin, Travis County,
Texas.

Photo by Jim Bonar, October 1985; neg. with
Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

South elevation
camera facing north

Photo 1 of 11

Texas State Capitol Building
Congress and 11th, Austin, Travis County,
Texas.

Photo by Jim Bonar, October 1985; neg. with
Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

Northeast oblique
camera facing southwest

Photo 2 of 11

DO NOT
ENTER

Texas State Capitol Building
Congress and 11th, Austin, Travis County,
Texas.

Photo by Jim Bonar, October 1985; neg. with
Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

Southwest oblique
camera facing northeast

Photo 3 of 11

Texas State Capitol Building, east elevation, October, 1985
Photograph by Jim Bonar, courtesy of Texas Historical Commission

Texas State Capitol Building
Congress and 11th, Austin, Travis County,
Texas.

Photo by Jim Bonar, October 1985; neg. with
Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

East elevation
camera facing west

Photo 4 of 11

Texas State Capitol Building, viewed obliquely from the southwest, June, 1975
Photograph (photographer unknown) courtesy of Texas Historical Commission

Texas State Capitol Building
Congress and 11th, Austin, Travis County,
Texas.

Photographer unknown, June 1975; neg. with
Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

Southwest oblique
camera facing northeast

Photo 5 of 11

Texas State Capitol Building, interior view of rotunda and dome, 1980
Photograph by Jim Bonar, courtesy of the Texas Historical Commission

Texas State Capitol Building
Congress and 11th, Austin, Travis County,
Texas.

Photo by Jim Bonar, 1980; neg. with Texas
Historical Commission, Austin.

View of rotunda and dome

Photo 6 of 11

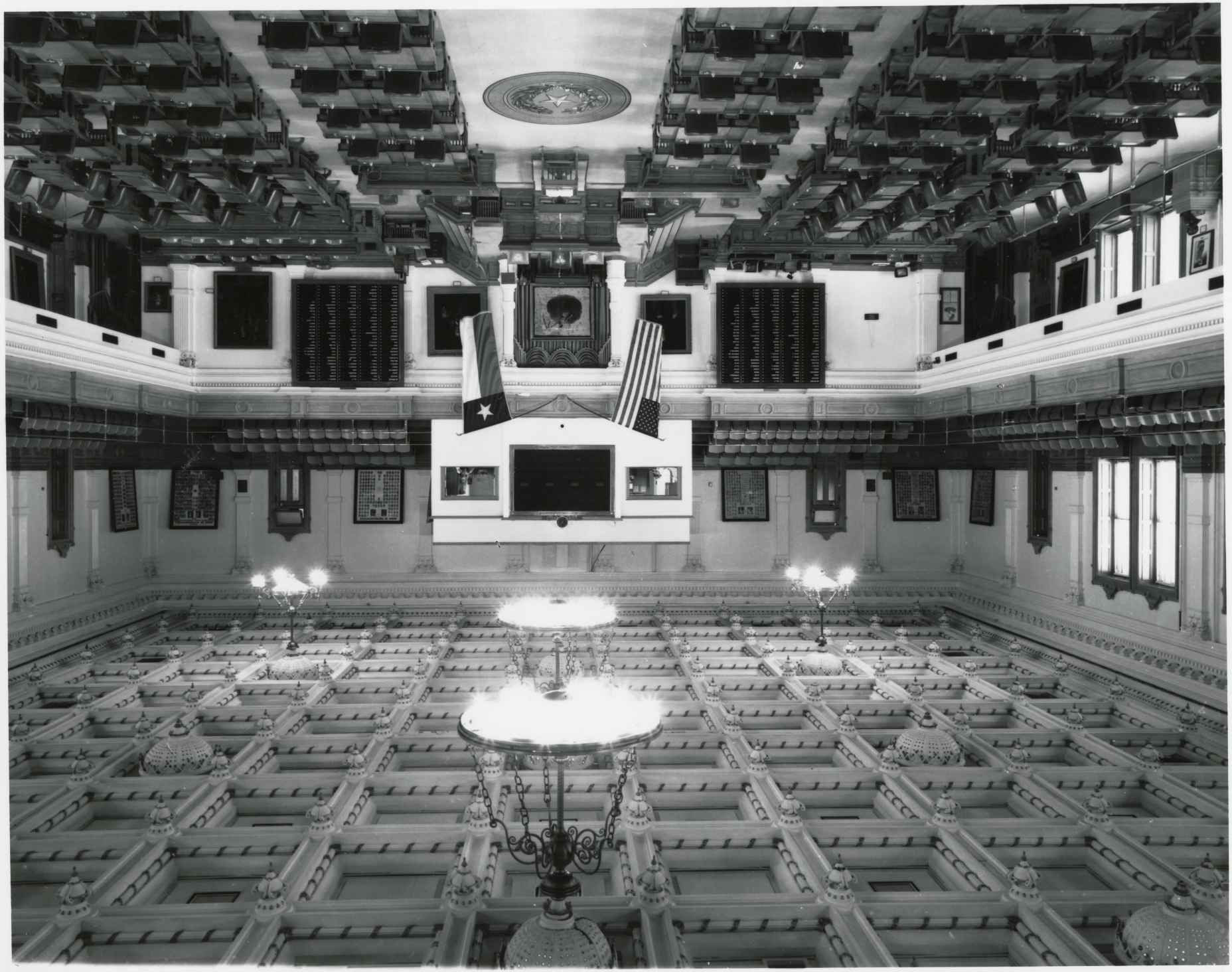
TEXAS : THE FR
STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND PU

Texas State Capitol Building
Congress and 11th, Austin, Travis County,
Texas.

Photo by Jim Bonar, October 1985; neg. with
Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

South lobby, first floor
camera facing northeast

Photo 7 of 11



Texas State Capitol Building
Congress and 11th, Austin, Travis County,
Texas.

Photo by Jim Bonar, October 1985; neg. with
Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

House of Representatives chamber
second floor
camera facing west

Photo 8 of 11

Texas State Capitol Building, Senate chamber, facing east, October, 1985
Photograph by Jim Bonar, courtesy of Texas Historical Commission

(3)

Texas State Capitol Building
Congress and 11th, Austin, Travis County,
Texas.

Photo by Jim Bonar, October 1985; neg. with
Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

Senate chamber
second floor
camera facing east

Photo 9 of 11

Texas State Capitol Building
Congress and 11th, Austin, Travis County,
Texas.

Photo by Jim Bonar, October 1985; neg. with
Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

Main east-west corridor
camera facing east

Photo 10 of 11

Texas State Capitol Building
Congress and 11th, Austin, Travis County,
Texas.

Photo by Jim Bonar, October 1985; neg. with
Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

Detail of rotunda
camera facing west

Photo 11 of 11

59-5174

59-5174
AUSTIN TEXAS: STATE CAPITOL BUILDING OF
PINK GRANITE WAS COMPLETED IN 1888.
SOURCE: AUTHENTICATED NEWS
COPY NEG.

59-5174 Austin, ~~TX~~ Texas State Capitol building of Pink Granite was completed in 1888.

Source: Authenticated News

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CITY OF AUSTIN

AUSTIN EAST QUADRANGLE
TEXAS—TRAVIS CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6444 IV NE (JOLLYVILLE)
6444 I NW (PFLUGERVILLE WEST)
6444 I NE (PFLUGERVILLE EAST)
6444 IV SE (AUSTIN WEST)
6444 I SE (MANOR)
(OAK HILL) 6444 II NE
(MONTOPOLIS) 6444 II NW
(WEBBERVILLE) 6444 II NE

97°45′ 30°22′30″ 97°42′30″ 97°40′ 97°37′30″ 30°15′

621 000m E 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 000m E

2 820 000 FEET 2 850 000 FEET

3360 000m N 3359 3358 3357 3356 3355 3354 3353 3352 3351 3350 3349 3348 000m N

230 000 FEET 260 000 FEET

20′ 17′30″

LEANDER 15 MI. · 9 MI. TO INTERSTATE 35 · TEMPLE 60 MI. GEORGETOWN 19 MI. · TAYLOR 24 MI. · BURNET 54 MI. · HICKMUNTON 10 MI. · DESSAU 4.7 MI. · ELGIN 16 MI. BRENHAM 85 MI. · 3 MI. TO US 290 · BASTROP 29 MI. · SAN MARCOS 29 MI. · SAN MARCOS 27 MI. SAN ANTONIO 76 MI.

AUSTIN

UNIVERITY OF TEXAS

ROBERT MUELLER MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Abercrombie

Tanglewood

Smoot

Pecan Springs

Rogers Hill Cem

Morris Williams Golf Course

Austin-Travis County Tuberculosis Sanatorium

Texas School for the Blind

Texas Memorial Stadium

Mount Calvary Cem

Holy Cross Hospital

Oakwood Cemetery

Evergreen Cem

Bethany Cem

Plummers Cem

Givens Park

Austin State Hospital

Brackenridge Hospital

Seton Hospital

Austin Memorial Park (Cem)

Veterans Field

Texas Dept of Public Safety

Texas Highway Dept

Fiskville Cem

Villa Siesta Retirement Village

Gravel Pit

Sewage Disposal Ponds

Sewage Disposal Pond

Pumping Sta

Trailer Park

Drive-in Theater

Radio Tower (KVET)

Radio Tower (KKDY)

Radio Tower (KNOW)

Radio Facility

Substa

Res

Golf Course

Gaging Sta

Historical Marker

Texas State Sch for the Deaf

Texas Blind-Deaf and Orphan Sch

Austin High Sch

McCallum High Sch

Lamar Jr High Sch

Lanier Jr High Sch

Lanier High Sch

Reagan Sch

Reilly Sch

Read Sch

Wooten Sch

Redeemer Sch

Brown Sch

Gullett Sch

Brentwood Sch

Rosedale Sch

Trinity Sch

Ridgetop Sch

Blackshear Sch

Houston Tillotson College

Kealing Jr High Sch

Anderson High Sch

Oak Springs Sch

Rosewood Sch

Govalle Sch

Johnston High Sch

Allan Jr High Sch

Metz Sch

San Juan Sch

Brooke Sch

Zavala Sch

Pan-American Playground

Govalle Playground

Govalle Shopping Center

Hancuck Shopping Center

North Village Shopping Center

Capital Plaza Shopping Center

Trailer Park

Gravel Pit

Sewage Disposal

Town Lake Dam

Powerplant

Metz Park

Palm Park

Palm Sch

Pease Sch

Austin High Sch

Courthouse

Wooldridge Park

Library

City Hall

STATE CAPITOL

Governor's Mansion

Pasteur Institute

O'Henry Museum

Filtration Plant

Elisabet Ney Museum

French Legation

Our Lady of Guadalupe Convent

Daughters of St Joseph Sch

Zavala Park

Bartholomew Park

Patterson Park

Hemphill Park

Eastwoods Park

Concordia College

St Davids Hospital

St Marys Academy

St Andrews Sch

St Austins Sch

Seminary

Robert E Lee Sch

St Pauls Sch

Maplewood Sch

Wooldridge Sch

University Jr High Sch

East Ave Park

Campbell Sch

Athletic Field

Stack

Ramsey Playground

Shipe Playground

Baker Sch

Bailey Park

Footbridge

Texas School for the Blind

Radio Facility

State Health Bldg

State Cem

Res

Pacific

Missouri

Kansas

Texas

Southern Pacific

Shoal Creek

Waller Creek

Little Walnut Creek

Walnut Creek

Decker Creek

Boggy Creek

Tannehill Branch

Elm Creek

Colorado River

Town Lake

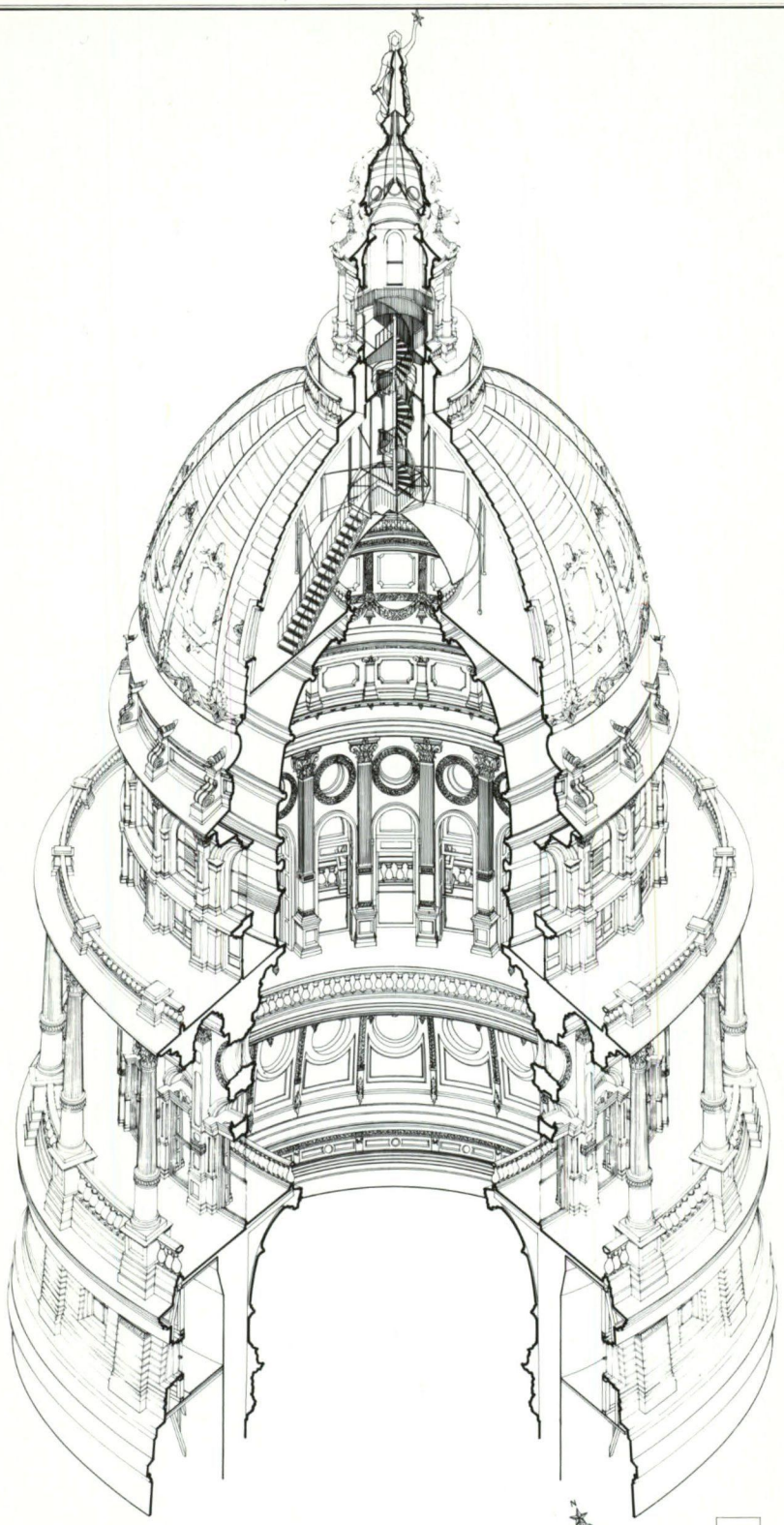
Gravel Pit

Sewage Disposal

Pumping Sta

Trailer Park

Drive-in Theater



DOME AXONOMETRIC

SCALE: FEET 1/8"=1'-0" 0 5 10 15 20 25

METERS 1:96 0 1 2 3 4 5

DRAWN BY: MURRAY G. MILLER

TEXAS STATE CAPITOL PROJECT 1988
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
TEXAS STATE CAPITOL
ELEVENTH STREET AT CONGRESS AVENUE AUSTIN TRAVIS COUNTY TEXAS

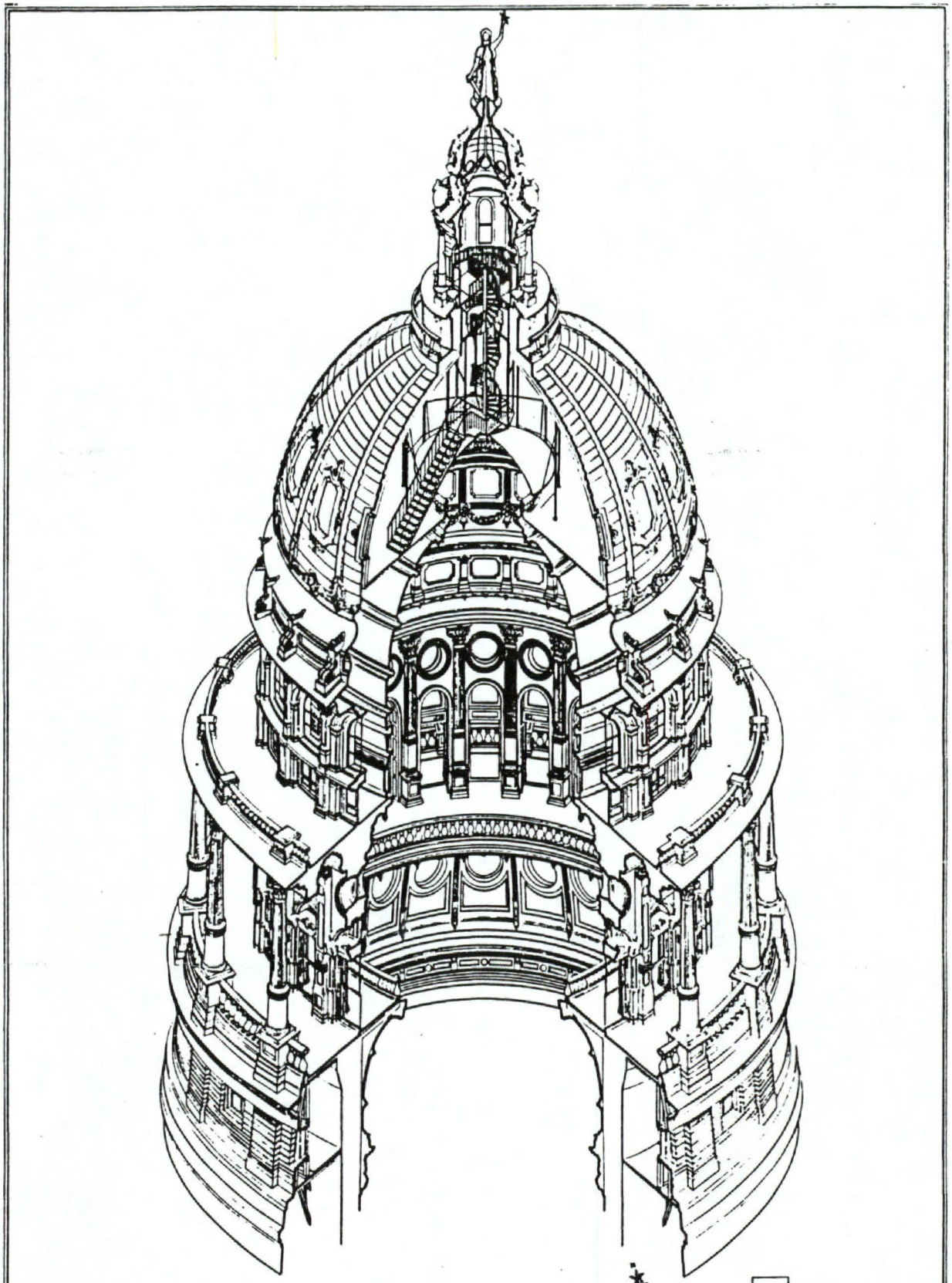
SURVEY NO. TX-3326

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 79 OF 79 SHEETS

HABS TEX,227-

* HERMILO GUTIERREZ CREDIT: HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. NAME OF DELINEATOR, DATE OF THE DRAWING

45DOME extra print



DOME AXONOMETRIC

SCALE: FEET 1/8"=1'-0"

METERS 1:96

MURRAY G. MILLER

TEXAS STATE CAPITOL PROJECT 1988

TEXAS STATE CAPITOL

ELEVENTH STREET AT CONGRESS AVENUE AUSTIN TRAVIS COUNTY TEXAS

TX-3326

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

79 of 79

1988

TX-3326

From Prints & Photographs Div., Library of Congress

NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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historic Texas State Capitol

and or common

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city, town Austin N/A vicinity of

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The Texas State Capitol building is a three-story structure, with a four-story central block, with exterior masonry-bearing walls faced in Texas red granite. Modeled on the design of the national capitol in Washington, D.C., the building features a dome at the crossing of its major axes. The dome rests upon a masonry drum, with the upper sections of the dome proper fabricated in metal, the exterior surface painted to simulate the granite of the exterior walls. The interior of the structure features monumental and elaborately detailed doorframes, with cast-iron staircases placed alongside the rotunda. The two legislative chambers occupy the second floor of the structure, with the basement, first, third, and fourth floors being devoted to office space.

The Texas State Capitol building is located at the crest of a hill overlooking downtown Austin and the distant Colorado River. The setting for the building was an integral part of the 1839 plan of the city of Austin prepared by Edwin Waller. The principal elevation of the capitol faces south, with the central block measuring 289 feet from north to south, and the east-west measurement of the building at its greatest length reaching 566 feet, 6 inches.

The overall conception of the design is clearly based upon that of the national capitol in Washington, although there are substantial differences in terms of architectural detailing and finishes. The north and south elevations are five-part compositions, the central bays of which serve as the principal entrances to the structure. The south entry is framed by a colossal three-story archway, while the north entrance is set within a three-story columnar portico. The east and west elevations were originally planned to feature similar porticoes, but these were eliminated from construction plans due to the increased cost of such elements. The central pavilions on the north and south elevations rise four stories, and are five bays in width. The projecting wings which house the two legislative chambers are recessed back from the central block, and contain five facade bays arranged in an AABAA pattern. The flanking pavilions, which also form the east and west elevations of the structure, are each three bays in width on the north and south elevations, and nine bays in width on the east and west elevations.

The dome which surmounts the intersection of the east-west and north-south interior axes of the building is a more vertically proportioned version of the dome of the national capitol. In height, it measures 250 feet from the floor of the basement to the base of the lantern. The Renaissance-inspired detailing of the exterior of the dome, including the columned drum, is executed in galvanized iron painted to match the color of the red granite which faces the masonry walls of the building. The lantern of the dome is topped by a cast zinc statue representing the Goddess of Liberty, in whose raised left hand is held a five-pointed star, an iconographic symbol borrowed from the state flag.

The exterior walls of the capitol are faced with red granite quarried near Burnet, Texas. The great majority of the stone is quarry faced, with the only dressed ashlar work being confined to the shafts of the columns and pilasters which articulate the bays of the facades. The most monumental blocks of granite are set in the first floor walls, with blocks of lesser scale and texture of finish being used on the upper floors. The stonework is carried up to the parapets on the north and south elevations of the central block.

The interior of the capitol is dominated, on the first floor, by the broad east-west hallway, which is flanked by suites of legislators' offices, and the vast space of the rotunda. The lobby spaces to the north and south of the rotunda serve mainly as preludes to the rotunda space. The second floor houses the chambers for the Senate and House of Representatives, with offices in the east and west ends for Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. The third and fouth floors contain more legislators' offices. The detailing of the interior reflects the classical character of the exterior. The monumental cast-iron columns of the interior feature Corinthian capitals, a device also found on the more elaborately detailed doorframes, most of which are of carved oak. The rotunda features galleries on the second, third, and fourth floors, supported on massive console brackets of cast iron. The Senate and House chambers are set to either side of the rotunda space. These primary public spaces were both originally lit by large skylights, the interior glazing of which consisted of large rectangular panes of inch-thick glass sandblasted with the state seal at their center. The opaque character of these panels diffused the light into the chambers. While several of these glass panels survive, many have been removed over the years. Spectators' galleries ring the legislative chambers of three sides.

The only significant interior space to have been seriously altered from its original design is the legislative library, which is located in the north section of the central block. Originally built as a two-story space illuminated by a skylight and glass blocks in the floor, the space has had its skylight filled in and the glass block flooring removed. Some of the book stack shelving still remains in use today.

Shortly after its completion in 1888, the state capitol site was further improved by the erection of a composition cast- and wrought-iron fence surrounding the twenty-seven-acre capitol grounds. Executed by the Springfield, Ohio, firm of Mast, Foos and Company, the fence features five-pointed stars as caps for each of its pickets.

From the outset of his career as a designer of state capitol buildings, Myers was clearly influenced by the model of Thomas U. Walter's work on the national capitol at Washington, D.C., which had been completed in 1863. Of course, the concept of a tripartite design for such a monumental structure had originated with Charles Bulfinch's plans for the nation's capitol, which were expanded upon by Walter. By the time the competition for the design of the Michigan state capitol was announced in June of 1871, several states had already begun to erect new seats of state government based upon Walter's work, the earliest of which was the California state capitol in Sacramento, completed in 1874, although begun over a decade earlier.

Myers' entry in the Michigan competition, which he won, was a variant on the national model with respect to the character of the detailing of the exterior. While Myers chose to repeat the image of the domed central block flanked by wings containing the legislative chambers, as established by the new national capitol, he did not adorn the elevations with giant-order colonnades supporting sculpture-filled pediments. In terms of proportions, the Michigan capitol was more vertical than its prototype, with the central block being a full four stories above a full basement. The dome which Myers placed atop the design appears too small for the mass of the structure, and the colonnade around the drum of the dome projects out of its circular form to address the four projecting masses of the building below. Each of the floor levels was defined by stringcourses, and pediments adorned all the windows of the upper two floors.

The design Myers submitted in 1881 for the Texas state capitol represented a substantial change from his Michigan project, both in terms of scale and character. Perhaps by virtue of the large site available in Austin, Myers' design was a more elongated composition, more closely reflective of the national model. The dome, although still narrower than that designed by Walter for Washington, had attained a prominence far greater than that of the Michigan design. In detailing the exterior walls of the Texas capitol, Myers may also have responded to the national model in his choice of giant-order pilasters to frame the second and third floors of the building, dispensing with the multiple stringcourses used for the Michigan design.

These design tendencies should not, however, be taken to suggest that Myers was merely copying Walter's work in Washington, even though the building was first called to be faced in limestone, so as to present a more serene appearance. The substitution of red granite for limestone in 1885 surely adds to the original character of Myer's work, especially given the quarry-faced finish used on the majority of the exterior stonework. Perhaps the most dramatic and original element introduced by Myers was the colossal archway which framed the main entry to the south elevation of the

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1882-1888 **Builder/Architect** Elijah E. Myers, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Texas State Capitol building represents the high-water mark in the career of its architect, Elijah E. Myers, the most prolific and controversial architect of state capitol buildings in the period from 1865 to 1895. The building also reflects the popularity of the national capitol in Washington, D.C. as the prototype for state capitols in the post-Civil War era. The product of an architectural competition judged by a prominent architect, the Texas State Capitol is the largest such structure in the United States.

The foundation for construction of the Texas State Capitol, which began in 1882, was actually laid in 1875 with the passage of the state constitution. Included in that document was a resolution to appropriate and set apart three million acres of public lands for the purpose of providing the funds needed to construct a state capitol and other public buildings. Supplementary acts passed in 1879 authorized this land either to be sold to pay for such construction, or to be used as the means of payment itself for such work. These supplementary acts also established the Capitol Building Commission, which was appointed on November 16, 1880. On November 20, 1880, the Commission called for the submission of designs for a new state capitol to cost one million five hundred thousand dollars. The deadline for the submission of these designs was February 1, 1881. Eleven designs were received by the deadline, which were studied by the three members of the Commission, as well as Governor O. M. Roberts. The Governor requested that an impartial architect be consulted to advise the Commission on the adoption of plans for the building, and on April 24, 1881, Napoleon LeBrun of New York arrived in Austin to serve in that capacity. On May 6, 1881, it was announced that the plans submitted under the "nom de plume" of Tuebor had been chosen as the winner of the competition.

These plans were the work of the Detroit architect Elijah E. Myers, perhaps the individual most responsible for the architectural character of post-Civil War state capitols, having designed four such structures and competed, without success, for the chance to design two others. At the time he entered the Texas competition, Myers had already gained fame from the completion of the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing, completed in 1878, and would shortly enter and win the competition for the Colorado State Capitol in 1883. Myers also designed the first Idaho State Capitol, built in 1885, a commission evidently not awarded on the basis of a competition. Myers entered the competitions for the Indiana and Wyoming state capitols in 1877 and 1885, respectively, but won neither. Myers was also noted for his designs for county courthouse and municipal buildings, the most noted being the Richmond City Hall, completed in 1894.

Statement should appear in introduction above. "Perhaps" is a big condition; can it be stated more definately?

building, an element which has no counterpart in the design of any other state capitol building, although Myers would use the motif on smaller county courthouse designs.

The success with which Myers generated an original solution to the design of the Texas state capitol becomes more apparent when one looks at his last state capitol project, that for Colorado. Not completed until 1908, the Colorado capitol reads as a somewhat abbreviated version of the Michigan and Texas designs, with little of the vitality of either of those earlier projects.

The successful career which Myers had built as the architect of public buildings was, ironically, in a large part responsible for his dismissal from the position of designing architect by the Capitol Commission in April 1886. The inability of the Capitol Commissioners to obtain responses from Myers on questions concerning the various contract specifications for the building was the result of his work on the Colorado state capitol and other public buildings. It is significant to note, however, that the design of the Texas state capitol was executed according to Myer's drawings, which the Commissioners considered to be of sufficient elaboration and detail to allow for the construction of the building without Myers' direct assistance. Therefore, in spite of the deteriorating relationship between the architect and his clients, the Texas state capitol building can still be said to represent the best efforts of Elijah Myers in a field of endeavor in which he had established a significant and well-deserved reputation across the United States.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Temples of Democracy: The State Capitols of the U.S.A., Henry-Russell Hitchcock and William Seale. 1976. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, New York and London.

The Preservation of the Texas State Capitol. Diane Susan Jones. Unpublished Masters Thesis, School of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin, 1980. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 27 acres

Quadrangle name Austin East, Tex **Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	14	621050	3349800
B	14	621400	3349700
C	14	620900	3349540
D	14	621260	3349440
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The twenty-seven acre site is bounded on all sides by the cast- and wrought-iron fence which defines the perimeter, generally bounded by 11th Street on the south, 14th Street on the north, Colorado to the west and Brazos to the east.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John C. Ferguson, Architectural Historian

organization Texas Historical Commission **date**

street & number P. O. Box 12276 **telephone** (512) 475-3094

city or town Austin **state** Texas 78711

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

__X__ national ___ state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Curtis Tunnell

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 6 Nov. 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

The Politics of Architecture in the Gilded Age: The Practice of Elijah E. Myers. Marlene Elizabeth Heck. Unpublished Masters thesis, The University of Virginia, Charlottesville. 1977.

Biennial Reports of the Capitol Building Commission, 1883-1888. Triplett & Hutchings, State Printers, Austin. On file at the Texas State Archives, Austin.

Pending

NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Texas State Capitol

and or common

2. Location

street & number Congress Avenue and 11th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of

state Texas code 048 county Travis code 453

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	_X_ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	_X_ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	N/A in process	___ yes: restricted	_X_ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	_X_ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name State of Texas

street & number

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of state Texas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Travis County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Austin state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Texas Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? _X_ yes ___ no

date 1964 ___ federal _X_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin state Texas

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date N/A
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Texas State Capitol building is a three-story structure, with a four-story central block, with exterior masonry-bearing walls faced in Texas red granite. Modeled on the design of the national capitol in Washington, D.C., the building features a dome at the crossing of its major axes. The dome rests upon a masonry drum, with the upper sections of the dome proper fabricated in metal, the exterior surface painted to simulate the granite of the exterior walls. The interior of the structure features monumental and elaborately detailed doorframes, with cast-iron staircases placed alongside the rotunda. The two legislative chambers occupy the second floor of the structure, with the basement, first, third, and fourth floors being devoted to office space.

The Texas State Capitol building is located at the crest of a hill overlooking downtown Austin and the distant Colorado River. The setting for the building was an integral part of the 1839 plan of the city of Austin prepared by Edwin Waller. The principal elevation of the capitol faces south, with the central block measuring 289 feet from north to south, and the east-west measurement of the building at its greatest length reaching 566 feet, 6 inches.

The overall conception of the design is clearly based upon that of the national capitol in Washington, although there are substantial differences in terms of architectural detailing and finishes. The north and south elevations are five-part compositions, the central bays of which serve as the principal entrances to the structure. The south entry is framed by a colossal three-story archway, while the north entrance is set within a three-story columnar portico. The east and west elevations were originally planned to feature similar porticoes, but these were eliminated from construction plans due to the increased cost of such elements. The central pavilions on the north and south elevations rise four stories, and are five bays in width. The projecting wings which house the two legislative chambers are recessed back from the central block, and contain five facade bays arranged in an AABAA pattern. The flanking pavilions, which also form the east and west elevations of the structure, are each three bays in width on the north and south elevations, and nine bays in width on the east and west elevations.

The dome which surmounts the intersection of the east-west and north-south interior axes of the building is a more vertically proportioned version of the dome of the national capitol. In height, it measures 250 feet from the floor of the basement to the base of the lantern. The Renaissance-inspired detailing of the exterior of the dome, including the columned drum, is executed in galvanized iron painted to match the color of the red granite which faces the masonry walls of the building. The lantern of the dome is topped by a cast zinc statue representing the Goddess of Liberty, in whose raised left hand is held a five-pointed star, an iconographic symbol borrowed from the state flag.

The exterior walls of the capitol are faced with red granite quarried near Burnet, Texas. The great majority of the stone is quarry faced, with the only dressed ashlar work being confined to the shafts of the columns and pilasters which articulate the bays of the facades. The most monumental blocks of granite are set in the first floor walls, with blocks of lesser scale and texture of finish being used on the upper floors. The stonework is carried up to the parapets on the north and south elevations of the central block.

The interior of the capitol is dominated, on the first floor, by the broad east-west hallway, which is flanked by suites of legislators' offices, and the vast space of the rotunda. The lobby spaces to the north and south of the rotunda serve mainly as preludes to the rotunda space. The second floor houses the chambers for the Senate and House of Representatives, with offices in the east and west ends for Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. The third and fourth floors contain more legislators' offices. The detailing of the interior reflects the classical character of the exterior. The monumental cast-iron columns of the interior feature Corinthian capitals, a device also found on the more elaborately detailed doorframes, most of which are of carved oak. The rotunda features galleries on the second, third, and fourth floors, supported on massive console brackets of cast iron. The Senate and House chambers are set to either side of the rotunda space. These primary public spaces were both originally lit by large skylights, the interior glazing of which consisted of large rectangular panes of inch-thick glass sandblasted with the state seal at their center. The opaque character of these panels diffused the light into the chambers. While several of these glass panels survive, many have been removed over the years. Spectators' space galleries ring the legislative chambers on three sides.

The only significant interior space to have been seriously altered from its original design is the legislative library, which is located in the north section of the central block. Originally built as a two-story space illuminated by a skylight and glass blocks in the floor, the space has had its skylight filled in and the glass block flooring removed. Some of the book stack shelving still remains in use today.

Shortly after its completion in 1888, the state capitol site was further improved by the erection of a composition cast- and wrought-iron fence surrounding the twenty-seven-acre capitol grounds. Executed by the Springfield, Ohio, firm of Mast, Foos and Company, the fence features five-pointed stars as caps for each of its pickets.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion	
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science	
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)	
		___ invention			

Specific dates 1882–1888 **Builder/Architect** Elijah E. Myers, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Texas State Capitol represents the high-water mark in the career of its architect, Elijah E. Myers, described by the architectural historians Henry Russell Hitchcock and William Seale as "the greatest capitol-builder of the Gilded Age". The building reflects the popularity of the national capitol in Washington, D.C. as the prototype for state capitol buildings in the post-Civil War era. The product of an architectural competition judged by a prominent architect, the Texas State Capitol building is the largest such structure in the United States.

The foundation for construction of the Texas State Capitol, which began in 1882, was actually laid in 1875 with the passage of the state constitution. Included in that document was a resolution to appropriate and set apart three million acres of public lands for the purpose of providing the funds needed to construct a state capitol and other public buildings. Supplementary acts passed in 1879 authorized this land either to be sold to pay for such construction, or to be used as the means of payment itself for such work. These supplementary acts also established the Capitol Building Commission, which was appointed on November 16, 1880. On November 20, 1880, the Commission called for the submission of designs for a new state capitol to cost one million five hundred thousand dollars. The deadline for the submission of these designs was February 1, 1881. Eleven designs were received by the deadline, which were studied by the three members of the Commission, as well as Governor O. M. Roberts. The Governor requested that an impartial architect be consulted to advise the Commission on the adoption of plans for the building, and on April 24, 1881, Napoleon LeBrun of New York arrived in Austin to serve in that capacity. On May 6, 1881, it was announced that the plans submitted under the "nom de plume" of Tuebor had been chosen as the winner of the competition.

These plans were the work of the Detroit architect Elijah E. Myers, the individual most responsible for the architectural character of post-Civil War state capitols, having designed four such structures and competed, without success, for the chance to design two others. At the time he entered the Texas competition, Myers had already gained fame from the completion of the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing, completed in 1878, and would shortly enter and win the competition for the Colorado State Capitol in 1883. Myers also designed the first Idaho State Capitol, built in 1885, a commission evidently not awarded on the basis of a competition. Myers entered the competitions for the Indiana and Wyoming state capitols in 1877 and 1885, respectively, but won neither. Myers was also noted for his designs for county courthouse and municipal buildings, the most noted being the City Hall of Richmond, Virginia, completed in 1894.

From the outset of his career as a designer of state capitol buildings, Myers was clearly influenced by the model of Thomas U. Walter's work on the national capitol at Washington, D.C., which had been completed in 1863. Of course, the concept of a tripartite design

for such a monumental structure had originated with Charles Bulfinch's plans for the nation's capitol, which were expanded upon by Walter. By the time the competition for the design of the Michigan state capitol was announced in June of 1871, several states had already begun to erect new seats of state government based upon Walter's work, the earliest of which was the California state capitol in Sacramento, completed in 1874, although begun over a decade earlier. It is significant to note that while the California state capitol precedes Myers' Texas design by more than a decade, the earlier structure has seen many changes to its original form. On the exterior, construction of a massive addition in 1949-1952 resulted in the concealment of the original east elevation. The remodeling of 1906-1908 significantly impacted the scale of the legislative chambers, with the ceiling height dropping eight feet to accommodate an additional fourth level of office space. The structural work undertaken on the California state capitol between 1975 and 1982 resulted in the restoration of many lost features, but did not restore the original ceiling heights of the legislative chambers.

Myers' entry in the Michigan competition, which he won, was a variant on the national model with respect to the character of the detailing of the exterior. While Myers chose to repeat the image of the domed central block flanked by wings containing the legislative chambers, as established by the new national capitol, he did not adorn the elevations with giant-order colonnades supporting sculpture-filled pediments. In terms of proportions, the Michigan capitol was more vertical than its prototype, with the central block being a full four stories above a full basement. The dome which Myers placed atop the design appears too small for the mass of the structure, and the colonnade around the drum of the dome projects out of its circular form to address the four projecting masses of the building below. Each of the floor levels was defined by stringcourses, and pediments adorned all the windows of the upper two floors.

The design Myers submitted in 1881 for the Texas state capitol represented a substantial change from his Michigan project, both in terms of scale and character. Perhaps by virtue of the large site available in Austin, Myers' design was a more elongated composition, more closely reflective of the national model. The dome, although still narrower than that designed by Walter for Washington, had attained a prominence far greater than that of the Michigan design. In detailing the exterior walls of the Texas capitol, Myers may also have responded to the national model in his choice of giant-order pilasters to frame the second and third floors of the building, dispensing with the multiple stringcourses used for the Michigan design.

These design tendencies should not, however, be taken to suggest that Myers was merely copying Walter's work in Washington, even though the building was first called to be faced in limestone, so as to present a more serene appearance. The substitution of red granite for limestone in 1885 surely adds to the original character of Myer's work, especially given the quarry-faced finish used on the majority of the exterior stonework. Perhaps the most dramatic and original element introduced by Myers was the colossal archway which framed the main entry to the south elevation of the building, an element

which has no counterpart in the design of any other state capitol building, although Myers would use the motif on smaller county courthouse designs.

The success with which Myers generated an original solution to the design of the Texas state capitol becomes more apparent when one looks at his last state capitol project, that for Colorado. Not completed until 1908, the Colorado capitol reads as a somewhat abbreviated version of the Michigan and Texas designs, with little of the vitality of either of those earlier projects.

The successful career which Myers had built as the architect of public buildings was, ironically, in a large part responsible for his dismissal from the position of designing architect by the Capitol Commission in April 1886. The inability of the Capitol Commissioners to obtain responses from Myers on questions concerning the various contract specifications for the building was the result of his work on the Colorado state capitol and other public buildings. It is significant to note, however, that the design of the Texas state capitol was executed according to Myer's drawings, which the Commissioners considered to be of sufficient elaboration and detail to allow for the construction of the building without Myers' direct assistance. Therefore, in spite of the deteriorating relationship between the architect and his clients, the Texas state capitol building can still be said to represent the best efforts of Elijah Myers in a field of endeavor in which he had established a significant and well-deserved reputation across the United States.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Temples of Democracy: The State Capitols of the U.S.A., Henry-Russell Hitchcock and William Seale. 1976. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, New York and London.

The Preservation of the Texas State Capitol. Diane Susan Jones. Unpublished Masters Thesis, School of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin, 1980. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 27 acres

Quadrangle name Austin East, Tex **Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	14	621050	3349810
B	14	621040	3349710
C	14	620900	3349540
D	14	621260	3349540
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The twenty-seven acre site is bounded on all sides by the cast- and wrought-iron fence which defines the perimeter, generally bounded by 11th Street on the south, 14th Street on the north, Colorado to the west and Brazos to the east.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	**code**	**county**	**code**
state		**code**	**county**	**code**

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John C. Ferguson, Architectural Historian

organization Texas Historical Commission **date** December, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 12276 **telephone** (512) 475-3094

city or town Austin **state** Texas 78711

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

X national ___ state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Curtis Tunnell

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 13 Jan 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

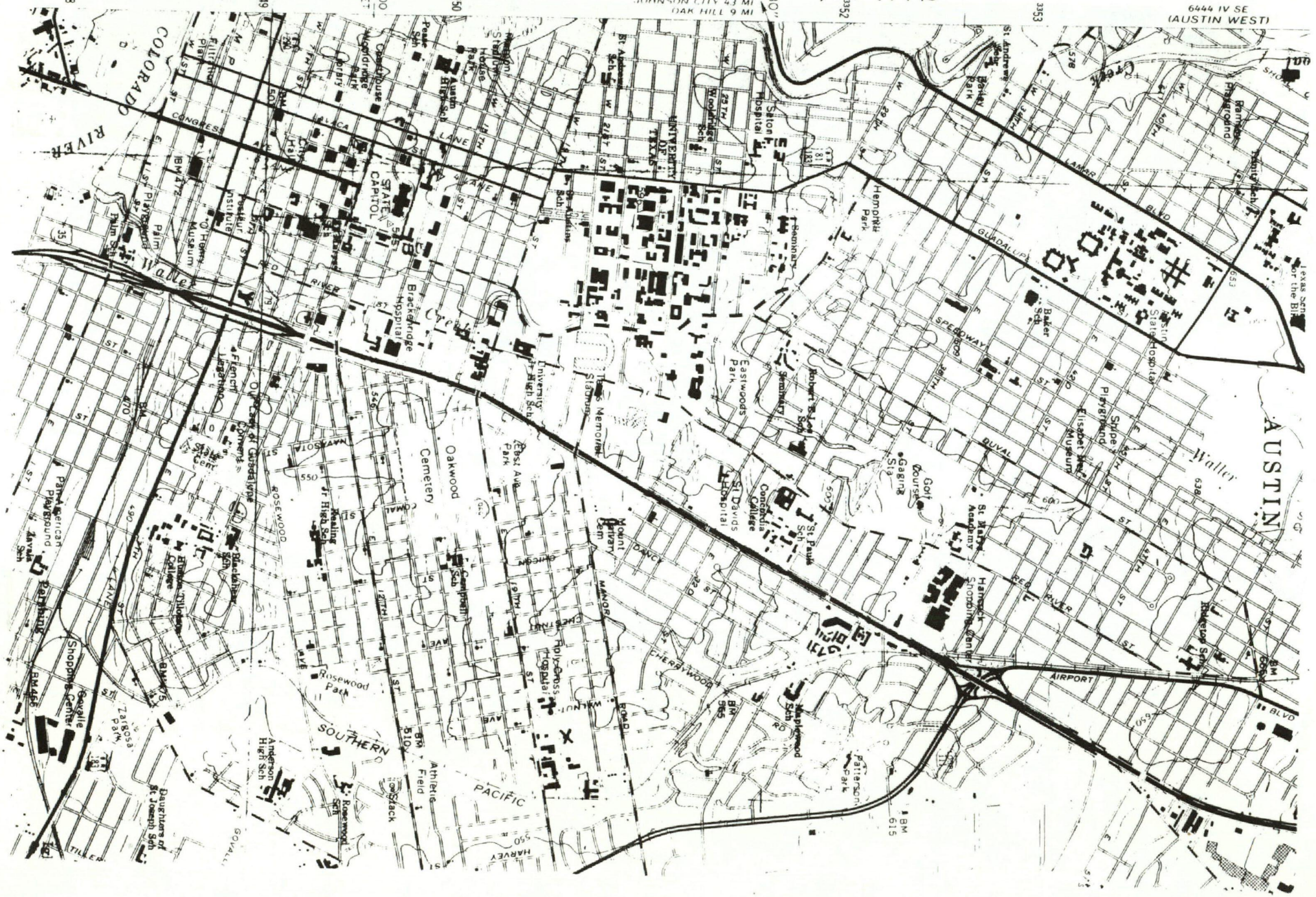
Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

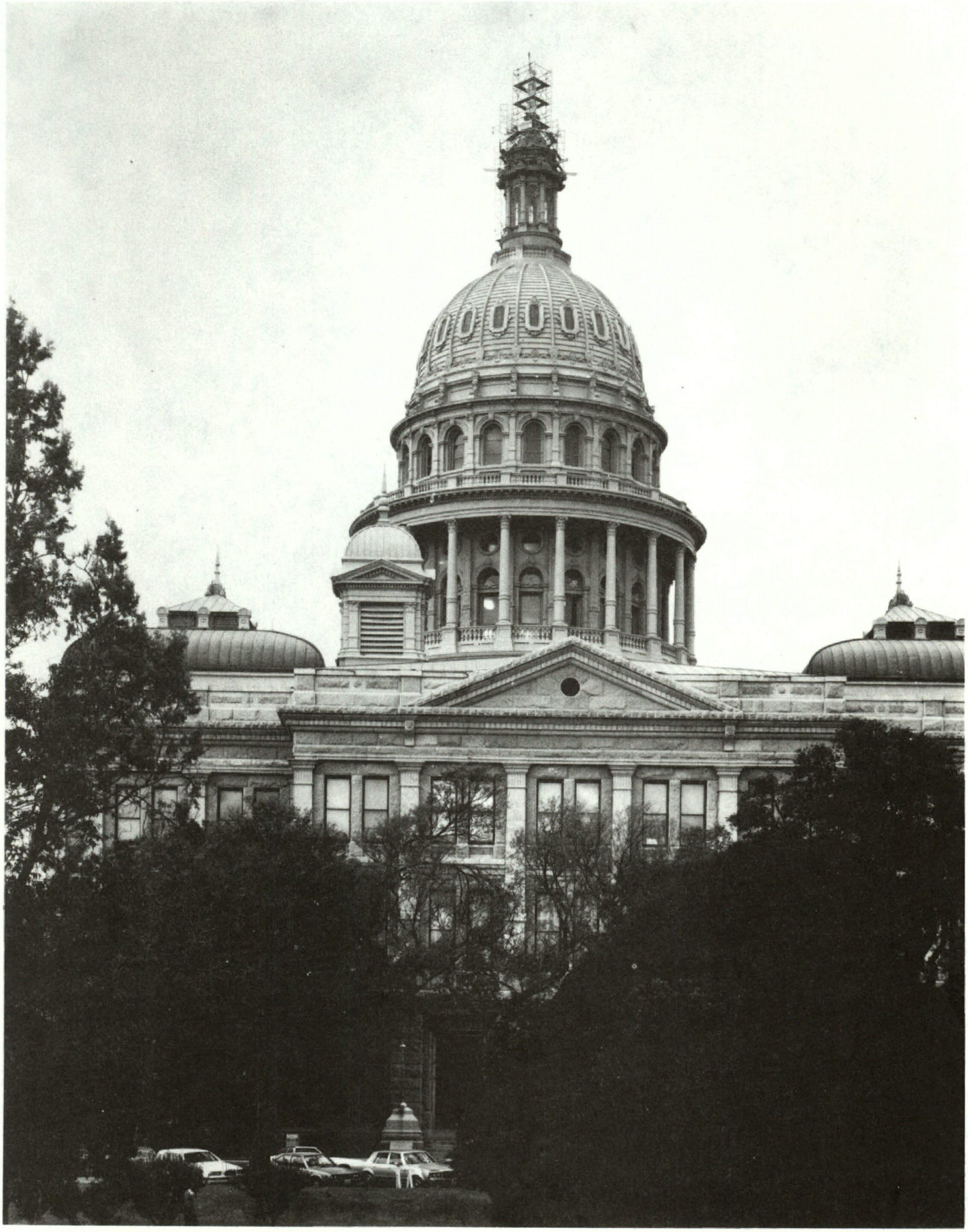
The Politics of Architecture in the Gilded Age: The Practice of Elijah E. Myers. Marlene Elizabeth Heck. Unpublished Masters thesis, The University of Virginia, Charlottesville. 1977.

Biennial Reports of the Capitol Building Commission, 1883-1888. Triplett & Hutchings, State Printers, Austin. On file at the Texas State Archives, Austin.

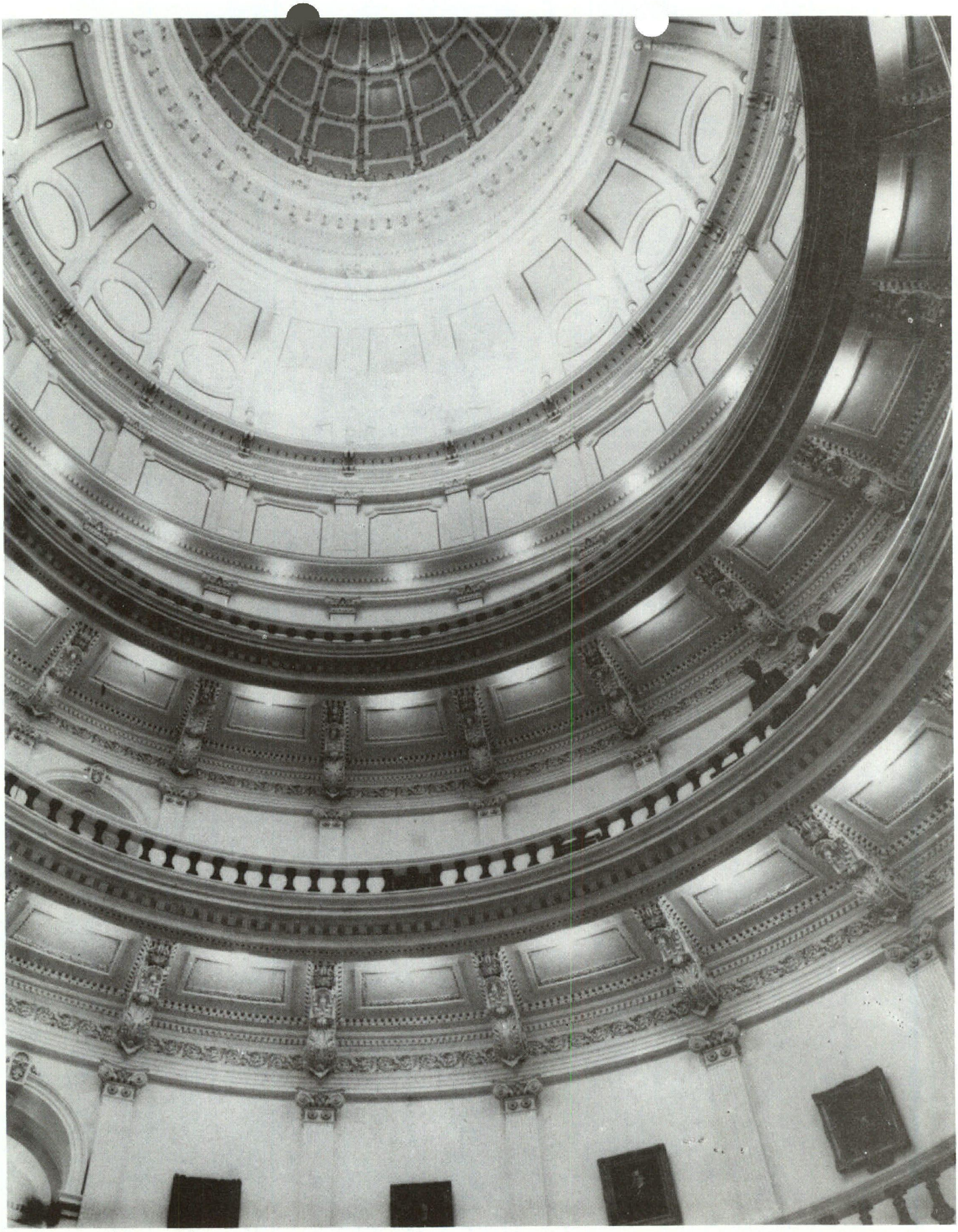
TEXAS STATE CAPITOL
CONGRESS AND 11TH STREETS
AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 14/A·621050/3349800 C·620900/3349540
B·621400/3349700 D·621260/3349440


6444 IV SE
(AUSTIN WEST)
JOHNSON CITY 43 MI
OAK HILL 9 MI
230 000 FEET
COLORADO RIVER
CONGRESS AVE
LAVACA ST
STATE CAPITOL
Austin High Sch
Brackenridge Hospital
University of Texas
Seton Hospital
Hemphill Park
Texas Memorial Stadium
Eastwoods Park
Robert E. Lee Sch
Oakwood Cemetery
Mount Calvary Cem
St. David's Hospital
Concordia College
St. Paul's Sch
Gaeana Sta
Golf Course
Baker Sch
Elisabet Ney Museum
Stiles Playground
Palm Sch
Palm Playground
O. Henry Museum
Pease Sch
Austin Public Library
Austin Municipal Auditorium
Austin Municipal Building
Austin Municipal Plaza
Austin Municipal Swimming Pool
Austin Municipal Tennis Courts
Austin Municipal Playground
Austin Municipal Golf Course
Austin Municipal Parking Lot
Austin Municipal Parking Garage
Austin Municipal Parking Meter

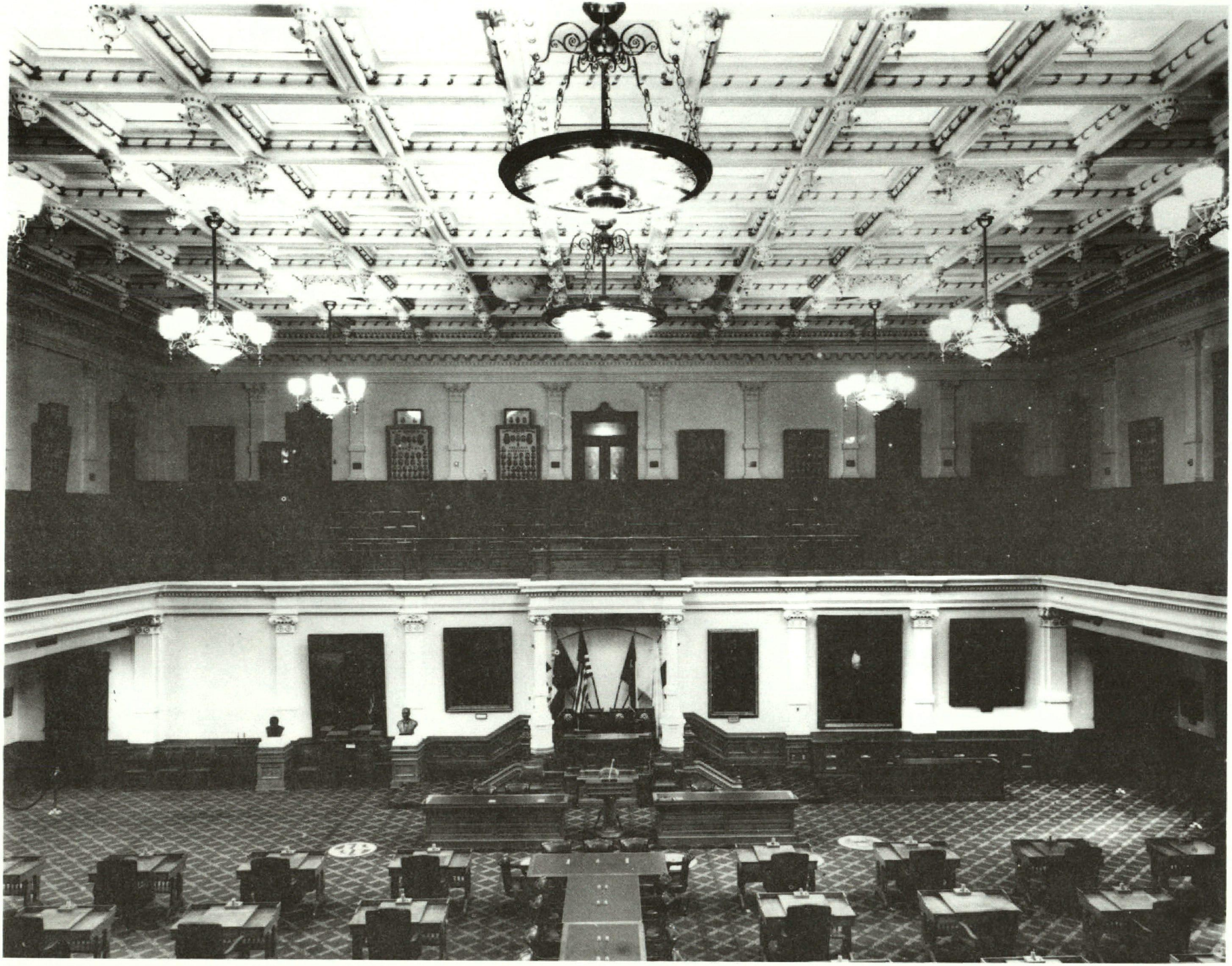
Texas State Capitol Building, viewed obliquely from the southwest, June, 1975
Photograph (photographer unknown) courtesy of Texas Historical Commission



Texas State Capitol Building, east elevation, October, 1985
Photograph by Jim Bonar, courtesy of Texas Historical Commission



Texas State Capitol Building, interior view of rotunda and dome, 1980
Photograph by Jim Bonar, courtesy of the Texas Historical Commission



Texas State Capitol Building, Senate chamber, facing east, October, 1985
Photograph by Jim Bonar, courtesy of Texas Historical Commission

NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Texas State Capitol

and or common

2. Location

street & number Congress Avenue and 11th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of

state Texas code 048 county Travis code 453

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	_X_ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	_X_ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	N/A in process	___ yes: restricted	_X_ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	_X_ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name State of Texas

street & number

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of state Texas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Travis County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Austin state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Texas Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? _X_ yes ___ no

date 1964 ___ federal _X_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin state Texas

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
_X_ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
___ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date N/A
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Texas State Capitol building is a three-story structure, with a four-story central block, with exterior masonry-bearing walls faced in Texas red granite. Modeled on the design of the national capitol in Washington, D.C., the building features a dome at the crossing of its major axes. The dome rests upon a masonry drum, with the upper sections of the dome proper fabricated in metal, the exterior surface painted to simulate the granite of the exterior walls. The interior of the structure features monumental and elaborately detailed doorframes, with cast-iron staircases placed alongside the rotunda. The two legislative chambers occupy the second floor of the structure, with the basement, first, third, and fourth floors being devoted to office space.

The Texas State Capitol building is located at the crest of a hill overlooking downtown Austin and the distant Colorado River. The setting for the building was an integral part of the 1839 plan of the city of Austin prepared by Edwin Waller. The principal elevation of the capitol faces south, with the central block measuring 289 feet from north to south, and the east-west measurement of the building at its greatest length reaching 566 feet, 6 inches.

The overall conception of the design is clearly based upon that of the national capitol in Washington, although there are substantial differences in terms of architectural detailing and finishes. The north and south elevations are five-part compositions, the central bays of which serve as the principal entrances to the structure. The south entry is framed by a colossal three-story archway, while the north entrance is set within a three-story columnar portico. The east and west elevations were originally planned to feature similar porticoes, but these were eliminated from construction plans due to the increased cost of such elements. The central pavilions on the north and south elevations rise four stories, and are five bays in width. The projecting wings which house the two legislative chambers are recessed back from the central block, and contain five facade bays arranged in an AABAA pattern. The flanking pavilions, which also form the east and west elevations of the structure, are each three bays in width on the north and south elevations, and nine bays in width on the east and west elevations.

The dome which surmounts the intersection of the east-west and north-south interior axes of the building is a more vertically proportioned version of the dome of the national capitol. In height, it measures 250 feet from the floor of the basement to the base of the lantern. The Renaissance-inspired detailing of the exterior of the dome, including the columned drum, is executed in galvanized iron painted to match the color of the red granite which faces the masonry walls of the building. The lantern of the dome is topped by a cast zinc statue representing the Goddess of Liberty, in whose raised left hand is held a five-pointed star, an iconographic symbol borrowed from the state flag.

The exterior walls of the capitol are faced with red granite quarried near Burnet, Texas. The great majority of the stone is quarry faced, with the only dressed ashlar work being confined to the shafts of the columns and pilasters which articulate the bays of the facades. The most monumental blocks of granite are set in the first floor walls, with blocks of lesser scale and texture of finish being used on the upper floors. The stonework is carried up to the parapets on the north and south elevations of the central block.

The interior of the capitol is dominated, on the first floor, by the broad east-west hallway, which is flanked by suites of legislators' offices, and the vast space of the rotunda. The lobby spaces to the north and south of the rotunda serve mainly as preludes to the rotunda space. The second floor houses the chambers for the Senate and House of Representatives, with offices in the east and west ends for Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. The third and fourth floors contain more legislators' offices. The detailing of the interior reflects the classical character of the exterior. The monumental cast-iron columns of the interior feature Corinthian capitals, a device also found on the more elaborately detailed doorframes, most of which are of carved oak. The rotunda features galleries on the second, third, and fourth floors, supported on massive console brackets of cast iron. The Senate and House chambers are set to either side of the rotunda space. These primary public spaces were both originally lit by large skylights, the interior glazing of which consisted of large rectangular panes of inch-thick glass sandblasted with the state seal at their center. The opaque character of these panels diffused the light into the chambers. While several of these glass panels survive, many have been removed over the years. Spectators' space galleries ring the legislative chambers on three sides.

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Shortly after its completion in 1888, the state capitol site was further improved by the erection of a composition cast- and wrought-iron fence surrounding the twenty-seven-acre capitol grounds. Executed by the Springfield, Ohio, firm of Mast, Foos and Company, the fence features five-pointed stars as caps for each of its pickets.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
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___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1882-1888 **Builder/Architect** Elijah E. Myers, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Texas State Capitol represents the high-water mark in the career of its architect, Elijah E. Myers, described by the architectural historians Henry Russell Hitchcock and William Seale as "the greatest capitol-builder of the Gilded Age". The building reflects the popularity of the national capitol in Washington, D.C. as the prototype for state capitol buildings in the post-Civil War era. The product of an architectural competition judged by a prominent architect, the Texas State Capitol building is the largest such structure in the United States.

The foundation for construction of the Texas State Capitol, which began in 1882, was actually laid in 1875 with the passage of the state constitution. Included in that document was a resolution to appropriate and set apart three million acres of public lands for the purpose of providing the funds needed to construct a state capitol and other public buildings. Supplementary acts passed in 1879 authorized this land either to be sold to pay for such construction, or to be used as the means of payment itself for such work. These supplementary acts also established the Capitol Building Commission, which was appointed on November 16, 1880. On November 20, 1880, the Commission called for the submission of designs for a new state capitol to cost one million five hundred thousand dollars. The deadline for the submission of these designs was February 1, 1881. Eleven designs were received by the deadline, which were studied by the three members of the Commission, as well as Governor O. M. Roberts. The Governor requested that an impartial architect be consulted to advise the Commission on the adoption of plans for the building, and on April 24, 1881, Napoleon LeBrun of New York arrived in Austin to serve in that capacity. On May 6, 1881, it was announced that the plans submitted under the "nom de plume" of Tuebor had been chosen as the winner of the competition.

These plans were the work of the Detroit architect Elijah E. Myers, the individual most responsible for the architectural character of post-Civil War state capitols, having designed four such structures and competed, without success, for the chance to design two others. At the time he entered the Texas competition, Myers had already gained fame from the completion of the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing, completed in 1878, and would shortly enter and win the competition for the Colorado State Capitol in 1883. Myers also designed the first Idaho State Capitol, built in 1885, a commission evidently not awarded on the basis of a competition. Myers entered the competitions for the Indiana and Wyoming state capitols in 1877 and 1885, respectively, but won neither. Myers was also noted for his designs for county courthouse and municipal buildings, the most noted being the City Hall of Richmond, Virginia, completed in 1894.

From the outset of his career as a designer of state capitol buildings, Myers was clearly influenced by the model of Thomas U. Walter's work on the national capitol at Washington, D.C., which had been completed in 1863. Of course, the concept of a tripartite design

for such a monumental structure had originated with Charles Bulfinch's plans for the nation's capitol, which were expanded upon by Walter. By the time the competition for the design of the Michigan state capitol was announced in June of 1871, several states had already begun to erect new seats of state government based upon Walter's work, the earliest of which was the California state capitol in Sacramento, completed in 1874, although begun over a decade earlier. It is significant to note that while the California state capitol precedes Myers' Texas design by more than a decade, the earlier structure has seen many changes to its original form. On the exterior, construction of a massive addition in 1949-1952 resulted in the concealment of the original east elevation. The remodeling of 1906-1908 significantly impacted the scale of the legislative chambers, with the ceiling height dropping eight feet to accommodate an additional fourth level of office space. The structural work undertaken on the California state capitol between 1975 and 1982 resulted in the restoration of many lost features, but did not restore the original ceiling heights of the legislative chambers.

Myers' entry in the Michigan competition, which he won, was a variant on the national model with respect to the character of the detailing of the exterior. While Myers chose to repeat the image of the domed central block flanked by wings containing the legislative chambers, as established by the new national capitol, he did not adorn the elevations with giant-order colonnades supporting sculpture-filled pediments. In terms of proportions, the Michigan capitol was more vertical than its prototype, with the central block being a full four stories above a full basement. The dome which Myers placed atop the design appears too small for the mass of the structure, and the colonnade around the drum of the dome projects out of its circular form to address the four projecting masses of the building below. Each of the floor levels was defined by stringcourses, and pediments adorned all the windows of the upper two floors.

The design Myers submitted in 1881 for the Texas state capitol represented a substantial change from his Michigan project, both in terms of scale and character. Perhaps by virtue of the large site available in Austin, Myers' design was a more elongated composition, more closely reflective of the national model. The dome, although still narrower than that designed by Walter for Washington, had attained a prominence far greater than that of the Michigan design. In detailing the exterior walls of the Texas capitol, Myers may also have responded to the national model in his choice of giant-order pilasters to frame the second and third floors of the building, dispensing with the multiple stringcourses used for the Michigan design.

These design tendencies should not, however, be taken to suggest that Myers was merely copying Walter's work in Washington, even though the building was first called to be faced in limestone, so as to present a more serene appearance. The substitution of red granite for limestone in 1885 surely adds to the original character of Myer's work, especially given the quarry-faced finish used on the majority of the exterior stonework. Perhaps the most dramatic and original element introduced by Myers was the colossal archway which framed the main entry to the south elevation of the building, an element

which has no counterpart in the design of any other state capitol building, although Myers would use the motif on smaller county courthouse designs.

The success with which Myers generated an original solution to the design of the Texas state capitol becomes more apparent when one looks at his last state capitol project, that for Colorado. Not completed until 1908, the Colorado capitol reads as a somewhat abbreviated version of the Michigan and Texas designs, with little of the vitality of either of those earlier projects.

The successful career which Myers had built as the architect of public buildings was, ironically, in a large part responsible for his dismissal from the position of designing architect by the Capitol Commission in April 1886. The inability of the Capitol Commissioners to obtain responses from Myers on questions concerning the various contract specifications for the building was the result of his work on the Colorado state capitol and other public buildings. It is significant to note, however, that the design of the Texas state capitol was executed according to Myer's drawings, which the Commissioners considered to be of sufficient elaboration and detail to allow for the construction of the building without Myers' direct assistance. Therefore, in spite of the deteriorating relationship between the architect and his clients, the Texas state capi building can still be said to represent the best efforts of Elijah Myers in a field of endeavor in which he had established a significant and well-deserved reputation across the United States.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Temples of Democracy: The State Capitols of the U.S.A., Henry-Russell Hitchcock and William Seale. 1976. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, New York and London.

The Preservation of the Texas State Capitol. Diane Susan Jones. Unpublished Masters Thesis, School of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin, 1980. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 27 acres

Quadrangle name Austin East, Tex **Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	14	621 050	3349 810
B	14	621 040	3349 710
C	14	620 900	3349 540
D	14	621 260	3349 440
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The twenty-seven acre site is bounded on all sides by the cast- and wrought-iron fence which defines the perimeter, generally bounded by 11th Street on the south, 14th Street on the north, Colorado to the west and Brazos to the east.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	**code**	**county**	**code**
ıte		**code**	**county**	**code**

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John C. Ferguson, Architectural Historian

organization Texas Historical Commission **date** December, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 12276 **telephone** (512) 475-3094

city or town Austin **state** Texas 78711

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

X national ___ state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Curtis Tunnell

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 13 Jan. 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

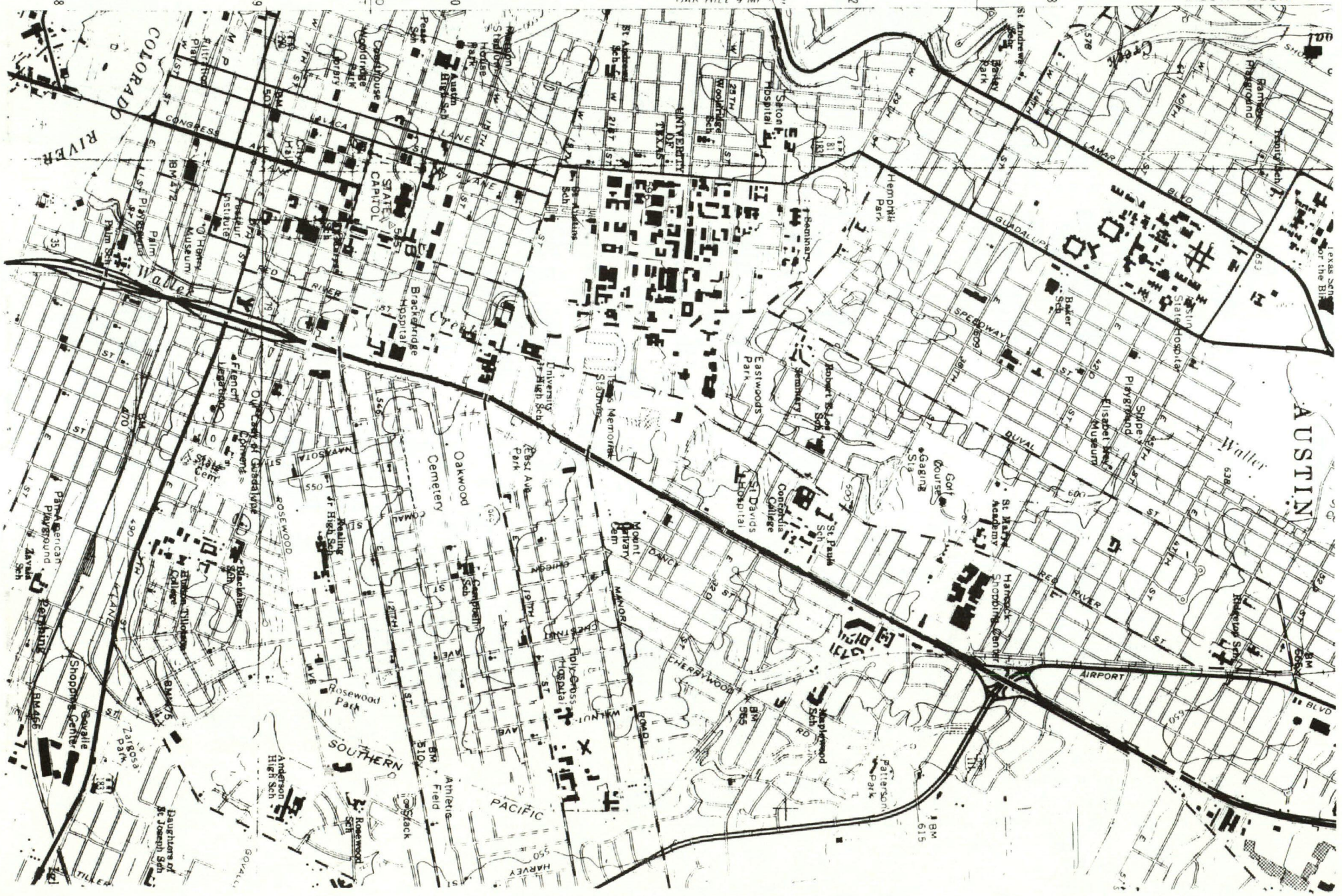
Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

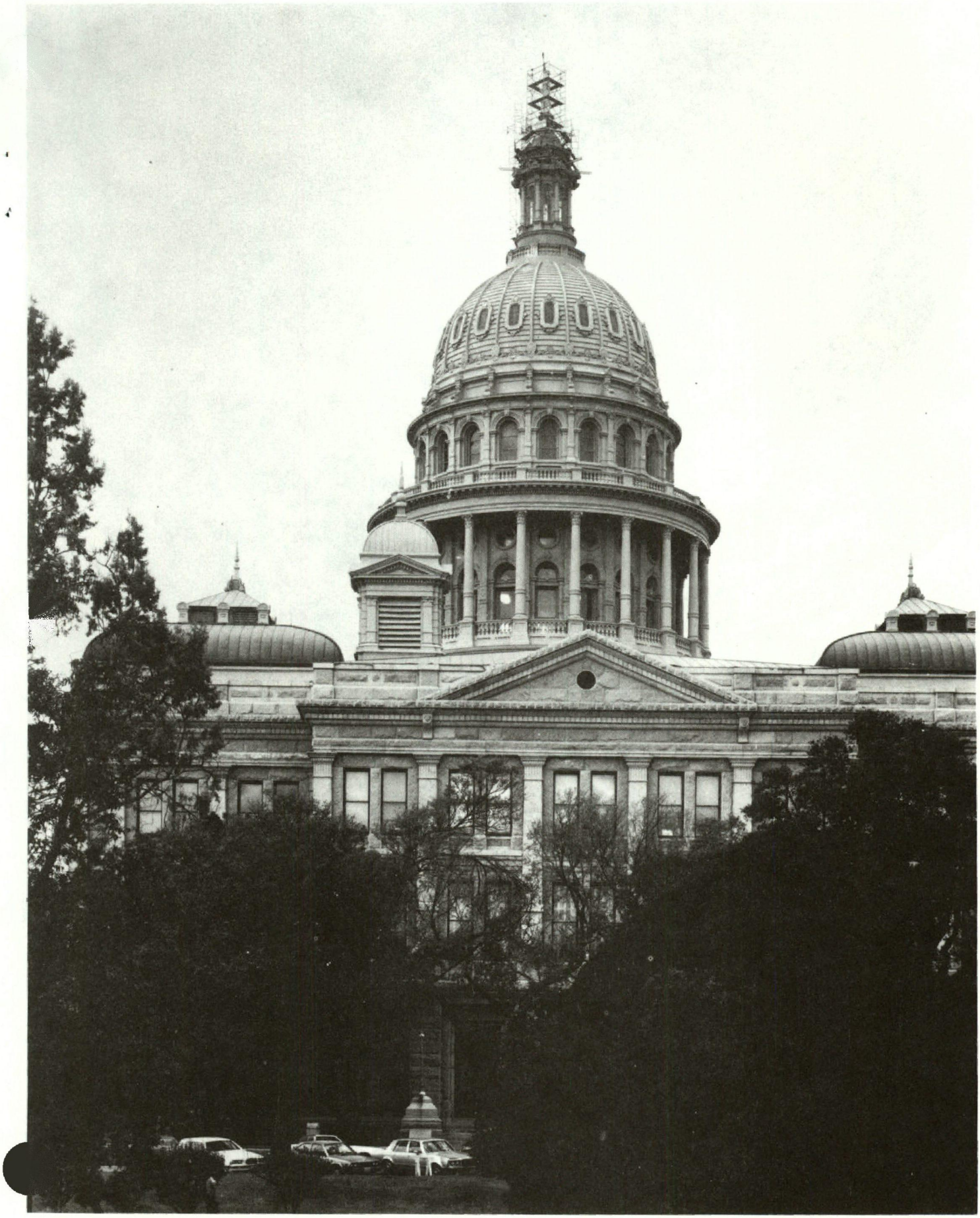
The Politics of Architecture in the Gilded Age: The Practice of Elijah E. Myers. Marlene Elizabeth Heck. Unpublished Masters thesis, The University of Virginia, Charlottesville. 1977.

Biennial Reports of the Capitol Building Commission, 1883-1888. Triplett & Hutchings, State Printers, Austin. On file at the Texas State Archives, Austin.

TEXAS STATE CAPITOL
CONGRESS AND 11TH STREETS
AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 14/A·621050/3349800 C·620900/3349540
B·621400/3349700 D·621260/3349440



Texas State Capitol Building, viewed obliquely f[illegible] the southwest, June, 1975
Photograph (photographer unknown) courtesy of T[illegible] Historical Commission



Texas State Capitol Building, east elevation, October, 1985
Photograph by Jim Bonar, courtesy of Texas Historical Commission

Texas State Capitol Building, interior view of rotunda and dome, 1980
Photograph by Jim Bonar, courtesy of the Texas Historical Commission

Texas State Capitol Building, Senate chamber, facing east, October, 1985
Photograph by Jim Bonar, courtesy of Texas Historical Commission

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Expires 10-31-87

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historic Texas State Capitol

and or common

2. Location

street & number Congress Avenue and 11th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of

state Texas code 048 county Travis code 453

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
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_X_ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	_X_ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	N/A in process	___ yes: restricted	_X_ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	_X_ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name State of Texas

street & number

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of state Texas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Travis County Courthouse

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depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

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8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
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The design Myers submitted in 1881 for the Texas state capitol represented a substantial change from his Michigan project, both in terms of scale and character. Perhaps by virtue of the large site available in Austin, Myers' design was a more elongated composition, more closely reflective of the national model. The dome, although still narrower than that designed by Walter for Washington, had attained a prominence far greater than that of the Michigan design. In detailing the exterior walls of the Texas capitol, Myers may also have responded to the national model in his choice of giant-order pilasters to frame the second and third floors of the building, dispensing with the multiple stringcourses used for the Michigan design.

These design tendencies should not, however, be taken to suggest that Myers was merely copying Walter's work in Washington, even though the building was first called to be faced in limestone, so as to present a more serene appearance. The substitution of red granite for limestone in 1885 surely adds to the original character of Myer's work, especially given the quarry-faced finish used on the majority of the exterior stonework. Perhaps the most dramatic and original element introduced by Myers was the colossal archway which framed the main entry to the south elevation of the building, an element

which has no counterpart in the design of any other state capitol building, although Myers would use the motif on smaller county courthouse designs.

The success with which Myers generated an original solution to the design of the Texas state capitol becomes more apparent when one looks at his last state capitol project, that for Colorado. Not completed until 1908, the Colorado capitol reads as a somewhat abbreviated version of the Michigan and Texas designs, with little of the vitality of either of those earlier projects.

The successful career which Myers had built as the architect of public buildings was, ironically, in a large part responsible for his dismissal from the position of designing architect by the Capitol Commission in April 1886. The inability of the Capitol Commissioners to obtain responses from Myers on questions concerning the various contract specifications for the building was the result of his work on the Colorado state capitol and other public buildings. It is significant to note, however, that the design of the Texas state capitol was executed according to Myer's drawings, which the Commissioners considered to be of sufficient elaboration and detail to allow for the construction of the building without Myers' direct assistance. Therefore, in spite of the deteriorating relationship between the architect and his clients, the Texas state capitol building can still be said to represent the best efforts of Elijah Myers in a field of endeavor in which he had established a significant and well-deserved reputation across the United States.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Temples of Democracy: The State Capitols of the U.S.A., Henry-Russell Hitchcock and William Seale. 1976. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, New York and London.

The Preservation of the Texas State Capitol. Diane Susan Jones. Unpublished Masters Thesis, School of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin, 1980. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 27 acres

Quadrangle name Austin East, Tex **Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	14	621050	334980
B	14	621400	334970
C	14	620900	334954
D	14	621260	334140
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The twenty-seven acre site is bounded on all sides by the cast- and wrought-iron fence which defines the perimeter, generally bounded by 11th Street on the south, 14th Street on the north, Colorado to the west and Brazos to the east.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	**code**	**county**	**code**
state		**code**	**county**	**code**

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John C. Ferguson, Architectural Historian

organization Texas Historical Commission **date** December, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 12276 **telephone** (512) 475-3094

city or town Austin **state** Texas 78711

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

X **national** ___ **state** ___ **local**

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Curtis Tunnell

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 13 Jan. 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

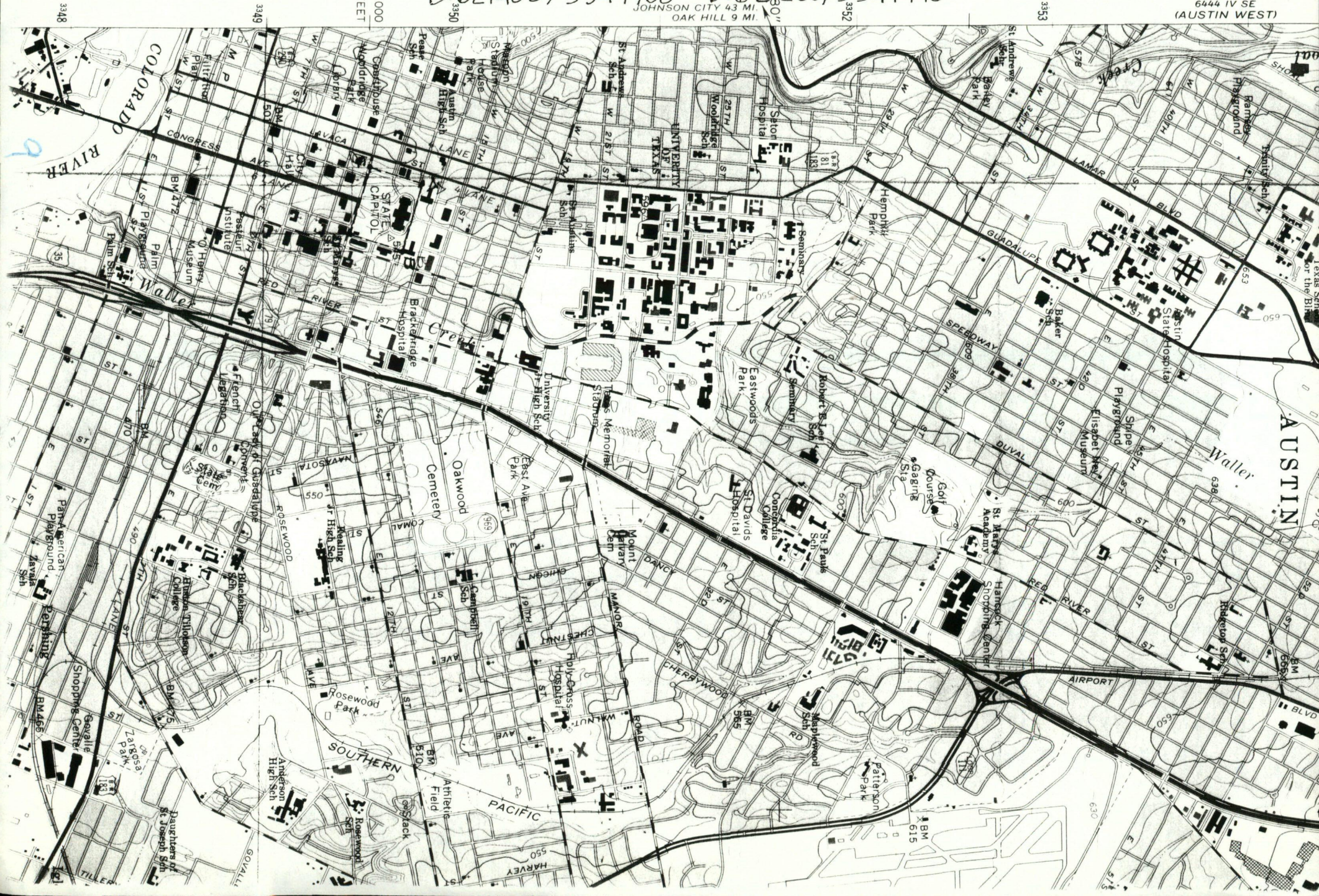
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

GPO 911-399

TEXAS STATE CAPITOL
CONGRESS AND 11TH STREETS
AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 14/A·621050/3349800 C·620900/3349540
B·621400/3349700 D·621260/3349440



H34(418)

AUG 27 1985

Mr. Joe Oppermann
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer
Texas State Historical Commission
P.O. Box 122276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Oppermann:

I am pleased to respond to your letter of August 9, 1985 requesting consideration of a study of the Texas State Capitol for possible designation as a National Historic Landmark.

We believe the building merits consideration. However, the professional staff of the National Historic Landmarks Program is fully committed for the foreseeable future to studies already programmed. On the other hand, I welcome your offer to have your staff prepare the nomination which we will gladly review.

I enclose a copy of information sheets on the National Historic Landmarks Program which contains the criteria that the proposed nomination must meet. Bear in mind that the study must document a thesis of national significance based on the masterpiece qualities of the subject, its national design consequence, the national significance of the architect, or other appropriate argument.

Inquiries made by my staff indicate that the Texas State Capitol will have to be compared to others of its type, of which there are a number, in terms of age, integrity, and the quality of its stylistic representation. The National Register form states that the architect designed other State Capitols. You will need to assess his work on the Texas Capitol in relationship to these other works.

A first draft need not be perfect or lengthy. I would suggest you not exceed six pages total for parts 7 and 8 of the standard inventory-nomination form. In order for the study to be presented at the Spring meeting of the National Park System Advisory Board, a draft will have to be submitted here for review by November 13 and resubmitted in final by December 13. Unless there is valid reason for urgency, I would counsel your waiting for the next meeting of the Board in the Fall of 1986 thus giving you until early May next year for submittal of the draft study.

Let us know what your plan is at your earliest convenience. I suggest that you contact Senior Historian Ben Levy of my staff if you wish additional information and guidance. He can be reached at (202) 343-8164.

Sincerely,

/s/ Edwin C. Bearss

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian

cc: 001 RF
400 RF
418-Levy (w/copy of incoming)
418-TEXAS STATE CAPITOL (NHL PENDING)
424-Dr. Connally (w/copy of incoming)
BLevy:pt:8/27/85
Thomas Disk 12: Item #17

HARRY A. GOLEMON, HOUSTON
CHAIRMAN
GAY RATLIFF, AUSTIN
VICE-CHAIRMAN
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DR. DAN A. WILLIS, FORT WORTH

NOV 12 RECD

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 (512) 475-3092

November 6, 1985

Mr. Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian
History Division
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013

Dear Mr. Bearss:

I have enclosed for your review the documentation required for the consideration of the Texas State Capitol building as a potential National Historic Landmark by the National Park System Advisory Board at their meeting in the Spring of 1986. The preparation of this material follows my correspondence of August 9, 1985, and your subsequent reply of August 27, 1985.

While this is the initial submission, it is our opinion that it can be considered as the final version of such documentation, pending a request for additional information or clarification from your staff. The content of the statement of significance for the structure reflects recent scholarly research into the career of the architect of the building, Elijah E. Myers, and of his other state capitol buildings.

If you or any member of your staff should have any questions concerning the documentation of the Texas State Capitol, please contact John C. Ferguson of my staff, who prepared the nomination. John can be reached at 512-475-3094, and will be in a position to answer any questions promptly.

With the approach of the sesquicentennial celebration of the independence of Texas from Mexico in 1986, we are naturally most interested in obtaining the National Historic Landmark designation for our state capitol, which will also observe its centennial year in 1988. I greatly appreciate your staff's consideration of this request, and look forward to further contact with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Joe Oppermann
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

JO/jcf

NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Texas State Capitol

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Congress Avenue and 11th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of

state Texas code 048 county Travis code 453

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	_X_ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	_X_ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	N/A in process	___ yes: restricted	_X_ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	_X_ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name State of Texas

street & number

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of state Texas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Travis County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Austin state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Texas Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? _X_ yes ___ no

date 1964 ___ federal _X_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin state Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 (512) 475-3092

AUG 16 RECD

August 9, 1985

Mr. Edwin C. Bearss
Chief, History Division (418)
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Mr. Bearss:

In the past, my staff has been in contact with your office concerning suggestions for possible consideration for National Historic Landmark designation by the National Park Service. As the State of Texas approaches its sesquicentennial year in 1986, considerable attention will be focused upon the history of the state and its government. The most conspicuous symbol of state government is the Texas State Capitol Building, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. The Capitol, which is constructed of native Texas red granite, is the largest of all of the state capitol buildings, and was the work of the Detroit architect Elijah E. Myers, who was also responsible for the design of the Colorado and Michigan state capitol buildings, as well as the former city hall in Richmond, Virginia and other noted public buildings.

Recently, the state legislature provided the necessary funding for, and the Governor has since chosen, an architect of the Capitol whose purpose is to supervise all future work on the building and its grounds. There is strong sentiment for a major restoration campaign for the structure, and designation as a National Historic Landmark in time for the sesquicentennial celebration would greatly enhance the likelihood of such a program becoming a reality. The staff of the Texas Historical Commission can provide your office with substantial amounts of documentation on the Texas State Capitol for use in a National Historic Landmark study, and would be happy to provide whatever assistance your office would require in such a study. In fact, we would be quite willing to prepare the nomination itself.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you in the future, and I would hope that you would feel free to contact me if I can answer any questions concerning our interest in pursuing such a designation.

Sincerely,

Joe Oppermann
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

JO/mc

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
_x_ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_x_ original site
___ good	___ ruins	_x_ altered	___ moved date N/A
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Texas State Capitol building is a three-story structure, with a four-story central block, with exterior masonry-bearing walls faced in Texas red granite. Modeled on the design of the national capitol in Washington, D.C., the building features a dome at the crossing of its major axes. The dome rests upon a masonry drum, with the upper sections of the dome proper fabricated in metal, the exterior surface painted to simulate the granite of the exterior walls. The interior of the structure features monumental and elaborately detailed doorframes, with cast-iron staircases placed alongside the rotunda. The two legislative chambers occupy the second floor of the structure, with the basement, first, third, and fourth floors being devoted to office space.

The Texas State Capitol building is located at the crest of a hill overlooking downtown Austin and the distant Colorado River. The setting for the building was an integral part of the 1839 plan of the city of Austin prepared by Edwin Waller. The principal elevation of the capitol faces south, with the central block measuring 289 feet from north to south, and the east-west measurement of the building at its greatest length reaching 566 feet, 6 inches.

The overall conception of the design is clearly based upon that of the national capitol in Washington, although there are substantial differences in terms of architectural detailing and finishes. The north and south elevations are five-part compositions, the central bays of which serve as the principal entrances to the structure. The south entry is framed by a colossal three-story archway, while the north entrance is set within a three-story columnar portico. The east and west elevations were originally planned to feature similar porticoes, but these were eliminated from construction plans due to the increased cost of such elements. The central pavilions on the north and south elevations rise four stories, and are five bays in width. The projecting wings which house the two legislative chanbers are recessed back from the central block, and contain five facade bays arranged in an AABAA pattern. The flanking pavilions, which also form the east and west elevations of the structure, are each three bays in width on the north and south elevations, and nine bays in width on the east and west elevations.

The dome which surmounts the intersection of the east-west and north-south interior axes of the building is a more vertically proportioned version of the dome of the national capitol. In height, it measures 250 feet from the floor of the basement to the base of the lantern. The Renaissance-inspired detailing of the exterior of the dome, including the columned drum, is executed in galvanized iron painted to match the color of the red granite which faces the masonry walls of the building. The lantern of the dome is topped by a cast zinc statue representing the Goddess of Liberty, in whose raised left hand is held a five-pointed star, an iconographic symbol borrowed from the state flag.

The exterior walls of the capitol are faced with red granite quarried near Burnet, Texas. The great majority of the stone is quarry faced, with the only dressed ashlar work being confined to the shafts of the columns and pilasters which articulate the bays of the facades. The most monumental blocks of granite are set in the first floor walls, with blocks of lesser scale and texture of finish being used on the upper floors. The stonework is carried up to the parapets on the north and south elevations of the central block.

The interior of the capitol is dominated, on the first floor, by the broad east-west hallway, which is flanked by suites of legislators' offices, and the vast space of the rotunda. The lobby spaces to the north and south of the rotunda serve mainly as preludes to the rotunda space. The second floor houses the chambers for the Senate and House of Representatives, with offices in the east and west ends for Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. The third and fouth floors contain more legislators offices. The detailing of the interior reflects the classical character of the exterior. The monumental cast-iron columns of the interior feature Corinthian capitals, a device also found on the more elaborately detailed doorframes, most of which are of carved oak. The rotunda features galleries on the second, third, and fourth floors, supported on massive console brackets of cast iron. The Senate and House chambers are set to either side of the rotunda space. These primary public spaces were both originally lit by large skylights, the interior glazing of which consisted of large rectangular panes of inch-thick glass sandblasted with the state seal at their center. The opaque character of these panels diffused the light into the chambers. While several of these glass panels survive, many have been removed over the years. Spectators' galleries ring the legislative chambers of three sides.

The only significant interior space to have been seriously altered from its original design is the legislative library, which is located in the north section of the central block. Originally built as a two-story space illuminated by a skylight and glass blocks in the floor, the space has had its skylight filled in and the glass block flooring removed. Some of the book stack shelving still remains in use today.

Shortly after its completion in 1888, the state capitol site was further improved by the erection of a composition cast- and wrought-iron fence surrounding the twenty-seven-acre capitol grounds. Executed by the Springfield, Ohio, firm of Mast, Foos and Company, the fence features five-pointed stars as caps for each of its pickets.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion	
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science	
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)	
		___ invention			

Specific dates 1882–1888 **Builder/Architect** Elijah E. Myers, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Texas State Capitol building represents the high-water mark in the career of its architect, Elijah E. Myers, the most prolific and controversial architect of state capitol buildings in the period from 1865 to 1895. The building also reflects the popularity of the national capitol in Washington, D.C. as the prototype for state capitols in the post-Civil War era. The product of an architectural competition judged by a prominent architect, the Texas State Capitol is the largest such structure in the United States.

The foundation for construction of the Texas State Capitol, which began in 1882, was actually laid in 1875 with the passage of the state constitution. Included in that document was a resolution to appropriate and set apart three million acres of public lands for the purpose of providing the funds needed to construct a state capitol and other public buildings. Supplementary acts passed in 1879 authorized this land either to be sold to pay for such construction, or to be used as the means of payment itself for such work. These supplementary acts also established the Capitol Building Commission, which was appointed on November 16, 1880. On November 20, 1880, the Commission called for the submission of designs for a new state capitol to cost one million five hundred thousand dollars. The deadline for the submission of these designs was February 1, 1881. Eleven designs were received by the deadline, which were studied by the three members of the Commission, as well as Governor O. M. Roberts. The Governor requested that an impartial architect be consulted to advise the Commission on the adoption of plans for the building, and on April 24, 1881, Napoleon LeBrun of New York arrived in Austin to serve in that capacity. On May 6, 1881, it was announced that the plans submitted under the "nom de plume" of Tuebor had been chosen as the winner of the competition.

These plans were the work of the Detroit architect Elijah E. Myers, perhaps the individual most responsible for the architectural character of post-Civil War state capitols, having designed four such structures and competed, without success, for the chance to design two others. At the time he entered the Texas competition, Myers had already gained fame from the completion of the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing, completed in 1878, and would shortly enter and win the competition for the Colorado State Capitol in 1883. Myers also designed the first Idaho State Capitol, built in 1885, a commission evidently not awarded on the basis of a competition. Myers entered the competitions for the Indiana and Wyoming state capitols in 1877 and 1885, respectively, but won neither. Myers was also noted for his designs for county courthouse and municipal buildings, the most noted being the Richmond City Hall, completed in 1894.

From the outset of his career as a designer of state capitol buildings, Myers was clearly influenced by the model of Thomas U. Walter's work on the national capitol at Washington, D.C., which had been completed in 1863. Of course, the concept of a tripartite design for such a monumental structure had originated with Charles Bulfinch's plans for the nation's capitol, which were expanded upon by Walter. By the time the competition for the design of the Michigan state capitol was announced in June of 1871, several states had already begun to erect new seats of state government based upon Walter's work, the earliest of which was the California state capitol in Sacramento, completed in 1874, although begun over a decade earlier.

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The successful career which Myers had built as the architect of public buildings was, ironically, in a large part responsible for his dismissal from the position of designing architect by the Capitol Commission in April 1886. The inability of the Capitol Commissioners to obtain responses from Myers on questions concerning the various contract specifications for the building was the result of his work on the Colorado state capitol and other public buildings. It is significant to note, however, that the design of the Texas state capitol was executed according to Myer's drawings, which the Commissioners considered to be of sufficient elaboration and detail to allow for the construction of the building without Myers' direct assistance. Therefore, in spite of the deteriorating relationship between the architect and his clients, the Texas state capitol building can still be said to represent the best efforts of Elijah Myers in a field of endeavor in which he had established a significant and well-deserved reputation across the United States.

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The Preservation of the Texas State Capitol. Diane Susan Jones. Unpublished Masters Thesis, School of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin, 1980. (continued)

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Acreage of nominated property 27 acres

Quadrangle name Austin East, Tex **Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

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List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A	**code**	**county**	**code**
state	**code**	**county**	**code**

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John C. Ferguson, Architectural Historian

organization Texas Historical Commission **date**

street & number P. O. Box 12276 **telephone** (512) 475-3094

city or town Austin **state** Texas 78711

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_X_ national ___ state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Curtis Tunnell

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 6 Nov. 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

GPO 911-399

The Politics of Architecture in the Gilded Age: The Practice of Elijah E. Myers. Marlene Elizabeth Heck. Unpublished Masters thesis, The University of Virginia, Charlottesville. 1977.

Biennial Reports of the Capitol Building Commission, 1883-1888. Triplett & Hutchings, State Printers, Austin. On file at the Texas State Archives, Austin.

H34(418)

DEC 3 1985

Mr. Joe Oppermann
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Oppermann:

I was pleased to receive and have had the opportunity to review the draft nomination form on the Texas Capitol prepared by Historian John C. Ferguson of your staff. It was well-written, concise, and cogent. It should stand as the fundamental document in support of your proposal to have the Capitol designated as a National Historic Landmark.

I have enclosed copies of the nomination form on which you will find marginal notes and proofing marks which are self-explanatory. I would also like to suggest some emendations that I believe would improve the overall nomination:

(1) A comparison with the California State Capitol would be beneficial, since I understand that it was a predeccessor of the Texas Capitol and, like it, followed Walter's work on the Nation's Capitol. Of particular importance in judging the comparative significance of the two would be the effect of recent structural modifications to the California Capitol to withstand seismic shock. Would it be possible for Historian Ferguson to make this comparative analysis?

(2) Have all the predecessors of the Texas Capitol based on the national prototype been cited and comparatively evaluated? If not, that should be considered for addition to the nomination form.

(3) Could Myer's national significance be supported with quotations from acknowledged experts in architectural history. Such citations would materially strengthen the study.

Sincerely,

/s/ Edwin C. Bearss

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian

Enclosure

cc: 418 Levy (w/c of incoming)
001 Reading File
400 Reading File
418 TEXAS STATE CAPITOL (OSC)
BLevy:sd:11-27-85 (34b)

NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Texas State Capitol

and or common

2. Location

street & number Congress Avenue and 11th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of

state Texas code 048 county Travis code 453

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	_X_ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	_X_ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	N/A in process	___ yes: restricted	_X_ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	_X_ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name State of Texas

street & number

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of state Texas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Travis County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Austin state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Texas Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? _X_ yes ___ no

date 1964 ___ federal _X_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin state Texas

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
_X_ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
___ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date N/A
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Texas State Capitol building is a three-story structure, with a four-story central block, with exterior masonry-bearing walls faced in Texas red granite. Modeled on the design of the national capitol in Washington, D.C., the building features a dome at the crossing of its major axes. The dome rests upon a masonry drum, with the upper sections of the dome proper fabricated in metal, the exterior surface painted to simulate the granite of the exterior walls. The interior of the structure features monumental and elaborately detailed doorframes, with cast-iron staircases placed alongside the rotunda. The two legislative chambers occupy the second floor of the structure, with the basement, first, third, and fourth floors being devoted to office space.

The Texas State Capitol building is located at the crest of a hill overlooking downtown Austin and the distant Colorado River. The setting for the building was an integral part of the 1839 plan of the city of Austin prepared by Edwin Waller. The principal elevation of the capitol faces south, with the central block measuring 289 feet from north to south, and the east-west measurement of the building at its greatest length reaching 566 feet, 6 inches.

The overall conception of the design is clearly based upon that of the national capitol in Washington, although there are substantial differences in terms of architectural detailing and finishes. The north and south elevations are five-part compositions, the central bays of which serve as the principal entrances to the structure. The south entry is framed by a colossal three-story archway, while the north entrance is set within a three-story columnar portico. The east and west elevations were originally planned to feature similar porticoes, but these were eliminated from construction plans due to the increased cost of such elements. The central pavilions on the north and south elevations rise four stories, and are five bays in width. The projecting wings which house the two legislative chanbers are recessed back from the central block, and contain five facade bays arranged in an AABAA pattern. The flanking pavilions, which also form the east and west elevations of the structure, are each three bays in width on the north and south elevations, and nine bays in width on the east and west elevations.

The dome which surmounts the intersection of the east-west and north-south interior axes of the building is a more vertically proportioned version of the dome of the national capitol. In height, it measures 250 feet from the floor of the basement to the base of the lantern. The Renaissance-inspired detailing of the exterior of the dome, including the columned drum, is executed in galvanized iron painted to match the color of the red granite which faces the masonry walls of the building. The lantern of the dome is topped by a cast zinc statue representing the Goddess of Liberty, in whose raised left hand is held a five-pointed star, an iconographic symbol borrowed from the state flag.

The exterior walls of the capitol are faced with red granite quarried near Burnet, Texas. The great majority of the stone is quarry faced, with the only dressed ashlar work being confined to the shafts of the columns and pilasters which articulate the bays of the facades. The most monumental blocks of granite are set in the first floor walls, with blocks of lesser scale and texture of finish being used on the upper floors. The stonework is carried up to the parapets on the north and south elevations of the central block.

The interior of the capitol is dominated, on the first floor, by the broad east-west hallway, which is flanked by suites of legislators' offices, and the vast space of the rotunda. The lobby spaces to the north and south of the rotunda serve mainly as preludes to the rotunda space. The second floor houses the chambers for the Senate and House of Representatives, with offices in the east and west ends for Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. The third and fourth floors contain more legislators' offices. The detailing of the interior reflects the classical character of the exterior. The monumental cast-iron columns of the interior feature Corinthian capitals, a device also found on the more elaborately detailed doorframes, most of which are of carved oak. The rotunda features galleries on the second, third, and fourth floors, supported on massive console brackets of cast iron. The Senate and House chambers are set to either side of the rotunda space. These primary public spaces were both originally lit by large skylights, the interior glazing of which consisted of large rectangular panes of inch-thick glass sandblasted with the state seal at their center. The opaque character of these panels diffused the light into the chambers. While several of these glass panels survive, many have been removed over the years. Spectators' galleries ring the legislative chambers of three sides.

The only significant interior space to have been seriously altered from its original design is the legislative library, which is located in the north section of the central block. Originally built as a two-story space illuminated by a skylight and glass blocks in the floor, the space has had its skylight filled in and the glass block flooring removed. Some of the book stack shelving still remains in use today.

Shortly after its completion in 1888, the state capitol site was further improved by the erection of a composition cast- and wrought-iron fence surrounding the twenty-seven-acre capitol grounds. Executed by the Springfield, Ohio, firm of Mast, Foos and Company, the fence features five-pointed stars as caps for each of its pickets.

From the outset of his career as a designer of state capitol buildings, Myers was clearly influenced by the model of Thomas U. Walter's work on the national capitol at Washington, D.C., which had been completed in 1863. Of course, the concept of a tripartite design for such a monumental structure had originated with Charles Bulfinch's plans for the nation's capitol, which were expanded upon by Walter. By the time the competition for the design of the Michigan state capitol was announced in June of 1871, several states had already begun to erect new seats of state government based upon Walter's work, the earliest of which was the California state capitol in Sacramento, completed in 1874, although begun over a decade earlier.

Myers' entry in the Michigan competition, which he won, was a variant on the national model with respect to the character of the detailing of the exterior. While Myers chose to repeat the image of the domed central block flanked by wings containing the legislative chambers, as established by the new national capitol, he did not adorn the elevations with giant-order colonnades supporting sculpture-filled pediments. In terms of proportions, the Michigan capitol was more vertical than its prototype, with the central block being a full four stories above a full basement. The dome which Myers placed atop the design appears too small for the mass of the structure, and the colonnade around the drum of the dome projects out of its circular form to address the four projecting masses of the building below. Each of the floor levels was defined by stringcourses, and pediments adorned all the windows of the upper two floors.

The design Myers submitted in 1881 for the Texas state capitol represented a substantial change from his Michigan project, both in terms of scale and character. Perhaps by virtue of the large site available in Austin, Myers' design was a more elongated composition, more closely reflective of the national model. The dome, although still narrower than that designed by Walter for Washington, had attained a prominence far greater than that of the Michigan design. In detailing the exterior walls of the Texas capitol, Myers may also have responded to the national model in his choice of giant-order pilasters to frame the second and third floors of the building, dispensing with the multiple stringcourses used for the Michigan design.

These design tendencies should not, however, be taken to suggest that Myers was merely copying Walter's work in Washington, even though the building was first called to be faced in limestone, so as to present a more serene appearance. The substitution of red granite for limestone in 1885 surely adds to the original character of Myers' work, especially given the quarry-faced finish used on the majority of the exterior stonework. Perhaps the most dramatic and original element introduced by Myers was the colossal archway which framed the main entry to the south elevation of the

8. Significance

why no pol hist govt.

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1882–1888 **Builder/Architect** Elijah E. Myers, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Texas State Capitol ~~building~~ represents the high water mark in the career of its architect, Elijah E. Myers, the most prolific and controversial architect of state capitol buildings in the period from 1865 to 1895. The building also reflects the popularity of the national capitol in Washington, D.C. as the prototype for state capitols in the post-Civil War era. The product of an architectural competition judged by a prominent architect, the Texas State Capitol is the largest such structure in the United States.

The foundation for construction of the Texas State Capitol, which began in 1882, was actually laid in 1875 with the passage of the state constitution. Included in that document was a resolution to appropriate and set apart three million acres of public lands for the purpose of providing the funds needed to construct a state capitol and other public buildings. Supplementary acts passed in 1879 authorized this land either to be sold to pay for such construction, or to be used as the means of payment itself for such work. These supplementary acts also established the Capitol Building Commission, which was appointed on November 16, 1880. On November 20, 1880, the Commission called for the submission of designs for a new state capitol to cost one million five hundred thousand dollars. The deadline for the submission of these designs was February 1, 1881. Eleven designs were received by the deadline, which were studied by the three members of the Commission, as well as Governor O. M. Roberts. The Governor requested that an impartial architect be consulted to advise the Commission on the adoption of plans for the building, and on April 24, 1881, Napoleon LeBrun of New York arrived in Austin to serve in that capacity. On May 6, 1881, it was announced that the plans submitted under the "nom de plume" of Tuebor had been chosen as the winner of the competition.

These plans were the work of the Detroit architect Elijah E. Myers, perhaps the individual most responsible for the architectural character of post-Civil War state capitols, having designed four such structures and competed, without success, for the chance to design two others. At the time he entered the Texas competition, Myers had already gained fame from the completion of the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing, completed in 1878, and would shortly enter and win the competition for the Colorado State Capitol in 1883. Myers also designed the first Idaho State Capitol, built in 1885, a commission evidently not awarded on the basis of a competition. Myers entered the competitions for the Indiana and Wyoming state capitols in 1877 and 1885, respectively, but won neither. Myers was also noted for his designs for county courthouse and municipal buildings, the most noted being the Richmond City Hall, completed in 1894.

Va. ?

building, an element which has no counterpart in the design of any other state capitol building, although Myers would use the motif on smaller county courthouse designs.

The success with which Myers generated an original solution to the design of the Texas state capitol becomes more apparent when one looks at his last state capitol project, that for Colorado. Not completed until 1908, the Colorado capitol reads as a somewhat abbreviated version of the Michigan and Texas designs, with little of the vitality of either of those earlier projects.

The successful career which Myers had built as the architect of public buildings was, ironically, in a large part responsible for his dismissal from the position of designing architect by the Capitol Commission in April 1886. The inability of the Capitol Commissioners to obtain responses from Myers on questions concerning the various contract specifications for the building was the result of his work on the Colorado state capitol and other public buildings. It is significant to note, however, that the design of the Texas state capitol was executed according to Myers' drawings, which the Commissioners considered to be of sufficient elaboration and detail to allow for the construction of the building without Myers' direct assistance. Therefore, in spite of the deteriorating relationship between the architect and his clients, the Texas state capitol building can still be said to represent the best efforts of Elijah Myers in a field of endeavor in which he had established a significant and well-deserved reputation across the United States.

Without a discussion of significant political events associated with the Texas state capitol, this nomination is in serious trouble.

ECB

11/19

9. Major Bibliographical References

Temples of Democracy: The State Capitols of the U.S.A., Henry-Russell Hitchcock and William Seale. 1976. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, New York and London.

The Preservation of the Texas State Capitol. Diane Susan Jones. Unpublished Masters Thesis, School of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin, 1980. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 27 acres

Quadrangle name Austin East, Tex **Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	14	621050	3349800
B	14	621400	3349700
C	14	620900	3349540
D	14	621260	3349440
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The twenty-seven acre site is bounded on all sides by the cast- and wrought-iron fence which defines the perimeter, generally bounded by 11th Street on the south, 14th Street on the north, Colorado to the west and Brazos to the east.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A	**code**	**county**	**code**
state	**code**	**county**	**code**

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John C. Ferguson, Architectural Historian

organization Texas Historical Commission **date**

street & number P. O. Box 12276 **telephone** (512) 475-3094

city or town Austin **state** Texas 78711

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_X_ national ___ state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Curtis Tunnell

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 6 Nov. 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

The Politics of Architecture in the Gilded Age: The Practice of Elijah E. Myers. Marlene Elizabeth Heck. Unpublished Masters thesis, The University of Virginia, Charlottesville. 1977.

Biennial Reports of the Capitol Building Commission, 1883-1888. Triplett & Hutchings, State Printers, Austin. On file at the Texas State Archives, Austin.

Texas State Capitol - Notes

6. If on NR, should state here as well as State Inventory.
Use continuation sheet, if necessary

8. No evaluation with the California Capitol
Good argument in ranking Myers' work on capitols but is Myers' nationally significant by this count.
Even though the Texas Capitol reflects the US Capitol, is it the earliest, the best, the ~~pace~~ prototype of such efforts or the pace setter, so to speak.

para. 1, p. 8-1 shows that Walter's work was ~~already~~ being reflected in other capitols already under construction. California is cited; what are the others and how do they compare with Texas.

If the US Capitol had already been used as a pattern, is it sig. to distinguish post-civil war Capitols from earlier ones?

Carolyn - World appreciate your comments. It seems that the Texas Capitol is not the first patterned on the US Capitol or Walter's work on it. TB.

Not by a long shot (see book attached) — a lot of State Capitols look like Washington's. Elijah Myers was a very good architect.

Not having seen this brick Capitol, I can't say anything but Al Chambers says it is a Landmark. Ok?
Think you have to at least consider it C

HARRY A. GOLEMON, HOUSTON
CHAIRMAN
GAY RATLIFF, AUSTIN
VICE-CHAIRMAN
JAMES S. NABORS, SECRETARY
LAKE JACKSON

MRS. LUNELLE A. ANDERSON, SAN MARCOS
JOHN M. BENNETT, SAN ANTONIO
DUNCAN E. BOECKMAN, DALLAS
MRS. GEORGE ANN CARTER, FORT WORTH

GEORGE CHRISTIAN, AUSTIN
RICHARD H. COLLINS, DALLAS
T.R. FEHRENBACH, SAN ANTONIO
MAXINE E. FLOURNOY, ALICE
MRS. ALBERT G. HILL, DALLAS
DR. ROBERT D. HUNTER, ABILENE
MRS. H.L. LONG, KILGORE
W. MERRIMAN MORTON, EL PASO
LOUIS P. TERRAZAS, SAN ANTONIO
EVANGELINE LOESSIN WHORTON,
GALVESTON ISLAND
DR. DAN A. WILLIS, FORT WORTH

CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 (512) 475-3092

January 14, 1986

Mr. Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian
History Division
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Mr. Bearss:

Enclosed is the revised nomination for the consideration of the Texas State Capitol as a potential National Historic Landmark. The comments contained in your letter of December 3, 1985 were taken into consideration in the rewriting of the nomination, in addition to the corrections noted on the copies of the first draft which was submitted to you in November of 1985.

It is our understanding that this nomination, along with the photographic documentation which you have on file, will be presented to the National Park System Advisory Board for their consideration at their Spring meeting. If there are any additional questions concerning the nomination, please feel free to contact John C. Ferguson, Architectural Historian, at 512-475-3094.

Thank you again for your consideration of this nomination, and for the assistance of your staff in answering our questions regarding the National Historic Landmark designation process.

Sincerely,

Joe Oppermann
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

JO/jcf
Enclosure

NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Texas State Capitol

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Congress Avenue and 11th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of

state Texas code 048 county Travis code 453

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	_X_ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	_X_ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	N/A in process	___ yes: restricted	_X_ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	_X_ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name State of Texas

street & number

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of state Texas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Travis County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Austin state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Texas Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? _X_ yes ___ no

date 1964 ___ federal _X_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin state Texas

9. Major Bibliographical References

Temples of Democracy: The State Capitols of the U.S.A., Henry-Russell Hitchcock and William Seale. 1976. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, New York and London.

The Preservation of the Texas State Capitol. Diane Susan Jones. Unpublished Masters Thesis, School of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin, 1980. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 27 acres

Quadrangle name Austin East, Tex Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	14	621 050	3349 810
B	14	621 410	3349 710
C	14	620 900	3349 540
D	14	621 260	3349 440
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The twenty-seven acre site is bounded on all sides by the cast- and wrought-iron fence which defines the perimeter, generally bounded by 11th Street on the south, 14th Street on the north, Colorado to the west and Brazos to the east.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county		code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John C. Ferguson, Architectural Historian

organization Texas Historical Commission date December, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 12276 telephone (512) 475-3094

city or town Austin state Texas 78711

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

X national ___ state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Curtis Tunnell

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 13 Jan 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

H34(413)

JAN28 1986

Honorable Frank Cooksey
Mayor of the City of Austin
124 W 8th Street
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Dear Mayor Cooksey:

We wish to inform you that the National Park Service is studying the property identified on the enclosed sheet to determine its potential for designation as a National Historic Landmark. The National Historic Landmarks Program recognizes sites of national significance in the Nation's history, architecture, archeology, and culture. Each Landmark receives a certificate of designation; owners may also apply for a bronze plaque.

National Historic Landmark designation follows three steps: study, which requires a visit to the property and preparation of a nomination; review of the nomination by the National Park System Advisory Board; and a decision by the Secretary of the Interior on the Board's recommendations.

When we complete our study of the property, you will receive a copy of it. At that time you will have 60 days to submit your views in writing if you so desire. After the 60-day period, we will submit the nomination and your comments to the Advisory Board and inform the Secretary of the Board's recommendations.

To assist you in considering this matter, we have enclosed a copy of the regulations that govern the National Historic Landmarks Program. They describe the effects of designation (Sec. 65.2) and specify how you may comment on a proposed designation (Sec. 65.5(d)(4-5)). We also call your attention to the supplemental information that appears on the enclosed sheet.

Sincerely,

/s/ Edwin C. Bearss

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian

Enclosures

IDENTICAL LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THOSE PEOPLE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED SHEET

cc: Mr. Roy Graham
Architect of the Capitol
P.O. Box 13286
Austin, Texas 78711

Mr. John C. Ferguson
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Regional Director (RMRO)(1200)
Greg Kendrick (RMRO)(1200)
001 Reading File
418 TEXAS STATE CAPITOL (NHL Pending)

Kate Cole Stevenson (RMRO)(1200)
Melody Webb (SWRO)(7000)
400 Reading File

LFeller:sd:01-23-86
DISC NO. 12

[A] Texas State

Honorable Frank Cooksey "Mayor Cooksey"
Mayor of the City of Austin
124 W 8th Street
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

[A] Texas State

Honorable Mark White "Governor White"
Governor of the State of Texas
State Capitol Building, Room 200
Austin, Texas 78711

[A] Texas State

Honorable Mike Renfro "Mr. Renfro"
County Judge, Travis County
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767

[A] Texas State

Honorable Bill Hobby "Mr. Hobby"
Lieutenant Governor of the State of Texas
and President of the State Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

[A] Texas State

Honorable Gib Lewis "Mr. Lewis"
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78769

[A] Texas State

Mr. Curtis Tunnell "Mr. Tunnell"
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

PROPERTY TO BE STUDIED FOR NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Texas State Capitol,
Austin, Texas

☐ As a private owner of the property identified above you may concur in or object to designation. Your comments may govern whether or not the property will be designated. You can find guidance for your comments in Section 65.5(d)(4-5) of the enclosed regulations.

☑ In commenting on the possible designation of the property identified above you can find guidance in Section 65.5(d)(4) of the enclosed regulations.

While you may comment at this time, you may wish to wait until the study is completed and transmitted to you. You are, of course, welcome to consult us at any time. If you wish to respond at this time, please address your comments to Mr. Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian, National Park Service, History Division (418), P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127.

If you have general questions regarding the National Historic Landmarks Program you may contact Ben Levy at the History Division address given above, (202)343-8164 or FTS: 343-8164. Historian John Ferguson will prepare the study of the property. If you have questions concerning the study, you may contact him at the Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711, (512)475-3094.

H34(418)

FEB 4 1986

Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bentsen:

We wish to inform you that the National Park Service is studying the property identified on the enclosed sheet to determine its potential for designation as a National Historic Landmark. The National Historic Landmarks Program recognizes sites of national significance in the Nation's history, architecture, archeology, and culture. Each Landmark receives a certificate of designation; owners may also apply for a bronze plaque.

National Historic Landmark designation follows three steps: study, which requires a visit to the property and preparation of a nomination; review of the nomination by the National Park System Advisory Board; and a decision by the Secretary of the Interior on the Board's recommendations.

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Sincerely,

s/ William Penn Mott, Jr.

Director

Enclosures

IDENTICAL LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THOSE PEOPLE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED SHEET

cc: Regional Director (RMRO)(1200)
Kate Cole Stevenson (RMRO)(1200)
Greg Kendrick (RMRO)(1200)
Melody Webb (SWRO)(7000)
190 Congressional Liaison
001 Reading File
400 Reading File
418 TEXAS STATE CAPITOL (NHL Pending)

LFeller:sd:01-23-86
DISC NO. 12

[A] Texas State

Honorable Lloyd Bentsen "Senator Bentsen"
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

[A] Texas State

Honorable Phil Gramm "Senator Gramm"
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

[A] Texas State

Honorable J. J. Pickle "Mr. Pickle"
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

PROPERTY TO BE STUDIED FOR NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Texas State Capitol,
Austin, Texas

☐ As a private owner of the property identified above you may concur in or object to designation. Your comments may govern whether or not the property will be designated. You can find guidance for your comments in Section 65.5(d)(4-5) of the enclosed regulations.

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CULTURAL RESOURCES ROUTE SHEET
HISTORY DIVISION - 418

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian

Benjamin Levy
Senior Historian

Barry Mackintosh
Bureau Historian

Harry Butowsky
Staff Historian

Carolyn Pitts
Architectural Historian

James Charleton
Historian

Laura Feller
Historian — Will need for the package of responses

Patty Milner
Historian

Sharon Diggs
Secretary

Priscilla Thomas
Clerk-Typist

Wahidah Abdullah
Clerk-Typist

COMMENTS

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION _____

2. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND FILE _____

3. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND FILE 13 _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

_____

_____

_____

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GIBSON D. (GIB) LEWIS
SPEAKER

FEB 18 REC'D

/

February 13, 1986

Mr. Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P. O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Mr. Bearss:

Thank you very much for your recent letter notifying me of your planned study of the Texas State Capitol for possible designation as a National Historic Landmark. It is indeed a distinct honor to receive this consideration, and certainly one that all Texans proudly look forward to.

I am most anxious to see the results of your study, and in the meantime, if there is anything I can do to be of assistance in this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Gib Lewis

Gibson D. (Gib) Lewis
Speaker

GDL:ewd

cc: Governor White
Lt. Governor Hobby
Roy Graham, State Architect

The State of Texas
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Austin
78711-2068

WILLIAM P. HOBBY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

FEB 25 RECD

February 14, 1986

Mr. Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Post Office Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Mr. Bearss:

Thank you for your recent letter informing me of your intent to consider the Texas State Capitol Building for designation as a National Historic Landmark. My understanding is that such a move would represent something of an "upgrading" from the building's current status of being listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and that "landmark" status is reserved for the most significant of our nation's historic structures and locations.

While we in Texas take special pride in the uniqueness of our capitol, I understand that it also claims distinction from a national perspective. I am told it was designed by Elijah E. Myers, an important nineteenth century architect of public buildings and is perhaps the largest and most significant example of his work.

I can think of no building more worthy of the honor of National Historic Landmark.

Sincerely,

Bill Hobby

TEXAS SESQUICENTENNIAL 1836-1986

CULTURAL RESOURCES ROUTE SH.
HISTORY DIVISION - 418

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian _____

Benjamin Levy
Senior Historian BL/ECB

Barry Mackintosh
Bureau Historian _____

Harry Butowsky
Staff Historian _____

Carolyn Pitts
Architectural Historian _____

James Charleton
Historian _____

Laura Feller
Historian Response to Notice

Patty Milner
Historian _____

Sharon Diggs
Secretary _____

Priscilla Thomas
Clerk-Typist _____

Wahidah Abdullah
Clerk-Typist _____

COMMENTS

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION _____

2. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND FILE _____

3. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND FILE 13 _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

_____

_____

_____

City of Austin

FRANK C. COOKSEY
MAYOR

FOUNDED BY CONGRESS, REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, 1839

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P. O. BOX 1088
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767
A/C 512 499-2250

February 21, 1986

MAR 17 REC'D

Mr. Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P. O. Box 37127
Washington, D. C. 20013-7127

Dear Mr. Bearss:

Thank you for your letter informing me of the study of the Texas State Capitol for National Historical Landmark Designation.

I look forward to the National Park Service's completed study and am sure we will be in full support of whatever is recommended.

Sincerely,

Frank C. Cooksey

Frank C. Cooksey
Mayor

H34(418)

FEB 26 1986

Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bentsen:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Park Service has completed the study of the property identified on the enclosed sheet for the purpose of nominating it for possible designation as a National Historic Landmark. We enclose a copy of the study report. The National Park System Advisory Board will consider the nomination during its next meeting, at the time and place indicated on the enclosure. The Board will make its recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior based upon the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

You have 60 days before the meeting of the Advisory Board to submit your views in writing, if you so desire. After the 60-day period, we will submit the nomination and your comments to the Advisory Board and then inform the Secretary of the Board's recommendations for his final action.

To assist you in considering this matter, we have enclosed a copy of the regulations that govern the National Historic Landmarks Program. They describe the criteria for designation (Sec. 65.4), the effects of designation (Sec. 65.2), and specify how you may comment on a proposed designation (Sec. 65.5(d)(4-5)). Should you wish to comment, please send your comments to Mr. Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian, National Park Service, History Division (418), P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127.

Sincerely,

/Sgd/Rowland T. Bowers

Acting
Associate Director

Enclosures

IDENTICAL LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THOSE PEOPLE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED SHEET

cc: Regional Director (RMRO)(1200)
Kate Cole Stevenson (RMRO)(1200)
Greg Kendrick (RMRO)(1200)
Melody Webb (SWRO)(7000)
190 Congressional Liaison
001 Reading File
400 Reading File
418 TEXAS STATE CAPITOL (NHL Pending)

LFeller:sd:02-24-86
DISC NO. 12

[A] Texas State

Honorable Lloyd Bentsen "Senator Bentsen"
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

[A] Texas State

Honorable Phil Gramm "Senator Gramm"
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

[A] Texas State

Honorable J. J. Pickle "Mr. Pickle"
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

PROPERTY STUDIED FOR NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Texas State Capitol, Austin, Texas

☐ As a private owner of the property identified above you may concur in or object to the designation. Your comments may govern whether or not the property will be designated. You can find guidance for your comments in Section 65.5(d)(4-5) of the enclosed regulations.

☑ In commenting on the possible designation of the property identified above you can find guidance in Section 65.5(d)(4) of the enclosed regulations.

The above property will be considered for possible designation as a National Historic Landmark by the National Park System Advisory Board at its meeting on April 28, 1986 at the Boar's Head Inn, near Charlottesville, Virginia. Should you wish to obtain information about the meeting, or about the National Historic Landmarks Program, please contact Ben Levy at the National Park Service, History Division (418), P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127, 202-343-8164 or FTS-343-8164.

If you have questions concerning the study, you may contact Mr. John Ferguson at the Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711, 512-475-3094.

H34(418)

Honorable Frank Cooksey
Mayor of the City of Austin
124 W 8th Street
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

FEB 26 1986

Dear Mayor Cooksey:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Park Service has completed the study of the property identified on the enclosed sheet for the purpose of nominating it for possible designation as a National Historic Landmark. We enclose a copy of the study report. The National Park System Advisory Board will consider the nomination during its next meeting, at the time and place indicated on the enclosure. The Board will make its recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior based upon the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

You have 60 days before the meeting of the Advisory Board to submit your views in writing, if you so desire. After the 60-day period, we will submit the nomination and your comments to the Advisory Board and then inform the Secretary of the Board's recommendations for his final action.

To assist you in considering this matter, we have enclosed a copy of the regulations that govern the National Historic Landmarks Program. They describe the criteria for designation (Sec. 65.4), the effects of designation (Sec. 65.2), and specify how you may comment on a proposed designation (Sec. 65.5(d)(4-5)). Should you wish to comment, please send your comments to me, at the National Park Service, History Division (418), P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127.

Sincerely,

S/Edwin C. Bearss

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian

Enclosures

IDENTICAL LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THOSE PEOPLE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED SHEET

cc: Mr. Roy Graham
Architect of the Capitol
P.O. Box 13286
Austin, Texas 78711

Mr. John C. Ferguson
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Regional Director (RMRO)(1200)
Greg Kendrick (RMRO)(1200)
001 Reading File
418 TEXAS STATE CAPITOL (NHL Pending)

Kate Cole Stevenson (RMRO)(1200)
Melody Webb (SWRO)(7000)
400 Reading File

LFeller:sd:02-24-86
DISC NO. 12

[A] Texas State

Honorable Frank Cooksey "Mayor Cooksey"
Mayor of the City of Austin
124 W 8th Street
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

[A] Texas State

Honorable Mark White "Governor White"
Governor of the State of Texas
State Capitol Building, Room 200
Austin, Texas 78711

[A] Texas State

Honorable Mike Renfro "Mr. Renfro"
County Judge, Travis County
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767

[A] Texas State

Honorable Bill Hobby "Mr. Hobby"
Lieutenant Governor of the State of Texas
and President of the State Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

[A] Texas State

Honorable Gib Lewis "Mr. Lewis"
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78769

[A] Texas State

Mr. Curtis Tunnell "Mr. Tunnell"
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

PROPERTY STUDIED FOR NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Texas State Capitol, Austin, Texas

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If you have questions concerning the study, you may contact Mr. John Ferguson at the Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711, 512-475-3094.

Gary - this was the outline I used for the panel presentation April 1, for what it's worth -
Ben

HL Nomination

I. N
N
P
ian John C. Ferguson

II. De

Begun
3 stor
Exteri
as red granite
Dome f
mulate the red granite
Capitol located on hill overlooking Austin

III. Architect and Design

Work of Architect Elijah E. Myers: credited as having stamped the character of State Capitols following the Civil War.

Overall conception of the design is based on the national capitol yet it departs from that model in architectural detailing and finishes.

IV. Issue

As always -- Integrity and National Significance

INTEGRITY -- Ferguson: the only significant alteration is an interior one to the legislative library. Otherwise the Capitol is intact.

SIGNIFICANCE -- This issue is complex; depends on a chain of arguments.

1. Significance of the architect

2. Significance of the architectural phenomenon of State Capitol designs based on the the national prototype

3. Significance of the Texas Capitol as the best or fine representative of Myers' work

4. Significance of the Texas Capitol as the best of Myers' capitol Designs

1. On the sig. of Myers

Ferguson quotes Henry Russell Hitchcock and William Seale:

"the greatest capitol builder of the Gilded Age"

and noted for his designs for county and municipal bldgs.
the most noted of which is the Richmond City Hall -- a NHL

Texas State Capitol NHL Nomination

I. Nomination comes from the SHPO
Nominated in the field of architecture
Prepared by Staff Architectural Historian John C. Ferguson

II. Description

Begun in 1882 and completed 1888
3 story structure w/4 story central block
Exterior masonry bearing walls faced w/Texas red granite
Dome fabricated of metal and painted to simulate the red granite
Capitol located on hill overlooking Austin

III. Architect and Design

Work of Architect Elijah E. Myers: credited as having stamped the character of State Capitols following the Civil War.

Overall conception of the design is based on the national capitol yet it departs from that model in architectural detailing and finishes.

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Ferguson quotes Henry Russell Hitchcock and William Seale:

"the greatest capitol builder of the Gilded Age"

and noted for his designs for county and municipal bldgs.
the most noted of which is the Richmond City Hall -- a NHL

2. On the importance of designs based on the national prototype:

Seems to be implicit in the argument

Defer to the scholars on our panel

3. Conceding the above point for purposes of argument --

Is the Texas Capitol the best of these reflections?

Ferguson calls it the "high watermark of Myers' caree"

He compares it with Myers/ earlier work -- the Michigan State House -- and finds it aesthetically superior. And more reflective of the national prototype.

The later work -- Colorado -- he finds weaker.

Earlier still than Myers' work is the competitor in Sacramento, Cal. completed in 1874.

Ferguson faults the Cal. Capitol for loss of integrity in comparison with the Texas Capitol:

He cites the 1949-52 addition which concealed the original east wing;

and the 1906-1908 modification of the ceiling elevations in the legislative chambers.

Gary -

This might be of interest to you in preparing your presentation for next Monday.

Ben Levy

U.S. Capitol		
Connecticut Old State Ho		
Connecticut State Capitol	1970	Designated in Architecture
Georgia State Capitol	1973	Designated in Architecture
Illinois Old State Capitol Springfield	1961	Designated in Mil. and Pol. Affairs
Iowa Old Capitol Iowa City	1976	Designated in Architecture
Kentucky Old State House	1971	Designated in Architecture
Louisiana	1974	Designated in Architecture
Old State Capitol / New State Capitol	1982	Desig. in Pol. & Military Affairs (assoc. w/ Hughey P. Long)
Maryland State House	1940	Fiske Kimball list; found n.s.
	1960	Designated in Pol. and Mil. Affairs
	1969	Colonial Architecture
	1973	War for Independence
Massachusetts Old State House	1937	N.s. in Dev. of the English Colonies
	1940	Fiske Kimball list; n.s. (?)
	1960	Designated in Pol. and Mil. Affairs and Dev. of the English Colonies
	1968	Colonial Architecture
Nebraska State Capitol	1976	Designated in Architecture
North Carolina	1973	Designated in Architecture
Ohio Statehouse	1977	Designated in Architecture

State Capitols as National Historic Landmarks
A Briefing Paper -- April 1, 1986

U.S. Capitol	1940	Fiske Kimball's list; found n.s.
	1960	Designated -- Pol. and Mil. Affairs
	1971	N.s. in Architecture
Connecticut Old State House	1940	Fiske Kimball's list; n.s.in architecture
	1960	Designated -- Pol. & Mil. Affairs
	1970	N.s. in architecture
	1975	N.s. in Afro-American history
Connecticut State Capitol	1970	Designated in Architecture
Georgia State Capitol	1973	Designated in Architecture
Illinois Old State Capitol Springfield	1961	Designated in Mil. and Pol. Affairs
Iowa Old Capitol Iowa City	1976	Designated in Architecture
Kentucky Old State House	1971	Designated in Architecture
Louisiana	1974	Designated in Architecture
Old State Capitol / New State Capitol	1982	Desig. in Pol. & Military Affairs (assoc. w/ Huey P. Long)
Maryland State House	1940	Fiske Kimball list; found n.s.
	1960	Designated in Pol. and Mil. Affairs
	1969	Colonial Architecture
	1973	War for Independence
Massachusetts Old State House	1937	N.s. in Dev. of the English Colonies
	1940	Fiske Kimball list; n.s. (?)
	1960	Designated in Pol. and Mil. Affairs and Dev. of the English Colonies
	1968	Colonial Architecture
Nebraska State Capitol	1976	Designated in Architecture
North Carolina	1973	Designated in Architecture
Ohio Statehouse	1977	Designated in Architecture

Rhode Island Old State House	1940 1960 1969	Fiske Kimball list; found n.s. Designated in the Dev. of the Eng. Cols. N.s. Colonial Architecture
South Carolina State House	1976	Designated in Pol. and Mil. Affairs and also found n.s. in architecture
Tennessee State Capitol	1941 1971	Fiske Kimball's 2nd list (deferred) Designated in Architecture
Vermont State House	1970	Designated in Architecture
Virginia State Capitol	1940 1959 1971	Fiske Kimball list; found n.s. Designated in the Civil War N.s. in Architecture

****

Some Rejected State House NHL Nominations

Arkansas	1961	Rejected in Mil. and Pol. Affairs but recommended for study in architecture
Delaware	1960 1972	Rejected in Mil. and Pol. Affairs Rejected in the War for Independence
Indiana	1960	Rejected in Pol. and Mil. Affairs
New Hampshire	1972	Rejected in the War for Independence

Ben Levy, Senior Historian
History Division
National Park Service
April 1, 1986

H34(418)

MAY 14 1986

Honorable Frank C. Cooksey
Mayor, City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Dear Mayor Cooksey:

Thank you for your letter of May 6, 1986 indicating your support for the designation of the Texas State Capitol, in your city, as a National Historic Landmark. Since I last contacted you about this study the Secretary of Interior's Advisory Board has met and voted in favor of recommending to the Secretary that the Texas State Capitol be designated as a National Historic Landmark. My office is now awaiting the Secretary's signature on the designation memorandum to make the action official. As soon as we receive that designation our next step is to send notification to you and all of the concerned parties.

We in the National Historic Landmarks Program appreciate your interest in and continued support of historic preservation. If you have any other questions or concerns please contact me.

Sincerely,

s/Edwin C. Bearss

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian

cc: 001 RF
400 RF
418 Texas State Capitol (NHL)
PMilner:wa:05/12/86
PMdisc 1, doc 24

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

OFFICE	NPS
SURNAME	
DATE	6/15
OFFICE	SOL
SURNAME	Norton
DATE	6/5/86
OFFICE	CL
SURNAME	Holtz
DATE	6/9/86
OFFICE	PBA
SURNAME	Smith
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Memorandum

MAY 15 1986

TO: The Secretary

THROUGH: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks (Sgd) Susan Recce JUN 23 1986

FROM: Director, National Park Service s/ William Penn Mott, Jr.

SUBJECT SUMMARY: Designation of National Historic Landmarks- Request for Secretarial Action

DISCUSSION: The National Park System Advisory Board, at a meeting on April 28, 1986, recommended designation of the following properties as National Historic Landmarks:

(1) Locust Grove (General George Rogers Clark House), vicinity of Louisville, Kentucky
(2) White Haven (Grant-Dent House), vicinity of Grantwood Village, Missouri
(3) USS Monitor, off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina
(4) Texas State Capitol, Austin, Texas
(5) Kennecott Mines, vicinity of Kennecott, Alaska
(6) Los Adaes (Nuestra Senora del Pilar los Adaes), vicinity of Robeline Louisiana
(7) Space Launch Complex 10, Vandenberg Air Force Base, California

In accordance with National Historic Landmarks Program regulations, the Board reviewed the studies nominating these properties for Landmark status, and found that the properties meet National Historic Landmarks Program criteria. The Board members voted unanimously to recommend the designations of the above properties, except that in the case of Locust Grove, the motion to recommend designation passed by a vote of 4 to 2. No objections to these designations have been raised by any of the parties required to be notified of Landmark nomination proposals.

I recommend that you approve the Board's recommendation and designate the properties listed above as National Historic Landmarks.

Approve Donald Paul Hodel Disapprove _____

Date JUN 23 1986 Date _____

Prepared by: Laura Feller ext.: 343-8167

cc: ES (8) FW (2) 190 Whitlock 001 Mott 001 Reading File
400 Reading File 418 Levy 418 DESIGNATIONS (NHL General)
418 LOCUST GROVE (NHL) 418 WHITE HAVEN (NHL) 418 USS MONITOR (NHL)
418 TEXAS STATE CAPITOL (NHL) 418 KENNECOTT MINES (NHL) 418 LOS ADAES (NHL)
418 SPACE LAUNCH COMPLEX 10 (NHL)
LFeller:sd:05-02-86

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. BOX 37127
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MAY 15 1986

Memorandum

TO: The Secretary

THROUGH: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Susan E Reece MAY 23 1986

FROM: Director, National Park Service William Penn Mott, Jr.

SUBJECT SUMMARY: Designation of National Historic Landmarks--Request for Secretarial Action

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I recommend that you approve the Board's recommendation and designate the properties listed above as National Historic Landmarks.

Approve Donald Paul Hodel Disapprove _____

Date JUN 23 1986 Date _____

Prepared by: Laura Feller ext.: 343-8167

CU RAL RESOURCES ROUTE SHEET
HISTORY DIVISION - 418

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian

Benjamin Levy
Senior Historian

Barry Mackintosh
Bureau Historian

Harry Butowsky
Staff Historian

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Architectural Historian

James Charleton
Historian

Laura Feller
Historian

Patty Milner
Historian

Sharon Diggs
Secretary

Priscilla Thomas
Clerk-Typist

Wahidah Abdullah
Clerk-Typist

COMMENTS

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND FILE

3. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND FILE 13

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

File: NHL Pending

JUN 10 REC'D

MARK WHITE
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

May 30, 1986

Dear Mr. Bearss:

I am pleased to endorse the nomination of the Texas State Capitol as a National Historic Landmark. I understand the designation of the Texas State Capitol as a National Historic Landmark would impose no additional federal controls on the state's use of the building, which is under the stewardship of the state's Architect of the Capitol and Capitol Preservation Board.

The Texas State Capitol is one of the finest examples of the symbolism of democracy in architectural forms following the Civil War. It was designed by Elijah E. Myers, the foremost capitol architect of the late nineteenth century. Designation of this structure as a National Historic Landmark would enable it to take its rightful place among the most venerated sites in Texas.

This year Texas celebrates its Sesquicentennial. I believe the designation of the State Capitol as a National Historic Landmark would be a most appropriate honor in this historic year.

If I can be of additional assistance concerning this important matter, please contact me or Bob McPherson of my staff at 512/463-1814.

Yours truly,

Mark White
Governor of Texas

Mr. Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7217

MW/wt

cc: The Honorable Bill Hobby, Lt. Gov.
The Honorable Gib Lewis, Speaker
Mr. Roy Graham, Architect of the Capitol
Mr. Curtis Tunnell, Texas Historical Commission
Mr. Lias "Bubba" Steen, SP&GSC

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR
news release

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

For Release July 18, 1986 Anita Clevenger 202/343-7394

INTERIOR SECRETARY DESIGNATES 19 NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

Secretary of the Interior Don Hodel has announced the designation of 19 historic properties in Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Texas, Alaska, Louisiana, California, New Hampshire, New York, and New Jersey as National Historic Landmarks. Nine of the landmarks are in New York; two in New Jersey.

These designations include outstanding examples of American architecture, as well as properties associated with prominent historical figures and events.

"We are pleased to designate these new National Historic Landmarks," Secretary Hodel said. "These properties aptly illustrate the fine preservation work that is being conducted through the initiative of state and local governments and private citizens," he said.

The Historic Sites Act of 1935 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to recognize historic places judged to have exceptional value to the Nation. Landmark recognition encourages preservation efforts by state, local, and private agencies and groups. Once the Secretary designates a National Historic Landmark, its owner receives a certificate of recognition signed by the Secretary and is invited to apply for a bronze plaque attesting to the significance of the property. The owner agrees to observe simple preservation precepts with respect to the property and receives technical advice and assistance from preservation experts if needed.

A list of the newly designated National Historic Landmarks, with brief descriptions, is attached.

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

Locust Grove, Louisville, Kentucky. Locust Grove, settled around 1790, is significant for its association with General George Rogers Clark who resided there from 1809 until his death. Clark played a decisive role in the western theater of the American Revolution, achieving lasting fame for his conquest of the trans-Ohio frontier and defense of Kentucky against the British and their Indian allies.

White Haven, Grantwood Village, Missouri. This estate of 9 acres is significant because of its long and close association with Ulysses S. Grant. As a young officer, Grant courted his future wife in this house and after leaving the Army in 1854 lived there for some time.

U.S.S. Monitor, off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. The wreck of the U.S.S. Monitor lies off the coast on the eastern Continental Shelf in 220 feet of water. The Monitor is associated with broad patterns and events in American history, including development of the United States Navy in the 19th century, rise of industrial facilities in the United States, the American Civil War and involvement of Swedish-American inventor and engineer, John Ericsson. The Monitor is widely perceived as the "ship that saved the Union."

Texas State Capitol, Austin, Texas. Modeled on the design of the national capitol in Washington, D.C., this post-Civil War architecture is the largest such structure in the United States. The foundation was laid in 1875 with the passage of the state constitution.

Kennecott Mines, Kennecott, Alaska. During the two decade period divided by World War I, when the United States produced more than half the world's copper, the mines at Kennecott were among the nation's largest, and contained the last of the great high grade copper ore deposits discovered in the American West. The Kennecott mines exposed a copper ore body unequaled anywhere in the 20th century.

Los Adaes, Robeline, Louisiana. The archeological remains of Los Adaes are located about 20 miles west of Natchitoches in an open field surrounded by pine forest which has never been cultivated. The archeological remains are in place and abundant. The Spanish founded the Presidio of Los Adaes in 1721 to stop the French expansion westward into Texas, to protect a nearby mission, and to act as an administrative center (and later the capital) for the province of Texas.

Space Launch Complex 10, Vandenberg AFB, California. Space Launch Complex 10 in Lompoc was one of two launch pads built in 1958 to support combat training launches of the SM-75 THOR Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM). The first launch occurred on June 16, 1959, by the Royal Air Force (United Kingdom). To support the nuclear testing project at Johnston Island, the launch complex was dismantled and transported to the Pacific atoll between January and March 1962. The launch pads, blockhouses, and some supporting structures remain at the landmark site.

Mount Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. The hotel, opened in 1902, was the largest spa in the White Mountains. The hotel staff met 50 trains a day, ferrying guests, trunks, and servants to the 352-room Spanish Renaissance structure. The International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development were established at a conference held at the hotel in 1944.

Mohonk Mountain House, New Paltz, New York. The complex at Lake Mohonk in the Shawangunk Mountains was begun in 1869 by twin brothers, Alfred and Albert Smiley. Now in its 115th year, it is a 7500-acre nature preserve as well as a resort. It is still run by the Smiley family. The hotel gained a measure of fame as a center for conferences on humanitarian causes such as world peace, education and Afro-American and American Indian affairs.

Rose Hill, Geneva, New York. A great house-plantation in upper New York State, Rose Hill is one of the finest examples of the Greek Revival Style in America. Built in 1839 on a monumental scale, the house and grounds are typical of architecture of the first half of 19th century America.

Hyde Hall, Lake Otsego, New York. Hyde Hall is one of America's finest houses that combined the greatest architectural traditions of England and America and the solidity of a frontier dwelling with the grace and delicacy of high-style English country houses. The structure is completely documented, contains a great deal of its original furnishings, and one of the few surviving works of one of America's great 19th century architects, Phillip Hooker.

New St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Burlington, New Jersey. New St. Mary's Episcopal Church is an important site in the history of the Gothic-Revival style in America. The cornerstone was laid in 1846 and the church was completed in 1854. The design and construction of new St. Mary's was also a milestone in architect Richard Upjohn's career, firmly establishing him as the foremost practitioner of the Gothic style in this nation.

Old Main, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York. Founded by Matthew Vassar in 1861, this was one of the first colleges for the education of women in the United States offering the same education available to men at Yale and Harvard. Built in the Civil War years, this "female seminary" along with Old City Hall in Boston, Massachusetts (1862), are the first monumental examples of the Second Empire style thought to be so appropriate for secular public buildings at mid-century.

Nott Memorial Hall, Union College, Schenectady, New York. Nott Memorial Hall has been described as "one of the most colorful and elegantly decorative High Victorian Gothic buildings ever built in the United States." Founded in 1795, Union College is among the oldest "planned" schools in the nation. The Nott Memorial was completed in 1876 and served as a museum until the first decade of the 20th century when it became a library in 1902. In 1961, it was converted into a bookstore and "theatre-in-the round."

Plaza Hotel, New York City, New York. One of America's most celebrated hotels, the Plaza opened on October 1, 1907, on 5th Avenue at 59th Street. Its luxury was unmatched in the nation at a construction cost of $12 million--an unheard sum of money for a residential hotel at that time. When it opened, 90 percent of the guests were permanent residents such as the Vanderbilts. Recently restored and refurbished, it is still a symbol of elegance.

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, New York. The Metropolitan Museum was one of the first three major art museums to open in 1870. The others were the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the other in Washington, D.C., is now called the Corcoran Gallery. One of the most monumental of all of New York's public buildings the museum extends over four city blocks on the east side of Central Park. The museum is one of the most prestigious in the world both for its imposing building and for the quality of its collections.

Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane, Buffalo, New York. Designed by H.H. Richardson in 1871, the landscape was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. The hospital is a landmark in the history of American architecture. It is also of interest in the history of medicine and the treatment of mental patients.

Empire State Building, New York City, New York. The Empire State Building, symbol of New York, is one of the biggest tourist attractions in the biggest tourist city in the world. Finished in the Art Deco style, the vertical lines of the structure give it the appearance of a soaring spire that rises one-fifth of a mile high.

Burlington County Jail, Mt. Holly, New Jersey. The Burlington County Prison has changed little since it was built in 1810-1811. The prison was the oldest prison in continuous use in America until it became a museum a few years ago. Designed by Robert Mills, the heavy stone walls were also an early attempt at fireproofing a building.

-DOI-

H34(418)

AUG 6 1986

Honorable Frank Cooksey
Mayor of the City of Austin
124 W,8th Street
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Dear Mayor Cooksey:

I am pleased to inform you that the property identified on the enclosed sheet has been found to possess national significance in the history of the United States. As a result, the Secretary of the Interior has designated it a National Historic Landmark.

The purpose of landmark designation is to identify and recognize nationally significant sites and to encourage their owners to preserve them. Landmarks are chosen after careful study by the National Park Service. They are evaluated by the National Park System Advisory Board and designated by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Designation as a National Historic Landmark automatically places a property in the National Register of Historic Places, if it is not already so listed, and extends to it the safeguards and benefits provided by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and other Federal laws protecting historic properties.

We are pleased to include this property on the roll of National Historic Landmarks as a significant representative of our nation's heritage.

Sincerely,

s/Edwin C. Bearss

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian

Enclosure

IDENTICAL LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THOSE PEOPLE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED SHEET

bcc: Mr. Roy Graham
Architect of the Capitol
P.O. Box 13286
Austin, Texas 78711

Mr. John C. Ferguson
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

cc: Regional Director (RMRO)(1200)
Kendrick (RMRO)(1200)
001 Reading File
418 TEXAS STATE CAPITOL (NHL)

Kate Cole Stevenson (RMRO)(1200)
Webb (SWRO)(7000)
400 Reading File

LFeller:sd:07-28-86
DISC NO. 19

[A] Texas State

Honorable Frank Cooksey "Mayor Cooksey"
Mayor of the City of Austin
124 W. 8th Street
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

[A] Texas State

Honorable Mark White "Governor White"
Governor of the State of Texas
State Capitol Building, Room 200
Austin, Texas 78711

[A] Texas State

Honorable Mike Renfro "Mr. Renfro"
County Judge, Travis County
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767

[A] Texas State

Honorable Bill Hobby "Mr. Hobby"
Lieutenant Governor of the State of Texas
and President of the State Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

[A] Texas State

Honorable Gib Lewis "Mr. Lewis"
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78769

[A] Texas State

Mr. Curtis Tunnell, Executive Director "Mr. Tunnell"
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

The Secretary of the Interior designated the following property a National Historic Landmark on June 23, 1986:

Texas State Capitol, Austin, Texas

Governor White only ☑ A certificate attesting to the national significance of the property and the Secretary's designation of it as a National Historic Landmark will be sent to you, as an owner of the property. You are also eligible to receive a bronze plaque to commemorate its designation. Copies of the plaque application form are enclosed. Please complete the form in triplicate and return two copies to the National Park Service, History Division (418), P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127. You may retain the third copy for your records. Both the certificate and the plaque will bear the name of the property as it appears above. If you have questions about the certificate or plaque, please contact James Charleton at the above address, or by telephone (202)343-8165 or FTS: 343-8165.

all other parties ☑ The owner of each Landmark receives a certificate of designation, and, upon application, will also be awarded a bronze plaque. We are notifying the owner of the property's designation and providing the appropriate application forms.

H34(418) AUG 1 2 1988

Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bentsen:

I am pleased to inform you that the property identified on the enclosed sheet has been found to possess national significance in the history of the United States. As a result, the Secretary of the Interior has designated it a National Historic Landmark.

The purpose of landmark designation is to identify and recognize nationally significant sites and to encourage their owners to preserve them. Landmarks are chosen after careful study by the National Park Service. They are evaluated by the National Park System Advisory Board and designated by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

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We are pleased to include this property on the roll of National Historic Landmarks as a significant representative of our nation's heritage.

Sincerely,

/Sgd/Jerry L. Rogers

Associate Director

Enclosure

IDENTICAL LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THOSE PEOPLE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED SHEET

cc: Regional Director (RMRO)(1200)
Kate Cole Stevenson (RMRO)(1200)
Kendrick (RMRO)(1200)
Webb (SWRO)(7000)
190 Congressional Liaison
001 Reading File
400 Reading File
418 TEXAS STATE CAPITOL (NHL)

LFeller:sd:07-28-86
DISC NO. 19

[A] Texas State

Honorable Lloyd Bentsen "Senator Bentsen"
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

[A] Texas State

Honorable Phil Gramm "Senator Gramm"
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

[A] Texas State

Honorable J. J. Pickle "Mr. Pickle"
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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August 16, 1986
(Date)

Chief
Division of History
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Sir:

As the owner(s) of the Texas State Capitol Building

located in Austin (City) Travis (County) Texas (State)

(I, We) hereby make application for a bronze plaque identifying the property as a National Historic Landmark.

1. Fully conscious of the high responsibility to the Nation that goes with the ownership and care of a property classified as having national significance and worthy of National Historic Landmark status, (I, we) agree to preserve, so far as practicable and to the best of (my, our) ability, the historical values of the site that satisfy the criteria for national significance.

2. (I, We) agree to permit periodic inspection of the property by a representative of the National Park Service for the purpose of monitoring its integrity and the nature and degree of any threats thereto.

3. (I, We) agree that, should the Landmark designation ever be revoked in accordance with the procedures outlined in the National Historic Landmarks regulations, the bronze plaque and the certificate of designation will be surrendered upon request to the National Park Service.

4. (I, We) further agree to affix the plaque for public view and in an appropriate manner.

Sincerely,

Roy Eugene Graham, AIA
Architect of the Capitol
P.O. Box 13286
Austin, Texas 78711
512/463-5495

NHL

AUG 25 REC'D

August 16, 1986
(Date)

Chief
Division of History
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Sir:

As the owner(s) of the Texas State Capitol Building

located in Austin (City) Travis (County) Texas (State)

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1. Fully conscious of the high responsibility to the Nation that goes with the ownership and care of a property classified as having national significance and worthy of National Historic Landmark status, (I, we) agree to preserve, so far as practicable and to the best of (my, our) ability, the historical values of the site that satisfy the criteria for national significance.

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4. (I, We) further agree to affix the plaque for public view and in an appropriate manner.

Sincerely,

Roy Eugene Graham, AIA
Architect of the Capitol
P.O. Box 13286
Austin, Texas 78711
512/464-5495

H34(418)

SEP 15 1986

Mr. Roy E. Graham, AIA
Architect of the Capitol
P.O. Box 13286
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Roy:

We are pleased to have received your application for the bronze plaque identifying the Texas State Capitol Building, Austin, Texas, as a National Historic Landmark.

The Regional Offices of the National Park Service coordinate the presentation of National Historic Landmark plaques and certificates. Therefore, we are notifying the Rocky Mountain Regional Office of your application, with the request that they proceed to order and provide the bronze plaque and National Historic Landmark certificate.

If you have any questions regarding this or any related issue, you may contact:

Mr. Greg Kendrick
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
655 Parfet Street
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225
(303) 236-8700

Sincerely,

s/Edwin C. Bearss

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian

cc: 001 Reading File
400 Reading File
418-Plaques and Certificates
418-Texas State Capitol Building (NHL)
JHCharleton:pt:9/11/86 (20A)

H34(418)

SEP 1 9 1986

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Region
Attention: National Historic Landmark Coordinator

From: Acting Director

Subject: National Historic Landmark Plaque Application

A single copy is enclosed of the application by the owner of the Texas State Capitol, Austin, Texas, for the plaque identifying this National Historic Landmark.

We ask you to contact the owner and arrange to order and provide the plaque from the Regional budget. We will provide the requisite National Historic Landmark certificate.

Also enclosed is a copy of a letter from East Point Foundry, Inc., advising you of an increase in the cost of National Historic Landmark plaques.

/s/ Edward L. Davis

Enclosure

cc: 001 Mott
001 RF
400 RF
418-Plaques and Certificates
418-Texas State Capitol (NHL)
JHCharleton:pt:9/11/86 (26A)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. BOX 37127
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H34(418)

Honorable Frank Cooksey
Mayor of the City of Austin
124 W. 8th Street
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

NOV 6 1980

Dear Mayor Cooksey:

I am pleased to inform you that the property identified on the enclosed sheet has been found to possess national significance in the history of the United States. As a result, the Secretary of the Interior has designated it a National Historic Landmark.

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We are pleased to include this property on the roll of National Historic Landmarks as a significant representative of our nation's heritage.

Sincerely,

s/Edwin C. Bearss

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian

Enclosure

JOINT EXHIBIT
07-29-02 3
A-01-CA-833-H

IDENTICAL LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THOSE PEOPLE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED SHEET

bcc: Mr. Roy Graham
Architect of the Capitol
P.O. Box 13286
Austin, Texas 78711

Mr. John C. Ferguson
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

[A] Texas State

Honorable Frank Cooksey "Mayor Cooksey"
Mayor of the City of Austin
124 W. 8th Street
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

[A] Texas State

Honorable Mark White "Governor White"
Governor of the State of Texas
State Capitol Building, Room 200
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Honorable Mike Renfro "Mr. Renfro"
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P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767

[A] Texas State

Honorable Bill Hobby "Mr. Hobby"
Lieutenant Governor of the State of Texas
and President of the State Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

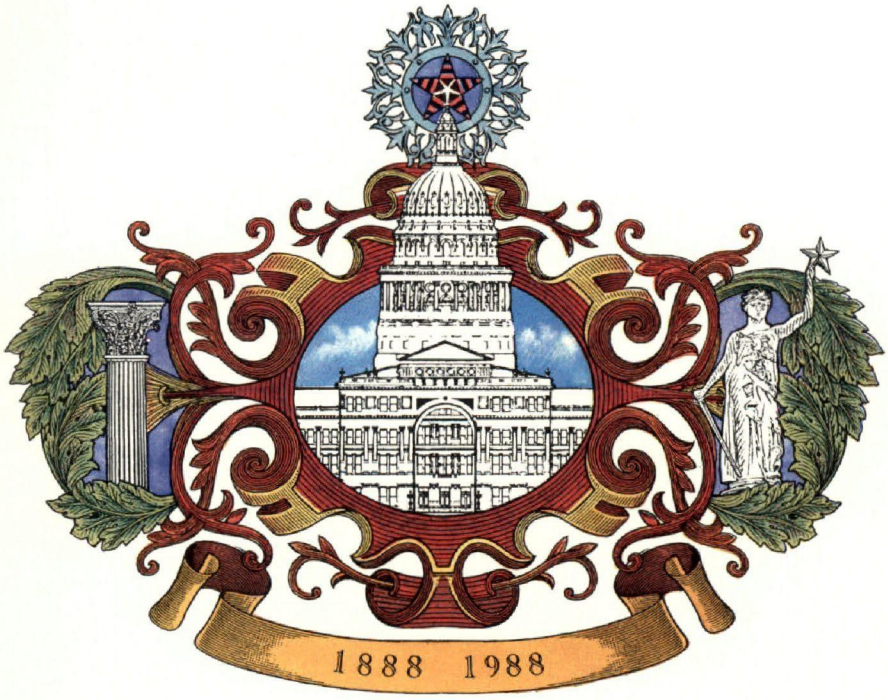
[A] Texas State

Honorable Gib Lewis "Mr. Lewis"
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78769

[A] Texas State

Mr. Curtis Tunnell, Executive Director "Mr. Tunnell"
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

T0418



Capitol Centennial Celebration

Austin, Texas

May 6-8, 1988

Cover: The official logo of the Capitol Centennial Celebration was created as the symbol of the one hundred year anniversary of the Texas Capitol. It is a Victorian crest incorporating the original nineteenth century architectural drawings by Capitol architect Elijah E. Myers of the building's façade and Corinthian columns along with the statue of the Goddess of Liberty. The diamond checkerboard pattern is a reproduction of the Belgian paving motif in the Great Walk.

Logo: Tocquigny Design, Austin, Texas

Capitol Centennial Committee

Mrs. William Perry Clements, Jr.
chairman

Mr. Bob Bowman
Mrs. Alvin Brekken
Mrs. John Bowden Connally
The Honorable Price Daniel
Mr. T. R. Fehrenbach
Mr. Lowell Lebermann
Representative Michael Millsap
Dr. Stanley Siegel

In 1888 the citizens of Texas took great pride in the dedication of their new statehouse. It was an overwhelming accomplishment for a young struggling frontier state. Today, we share that same sense of achievement as we pay tribute to our Capitol on its one-hundred year anniversary.

The Capitol Centennial Committee was created by the Legislature in 1987 to plan the events commemorating this historical occasion. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House each appointed three members. It has been a great honor for me to serve as chairman of this committee.

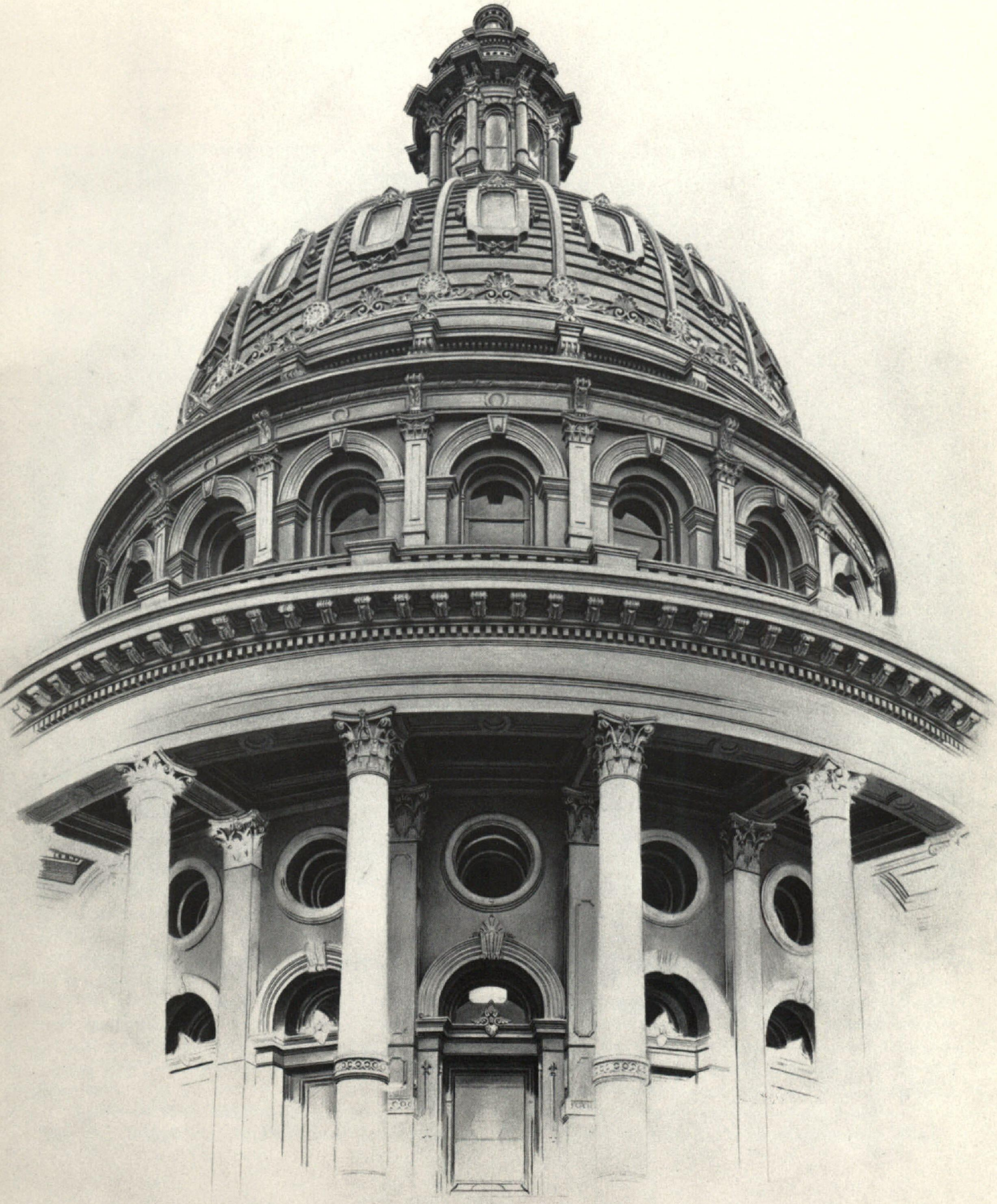
In the last century Texas has emerged from a pioneer economy to world-wide respect and recognition. Many of the decisions responsible for making that possible were made within the walls of this building. Time has only enhanced our appreciation of its beauty and design; for it stands unequaled among statehouses throughout America.

As Texans, we have long realized its prominent role in our history. In 1986 the United States Department of the Interior designated the Capitol as a National Historic Landmark for its "significant contribution to American history."

As we salute the Capitol, let us reflect on the unyielding efforts of so many dedicated individuals who labored to create this magnificent structure, and remember that in the centuries that follow, our Capitol will continue to remain the symbol of greatness that Texans dearly cherish.

Rita Clements

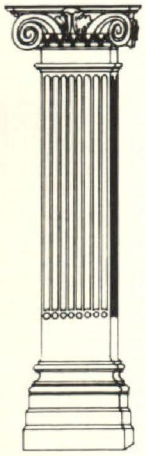
Chairman



"This building fires the heart and excites reflections in the minds of all. It stands alone the haughtiest type of modern civilization."

Senator Temple Houston
May 16, 1888

"A Sentinel Of Eternity": The Texas Capitol, 1888–1988



In mid-May, 1888, thousands of people from all over Texas, several other states, and a few foreign countries gathered at Austin for the dedication of the largest state capitol in the country. Constructed of red Texas granite, the massive new statehouse fulfilled the dreams of those who established the Republic of Texas more than half a century earlier. The structure in many ways also reflected the status of Texas and how the state wished the world to perceive it in the late 1880s. Temple Lea Houston, the youngest son of Texas hero Sam Houston and the first child born in the Governor's Mansion, gave the dedication address on May 16, 1888. The Austin *Daily Statesman* noted editorially, "The advance from the log cabin capitol to the magnificent pile now standing in almost awe-inspiring magnificence, but represents the advance of Texas from semi-savagery to the highest civilization."

The Republic of Texas declared its independence from Mexico on March 2, 1836, but the fledgling nation established no permanent capitol until nearly three years later. During 1836 the Texas government moved several times before settling down at newly-founded Houston. Dissatisfaction with the coastal site caused the Republic to send out a special commission in early 1839 to choose the site for a "permanent capitol" nearer the center of the nation. The commissioners selected a location for the new capitol near the little frontier settlement of "Waterloo," and surveyors soon laid out the "City of Austin" on the north bank of the Colorado River between Shoal and Waller creeks. At the north end of the mile-square town site, a large block labeled "Capitol Square" was reserved as the future location of the Texas government.

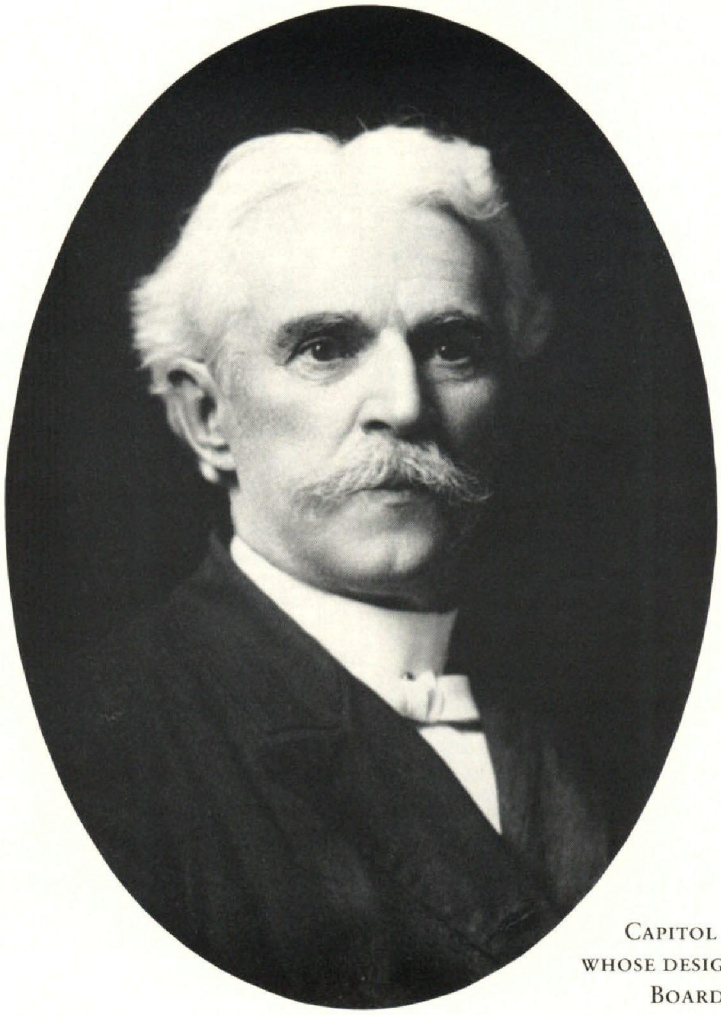
A crude wooden building constructed southwest of Capitol Square in 1839 served as a capitol until completion of a more durable structure in 1853. Constructed of cream-colored limestone in the Greek Revival style, like many public and private buildings of the period including the Governor's Mansion, the new capitol stood on Capitol Square at the head of Congress Avenue. Texans expressed justifiable pride in their new statehouse, but the structure fell into disrepair during the Civil War and Reconstruction because of a lack of funds for its maintenance. In addition, by the 1870s the state government outgrew the space provided by the hopelessly out-of-date 1853 Capitol. The state lacked funds to repair and renovate the old Capitol, but a new Texas constitution written in 1875 set aside 3,000 acres of state-owned public lands to finance construction of a new statehouse.

Texas voters approved the new constitution in early 1876 but not until 1879 did the legislature provide for surveying the Capitol lands and constructing a new Capitol. After completion of the surveys in November 1880, the state held an architectural design competition for the new building. The competition in early 1881 attracted eleven sets of plans by eight architects. Wishing to ascertain the best plan, the Capitol Board charged with over-seeing construction of the new building hired well-known New York architect Napoleon Le Brun to make the selection.

Le Brun recommended "with certain modifications" the design entered by Detroit architect Elijah E. Myers, who agreed to the changes in his plans suggested by Le Brun. Myers also complied with a request by the Capitol Board "to change the form of the dome" for the Texas Capitol from square to round, similar to the dome on the national capitol. The best-known and most successful of the architects who entered the competition, Myers had designed the Michigan Capitol in 1871, and in 1885 designed the Colorado Capitol as well as a capitol for Idaho Territory.

In his winning design for the Texas Capitol, Myers utilized

THE PILASTER DESIGN IS FROM THE ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURAL RENDERINGS OF THE CAPITOL DOME INTERIOR.



Capitol Architect Elijah E. Myers, whose design was selected by the Capitol Board from eleven proposals.

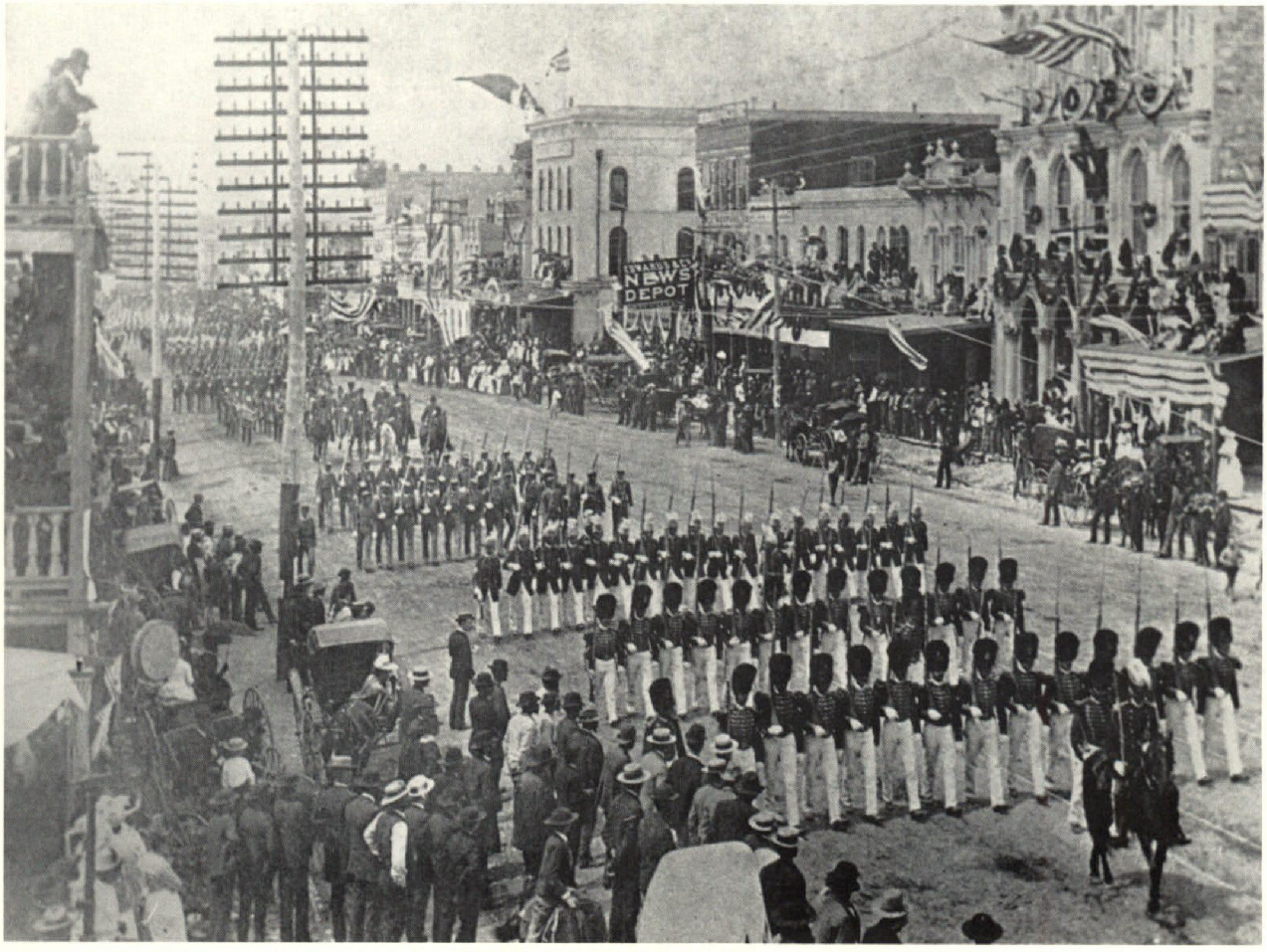
the Renaissance Revival style popular in Europe and the United States in the late nineteenth century. Like the sixteenth-century style that inspired it, the Renaissance Revival borrowed extensively from the temple architecture of ancient Greece and Rome. The Texas Capitol reflects this classical design in its interior and exterior columns, arches, plaster ceiling moldings, the triumphal arch at the main entrance, and the dome design. Myers carefully detailed all the designs for the Capitol's decorative ornamentation, including woodwork and plasterwork. The Detroit architect's use of Corinthian columns—the most elaborate of the Greek orders—on the exterior as well as the interior of the building emphasized the formality of the structure.

After accepting Myers' design and agreeing to pay him the $1700 prize as well as $12,500 to supply complete plans for the building, the Capitol Board advertised for contractors but received only two bids in early 1882. Mattheas Schnell of Rock Island, Illinois received the contract to build the new Capitol but within a few months he sold the contract to Taylor, Babcock & Co., a group of Chicago investors that became known as the "Capitol Syndicate," which included mercantilist John V. Farwell and his brother Senator Charles B. Farwell, Representative Abner Taylor, and Charles Babcock. The old limestone Capitol burned in November 1881 but construction of the new Capitol began on schedule, February 1, 1882.

Disappointment over the quality and quantity of the Oatmanville (Oak Hill) limestone chosen for the new Capitol caused the contractors and architect Myers to propose using Indiana limestone. The resulting discussions over what type of limestone to utilize, or whether to use Texas granite, hindered construction of the building during 1884 and into 1885. In the meantime, the Capitol Board decided to use red granite for the base of the Capitol and, since no railroad existed from the site of the red granite at Granite Mountain near present-day Marble Falls to Burnet, ox wagons hauled the necessary blocks of granite from the quarry to the railroad. Oxen also transported the Capitol's 16,000-pound, red granite cornerstone laid on March 2, 1885.

The added cost of using granite resulted in the state's agreeing to simplify the Capitol's design and to eliminate the east and west porticoes. These changes brought about the construction of a less ornate Victorian building that better reflected the architectural taste of Texas as compared to the more elaborate Victorian taste evident along the East and West coasts. The state also agreed to allow the contractor's use of state convicts in the granite and limestone quarries. The powerful International Association of Granite Workers responded to the utilization of convict labor by ordering a boycott of the Capitol project, prompting Capitol sub-contractor Gus Wilke to send to Aberdeen, Scotland for granite cutters.

Due to difficulty in raising money in the United States to construct the Capitol as well as to develop the Capitol lands (which became the famous XIT Ranch in ten counties of the Texas Panhandle), the Capitol Syndicate established the Capitol Freehold



1888 Dedication Day drill competition on Congress Avenue.

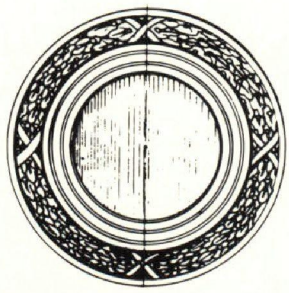
Land and Investment Company, Ltd., in London, England in 1885. As a result, funds to develop the ranch and to construct the Texas Capitol came from British investors.

Difficulties between the Capitol Board and architect Myers resulted in the Board's decision in 1886 to dispense with the architect's services. In spite of such problems, during 1886 and 1887 construction of the Capitol proceeded rapidly. In late February, 1888, workmen hoisted to the top of the building's dome a heroic, snow-white statue representing the Goddess of Liberty. Designed by architect Myers, the statue and many other decorative items for the building were cast of zinc in the basement of the Capitol. Nearly three months later, the state dedicated the still-unfinished structure with a week of festivities that included elaborate fireworks displays, militia drills, band concerts, speeches, and a grand dedication ball in the new Capitol.

Texas remained relatively unindustrialized in the 1880s but the state supplied a surprising amount of the building materials used in the new Capitol, including the red granite, limestone and thousands of Austin-made brick. In addition, the state prison at Rusk manufactured over two hundred cast-iron columns.

In spite of its historical revival design, the new Capitol reflected Victorian construction technology, and utilized materials popular in the late nineteenth century. The structure also mirrored the Victorian penchant for variety. Glass skylights and embossed (acid etched) glass ceilings allowed natural light to illuminate the Senate and House Chambers. Skylights and round, cobalt blue windows above a glass ceiling illuminated the north corridor.

A glass block floor in the center of the first floor rotunda admitted light into the basement. Encaustic (ceramic) tiles in several shapes, sizes, and hues bordered the rotunda's glass block floor and covered the Capitol's wide corridors and foyers. Typically, Victorian carpeting of foliate and geometric designs supplied color and pattern to the floors in several executive offices, the Senate and House chambers, as well as the Supreme and Appellate Court rooms. Patterned linoleum imitating encaustic tile and carpeting protected the galleries of the Senate and House.



ut-of-state factories provided glass used in the roof as well as the carpeting, tile, glass blocks, and linoleum. The skylights of the chambers and north corridor, as well as the glass in the doors and transoms came from Belgium. While Chicago factories supplied wrought iron beams utilized in the Capitol, the iron beams in the dome came from Belgium. Most of the furnishings for the new Capitol were

The oculus design is from the original architectural renderings of the Capitol dome.

Beth Eidelberg

THE SILVER AND BRONZE MEDALLIONS WERE CREATED FOR THE CAPITOL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. ONE SIDE IS AN EXACT DUPLICATE OF THE 1888 DEDICATION MEDALLION. THE REVERSE SIDE IS THE SNOWFLAKE-LIKE DESIGN OF THE CAPITOL'S TWENTY-FOUR COBALT BLUE WINDOWS WHICH HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE NORTH WING.

machine-made in Chicago factories. About 400 of the original pieces of furniture purchased remain in the Capitol today.

As early as May, 1888, some officials moved into the unfinished state house, but the Capitol Board refused to accept the new structure because of a number of problems—including a leaky roof—until December 1888. Piped for illumination by gas, the Capitol gradually received electric wiring during the 1890s and the installation of the beautiful brass chandeliers that remain in the legislative chambers and the Governor's Public Reception Room. Many other rooms in the Capitol also received similar but smaller chandeliers. Brass sconces with glass shades were installed around several levels of the rotunda. Eventually a large chandelier was suspended from the top of the dome where architect Myers originally had specified an "allegorical painting."

In early 1889 workmen built the "Great Walk," and planted an allee of trees leading up to the Capitol. A specially-designed wrought iron "Buckeye" fence made by Mast, Foos & Co. of Springfield, Ohio was erected in 1890. Painted black with gilded "lone stars" the fence originally had matching gates at the drive and pedestrian entrances.

Built to house the entire state government except the General Land Office, the Texas Capitol provided almost twice as much space as needed in 1888, but by 1903 the structure became so over-crowded that renovations were begun to create more office space. Considered old-fashioned by 1915, the Capitol received more extensive work for maintenance and modernization in 1916–1917. In the 1920s the Capitol received a number of other changes, but the economic depression beginning in 1929 hindered even maintenance work on the structure.

Governor James V. Allred moved the governor's private office from the first floor to the second in 1935 and during the Centennial year of 1936 the Capitol finally received some much-needed repairs. The Governor's Public Reception Room that remained almost unchanged since 1888 received a thorough renovation for use as the waiting room for the governor's office. In addition, the present art deco patterned terrazzo floors replaced the glass blocks and encaustic tile in the rotunda as well as tile floors on the first floor.

Renovations on the building continued except for the interruption of World War II. Not yet perceived as a "historic building," the Capitol from the late 1940s until the early 1980s suffered many more alterations. These renovations included the removal of the glass ceiling panels over the legislative chambers, the installation of terrazzo, air conditioning, lowered ceilings, offices for legislators, as well as the removal of the glass block floor from the Legislative Reference Library, and the filling-in of its previously open ceiling.

As a result of a fire on the second floor of the Capitol's east wing in early 1983, the legislature realized the necessity to restore the entire building. Therefore, the State Preservation Board was created to oversee conservation of the Capitol and the old General Land Office Building, their furnishings, art, and grounds. Restoration of the Goddess of Liberty statue on the Capitol dome became the first major project. A project to restore the Governor's Public Reception Room begun in 1985 was completed in 1987 as was an interim restoration of the House of Representatives.

The U.S. Department of the Interior designated the Texas Capitol as a National Historic Landmark in 1986 because it "possesses national significance in commemorating the history of the United States of America." The Texas Legislature in early 1987 approved a state bond sale for development of a master plan for the building's restoration.

For a century, the Texas Capitol has played host to thousands of visitors, including many foreign dignitaries and a wide variety of other celebrities. Hopefully, with the on-going restoration of the Capitol, the pride in this magnificent historic building will continue for another hundred years. Considered the state's most outstanding architectural accomplishment, the Capitol remains an enduring symbol for future generations.

—WILLIAM ELTON GREEN, PH.D.
Capitol Historian

Excerpts from Senator Temple Houston's Acceptance Speech
Capitol Dedication Ceremony · May 16, 1888

Dedication Ceremony, May 16, 1888 on the South Steps of the Capitol.

The greatest of states commissions me to say that she accepts this building, and henceforth it shall be the habitation of her government. When the title to the noblest edifice upon this hemisphere thus passes from the builder to Texas, reason ordains a brief reference to the deeds and times that eventuate in this occasion. Texas has changed the site of her government oftener than any other state in this union, or any nation on this side of the globe. Prior to the transfer to this building the site of government of Texas has been changed eleven times. She (Texas) has a history all her own, wild, romantic, heroic. Minstrel's lay never told of deeds more daring than her sons have wrought, nor ever in castle hall hath harp or bard hymned praise of purer faith than that her legends bear. Child of storms, the nursling of revolutions, the twilight of her history made her soil the battlefield of freedom, her children the crusaders of liberty. Situated at a remote angle of the gulf, mid way between the Aztec empire and the valley of Mississippi, she for a while felt neither that spirit of Spanish conquest which laid in the dust at a blow the throne of Montezuma and the empire of the Incas, nor that gentle spirit of colonization which marked the footsteps of France and Britain upon this continent.

The people of Texas are indebted to United States Senator Charles B. Farwell and his brother John V. Farwell, of the firm of John V. Farwell & Co., of Chicago, and Colonel Abner Taylor, not only for the best statehouse in the United States, but more especially for bringing our public lands into worldwide notice, by agreeing to build the house for the 3,000,000 acres set aside for that purpose. The syndicate, because they have obtained 3,000,000 acres of the best land in Texas, and will in due time cover them with prosperous farmers and increase the wealth of the state by hundreds of millions of dollars, instead of leaving them for the free use of foreign cattle companies whose earnings would not have remained in the state.

Every true and honest Texan must rejoice that the Farwells have found a way to turn our previously useless land into such a state monument as we are this day dedicating, and that they must from self-interest—if no other motive—cover these lands with farmers, as soon as railroads have opened them up. From every point of view, therefore, I say emphatically, as a true friend of Texas, whatever may have been thought by critics, that we have but done better than any of us thought, and the Farwells are justly entitled to our thanks, and this celebration by this vast concourse of our citizens is the best expression of our feeling toward the men

The Centennial Ceremony

May 7, 1988 · 12:00 Noon · Texas Capitol

OPENING MUSIC	"TEXAS" Mr. Neil Hess, *Director, Palo Duro Canyon*
HONOR GUARD	Ross Volunteers, Texas A & M University
PRESIDING	Mrs. William P. Clements, Jr. *Chairman, Capitol Centennial Committee*
INVOCATION	Monsignor Richard E. McCabe *Director of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Austin*
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF CAPITOL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE	
RECOGNITION OF FORMER TEXAS GOVERNORS	
GREETINGS	The Honorable William P. Hobby *Lieutenant Governor of Texas*
GREETINGS	The Honorable Gibson D. Lewis *Speaker, Texas House of Representatives*
RECOGNITION OF DIGNITARIES AND SPECIAL GUESTS	
EXCERPTS FROM TEMPLE HOUSTON'S 1888 CAPITOL DEDICATION ADDRESS	Mr. Houston Daniel
CENTENNIAL ADDRESS	The Honorable William P. Clements, Jr. *Governor of Texas*
PRESENTATION OF GRANITE MARKER FOR GREAT WALK RESTORATION	Mr. Lowell Lebermann *President, The Capitol Committee Inc.*
PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PLAQUE	Mr. Denis P. Galvin Jerry Rogers *Deputy Director, National Park Service*
CONCLUDING REMARKS	
"TEXAS OUR TEXAS"	Mr. Fred McClure
BENEDICTION	Reverend Frank Diaz *El Buen Pastor Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas*
SALUTE TO THE CAPITOL	

GOVERNOR SUL ROSS PATRONS

AT&T
Mr. and Mrs. Albert B. Alkek
American Petrofina
Amoco Corporation
ARCO Oil and Gas Company and Chevron U.S.A.
Mr. and Mrs. Perry R. Bass
Browning-Ferris Industries
The Coastal Corporation
Robert Cruikshank, Deloitte, Haskins and Sells
ENSERCH Corporation
Exxon Company, U.S.A.
The Hobby Foundation
Houston Chronicle Publishing Company
Licensed Beverage Distributors
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mosbacher, Jr.
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Redland-Worth Corporation
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Southwest Airlines
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company
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Texas Air Corporation
Texas Builders Association
United Parcel Service
United States Automobile Association

CONTRIBUTORS

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Austin Coca Cola & Dr. Pepper Bottling Company
Austin High School Drama Group
Austin Marriott at the Capitol
Austin Symphony Orchestra
Baker & Botts
Bergstrom Air Force Base Office of Public Affairs
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Capital City Scribes
Capital Metro
Capitol Beverage Company
Cardinal Industries of Texas, Inc.
George Ann Chalmers
Cigna
Colonial Coins
Commercial Metals Inc., Austin
Jerry "Nub" Donaldson
Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Durham
E-Z Go Golf Carts
Four Seasons Hotel, Austin
General Contractors of Texas
Grandy's Restaurants
Granny and Gramps
Jerry Hall and Associates
H.E.B., San Antonio
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Texas Utilities
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BALLOON INVITATIONAL

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Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau
Boating Trades Association of Texas
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Cellular One
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A Division of Outboard Marine Corporation
Federal Aviation Administration
Fox Photo
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Grandy's Restaurants
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Hospital Corporation of America
Hyatt Regency
Josten's
K-98 Radio Station
KLBJ FM Radio Station
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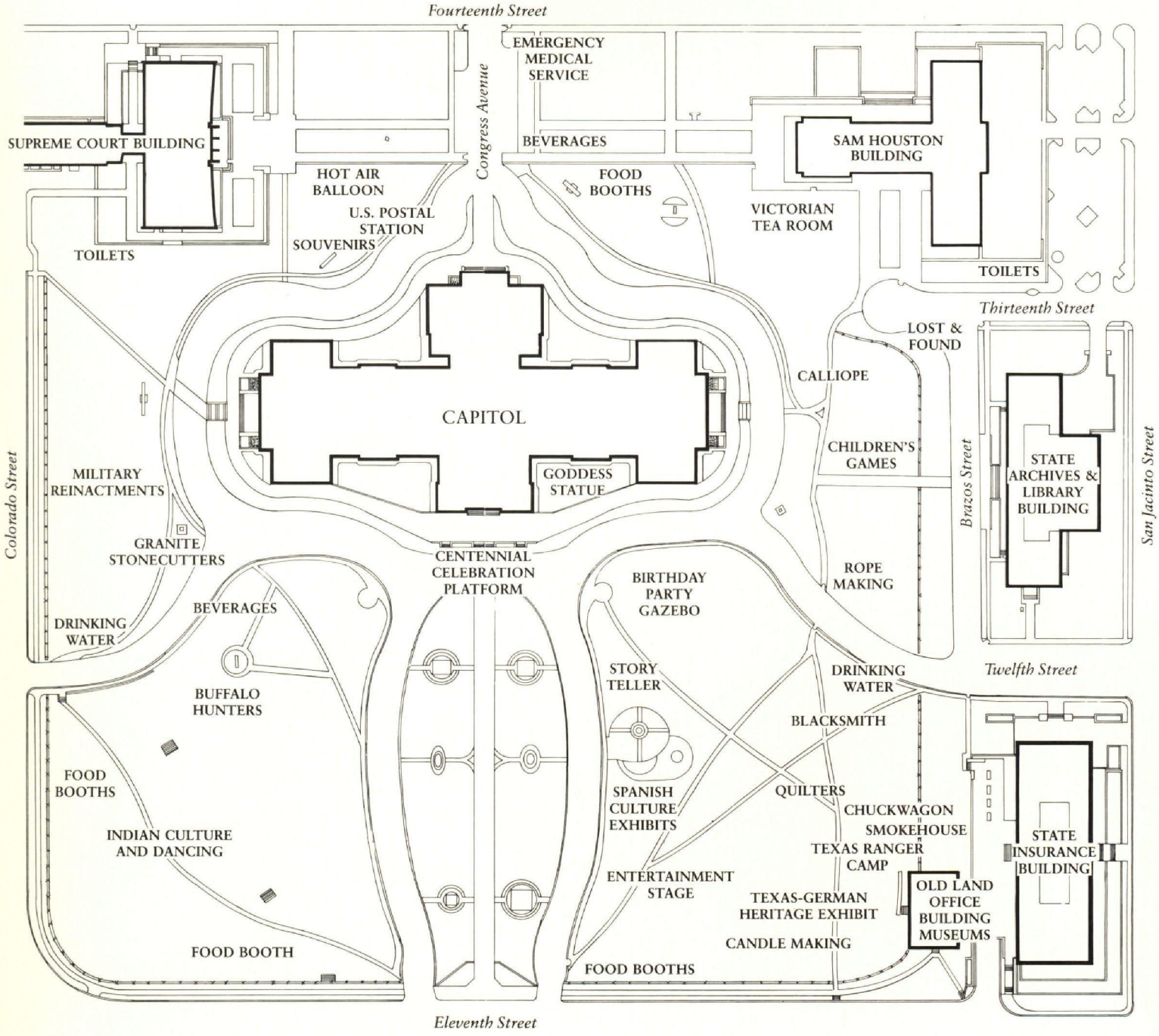
MCI Telecommunications
Miller Lite Beer
National Video
Old Milwaukee
Pontiac Division of General Motors Corporation
Read-Poland & Associates
Shepler's, Inc./Milano Hat Company
Shoreline Products, Incorporated
Southwestern Bell Yellow Pages
Texaco Inc.
Texas Adjutant General's Department
Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission
Texas Grape Growers Association
Wagon-Lits Budapest
Xerox Corporation



Dome Rendering: James Record

Photographs courtesy of
Austin History Center
State Preservation Board
Jack Lewis, Texas Highways Magazine

Watercolor: Beth Eidelberg

CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT

■ Renovated statehouse nears long-awaited reopening

By Mike Ward
American-Statesman Capitol Staff

A year after the No Trespassing signs went up and hard hats became the mandatory chapeau, a gussied-up Texas Capitol is nearing its long-awaited reopening.

By early August, officials said Thursday, several offices should be reopened in the Victorian statehouse. They will be the first evidence of what $63 million worth of interior restoration has bought.

By year's end, most officials should be moved back in and ready for the Legislature to convene in its restored home in January 1995.

"We're going to have a fabulous building when it's finished," said Dealey Herndon, executive director of the State Preservation Board, the agency overseeing the project.

"There are some magnificent spaces."

But Texans should not plan a fast pilgrimage to see their restored seat of government. Herndon said continuing construction and limited access will hamper sightseeing.

By mid-October, however, the Capitol tour and information desk should be reopened in the first floor's south wing, in a restored room that once housed the State Treasury. Evidence of the former occupants — shiny steel bars and vaults — will remain.

By December, when the House chamber is reopened, most of the landmark $187 million, four-year addition and renovation project should be complete, officials said.

Dedicated 106 years ago last month, the pink-granite statehouse was vacated in stages beginning in June 1991 when some House members moved into temporary quarters in an adjacent building.

The lieutenant governor and senators moved out in December 1991, followed by the governor and others. The Capitol was closed completely about a year ago as restoration began in the west wing, the House side.

Employees of the Legislative Council will be among the first to return in early August, followed by workers at the Legislative Reference Library, secretary of state's office and the Senate, officials said.

Gov. Ann Richards is scheduled to return in September. For the past two years, her office has been in the Capitol Extension. Officials believe it may be the only time a Texas governor's office has been outside the Capitol.

On Thursday, Preservation Board officials led reporters on a preview tour that wended through dusty rooms in the basement where jackhammers still blasted and shiny new offices that have been meticulously refurbished, except for a few finishing touches.

Texas history, it seems, is getting a new face.

Staff photos by Larry Kolvoord

A worker completes the refinishing of the restored wood trim around the door to the gallery of the Senate. By year's end, most offices should be ready for the Legislature to convene in its restored home in January 1995.

The Legislative Reference Library, once a cluttered assemblage of bookshelves shoehorned into cramped quarters, has claimed the north wing's entire second floor — the original home of the State Library.

An original glass-block floor has been restored, as has the towering atrium, decorated with delicately painted green, gold and black railings, all original features.

The circa-1910 metal bookcases have been refurbished, supplemented by rows of polished, dark-wood ones. Wooden reading tables, custom-built to match original Capitol furniture, stand in a row beneath a protective plastic cover.

"This area is virtually complete," said construction director David Stauch as workers moved new desks nearby and a Department of Public Safety trooper stood guard.

In the Senate Chamber, empty of lawmakers' desks that are being restored, a cadre of workers was spread out across the expanse of green-patterned carpet, repairing flaws before a final review by state officials.

Herndon said the carpet, which replaced a bright-blue weave of recent vintage, is of a pattern dating to about 1905. It was specially woven and laid in 27-inch strips. The strips were then sewn together.

Gone is the duct-work that hung from beneath the galleries, allowing daylight to brighten the chamber as it originally did.

Workers using hand-held computers checked wiring and other equipment. Rock music blared over the new sound system as technicians tested it.

In the basement, hallways once narrowed to as little as 6 feet have been restored to their original 22-foot width. Rows of massive ca iron columns, long hidden ins walls installed during past ren delings, are again visible — giv it the aura, as one official once scribed it, of an Egyptian tomb

"There are two or three areas the building with the most dram ic change, and the basement one," Herndon said.

The basement Rotunda also returned.

Long hidden by tempor walls, cheap paneling and an el trical room, the round space again visible. Eventually, it have a glass-block ceiling like it when the Capitol was new.

But this one will be backligh to replicate the original. The R tunda upstairs once featurec glass-block floor, much like the brary, but it was replaced in mid-1930s with colorful terra forming the familiar Lone S and official seals of Texas. Rat than restore the glass blocks, o cials chose to save the hist floor.

Stauch said the basement R tunda, which once was "one of most dangerous places in building" because of electr transformers there, will be on

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Capitol costs

Costs and completion dates of t of the landmark restoration and

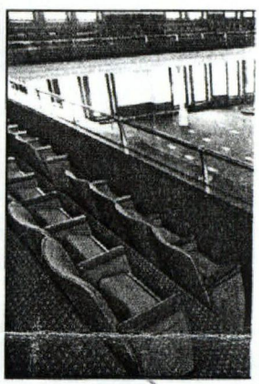
Project
Excavation, Capitol Extension
Construction, Capitol Extension
Restoration, Capitol exterior
Restoration, Old General Land Of
Restoration, Capitol interior

Reopening the Ca

A tentative schedule

JUL	AUG	SEP
Legislative Council, North wing	Governor's Office, South wing, second floor	
Secretary of State's Office, East wing, first floor	Legislative Reference Library, North wing, second floor	

Source: State Preservation Board



David Stauch, construction direc tion Board executive director, st

Furniture project carves link from past to future

/EMENTS

Capitol costs

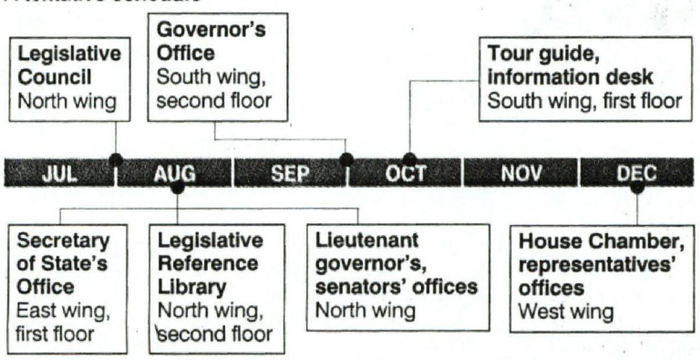
Costs and completion dates of the five phases of the landmark restoration and expansion project

Project	Costs	Status
Excavation, Capitol Extension	$4,743,423	Completed
Construction, Capitol Extension	$63,653,207	Completed
Restoration, Capitol exterior	$10,791,562	Completed
Restoration, Old General Land Office	$3,189,416	Completed
Restoration, Capitol interior	$64,735,359*	Dec.1994**

* As of February 1994 ** Projected

Reopening the Capitol

A tentative schedule



Source: State Preservation Board Staff graphics

David Stauch, construction director, and Dealy Herndon, State Preservation Board executive director, stand in the nearly complete Senate gallery.

foot width. Rows of massive cast-iron columns, long hidden inside walls installed during past remodelings, are again visible — giving it the aura, as one official once described it, of an Egyptian tomb.

"There are two or three areas of the building with the most dramatic change, and the basement is one," Herndon said.

The basement Rotunda also has returned.

Long hidden by temporary walls, cheap paneling and an electrical room, the round space is again visible. Eventually, it will have a glass-block ceiling like it did when the Capitol was new.

But this one will be backlighted to replicate the original. The Rotunda upstairs once featured a glass-block floor, much like the library, but it was replaced in the mid-1930s with colorful terrazzo forming the familiar Lone Star and official seals of Texas. Rather than restore the glass blocks, officials chose to save the historic floor.

Stauch said the basement Rotunda, which once was "one of the most dangerous places in the building" because of electrical transformers there, will be one of the most striking.

In the House chamber, the wooden floor has been replaced to allow for installation of new wiring — including high-tech voice and data lines, just like those that now run behind the old plaster walls throughout the building.

The pressed-metal ceiling has been repainted, its gold detail shining again.

Though the Capitol's flaws were legendary — leaky roofs, bad wiring, corroded plumbing and scores of safety hazards — Stauch said the restoration revealed its problems were worse than believed.

For example, workers found huge holes had been gouged in many supporting walls, most to upgrade utilities.

Preservation Board officials say they are doing work they hope will give the Capitol another century of life and preserve its historic features.

Herndon said she thinks Texans will be pleased.

"We've put it back like it was at quite an investment, and I think people will value it," she said. "People value old buildings now in a way that they didn't 20 years ago."

Furniture project carves link from past to future

By Mike Ward
American-Statesman Capitol Staff

When he was a boy, Roger Joslin imagined he was a fighter at the Alamo in a childhood game that made Texas history seem real.

It was history he and his playmates could almost reach out and touch — the kind of experience, he said, that made him realize Texas history was not just something you learned, "it was something you belonged to."

Now, at age 42, Joslin is touching that history for real.

The East Austin furniture maker is building tables for the restored Texas Capitol. They are custom-built pieces that look just like the originals from a century ago, right down to the fluted legs and green billiard-cloth tops on some.

The long tables are familiar Capitol fixtures used for years at legislative hearings and special ceremonies and in many offices.

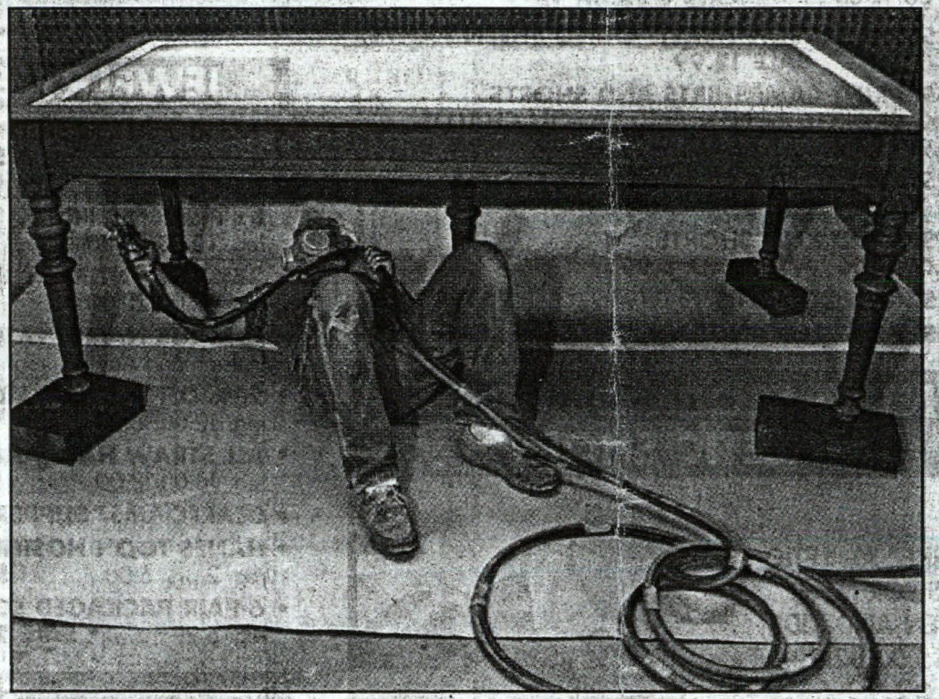
"It's a real special project for us, a special opportunity," Joslin said. "Everyone who is working on these tables feels the same way. It's something we wanted to be involved in from the very beginning."

Joslin's company, which has seven employees, is among more than two dozen companies replicating Capitol furniture as part of the ongoing statehouse restoration. The furniture project is a little-remarked but key element of the restoration.

State officials are using about $1 million in state funds and $2 million in private donations to furnish the building. They have hired contractors to refinish 800 pieces of original statehouse furniture that remain on the inventory, restore historic artwork and custom-build several hundred pieces of replica furniture.

The goal is to make the rooms functional for modern state government but retain the original turn-of-the-century style.

In cases where original furniture was in bad shape or missing, duplicating it made perfect sense, said Capitol Curator Bonnie Campbell. The originals were well-built, sturdy, functional — and historically correct.



Staff photo by Taylor Johnson

Dan Starkel applies a coat of sealant to a replica of one of the Capitol's original oak tables in Roger Joslin's shop. Many tables are being custom-built for the renovated statehouse.

Even though each replica had to be custom-built, the cost was comparable to buying new furniture. The long tables Joslin is building cost about $2,000 apiece, Campbell said, compared with $2,600 for new conference tables purchased for the Capitol Extension.

State funds are being used for the less-pricey things, mostly tables and chairs, Campbell said. Private donations are being used for the rest.

In all, 50 types of original furniture are being replicated, making it perhaps one of the biggest such projects in Texas.

For Joslin, winning the bid to build the tables was exciting. He had studied three original tables — one with the words "Senate Hall 1903" written in chalk underneath the tabletop — and knew they were finely built.

As a woodworker, the job provided a rare opportunity to employ some special techniques, such as double dovetail joints, that were common a century ago but are rarely used now.

Joslin also realized this project was special. He had worked as a legislative aide at the Capitol in the mid-1970s, and knew some of the building's history.

For the job, he carefully selected white oak and walnut, trying to match the color and grain of the original tables as closely as possible. Every piece was measured and remeasured. It had to duplicate the original in every detail, even those that wouldn't show.

In all, Joslin said, each table takes five craftsmen in his shop about 50 hours to build, much longer than a modern table.

Just as meticulous was the research that preceded the project.

Through the years, much of the Capitol's original furniture had been lost, and many of the old items that remained were not original.

So state officials, using old documents, photographs and catalogs, spent months determining which tables, chairs, bookcases, benches, library magazine racks and pigeonhole cabinets were right.

The Capitol's original wood furniture was purchased from A.H. Andrews & Co. of Chicago for $50,000. It was delivered in early 1889, almost a year after the statehouse opened.

Last month, Joslin delivered the first of the 50 oak and walnut tables he is building for the Capitol. Some will decorate the soon-to-be-reopened Legislative Reference Library, positioned on its glass-block floor under the towering atrium.

Other pieces were placed in the restored courtrooms on the Capitol's third floor. Future deliveries will go to the secretary of state's office and other Capitol rooms.

For Joslin and his crew, the project has been marked by pride.

On a recent afternoon, he stood alongside a finished table in his shop, rubbing its smooth finish and carefully explaining its unique features.

"This is doing something for history, something I know my own grandkids will see," Joslin said.

He likens it to the special feeling about Texas history he had as a child.

"A link forward and past," he said.

Restoration trivia

- It has taken more than nine semitruckloads of lumber to restore the rich woodwork inside the Capitol to its original luster. Much of the wood is as old as the building itself, carefully selected from vintage woods that were recycled to match the original.
- Restoration of the Italian Renaissance-style Capitol will return the interior to a period from 1888, when the statehouse was completed, until 1915, before any major remodeling began.
- To make way for the new and restored, much of the Capitol — everything from wood flooring to old doors, glass panels and even a sink — is coming out. Workers are stashing the materials in a warehouse in preparation for a public auction in September.
- The cost of the Capitol restoration and extension project includes $187.6 million in taxpayer money. The Capitol Fund — a private fund-raising effort begun last fall — is raising another $5 million for special historical furnishings, programs and other items not covered by the state appropriation.
- As part of the project, a new Capitol Complex Visitors Center opened in April in the circa-1856 General Land Office, the castle-like building on the southeast corner of the Capitol grounds. It has been restored to house exhibits about the statehouse and Texas history.

Source: State Preservation Board, interviews and historical archives.

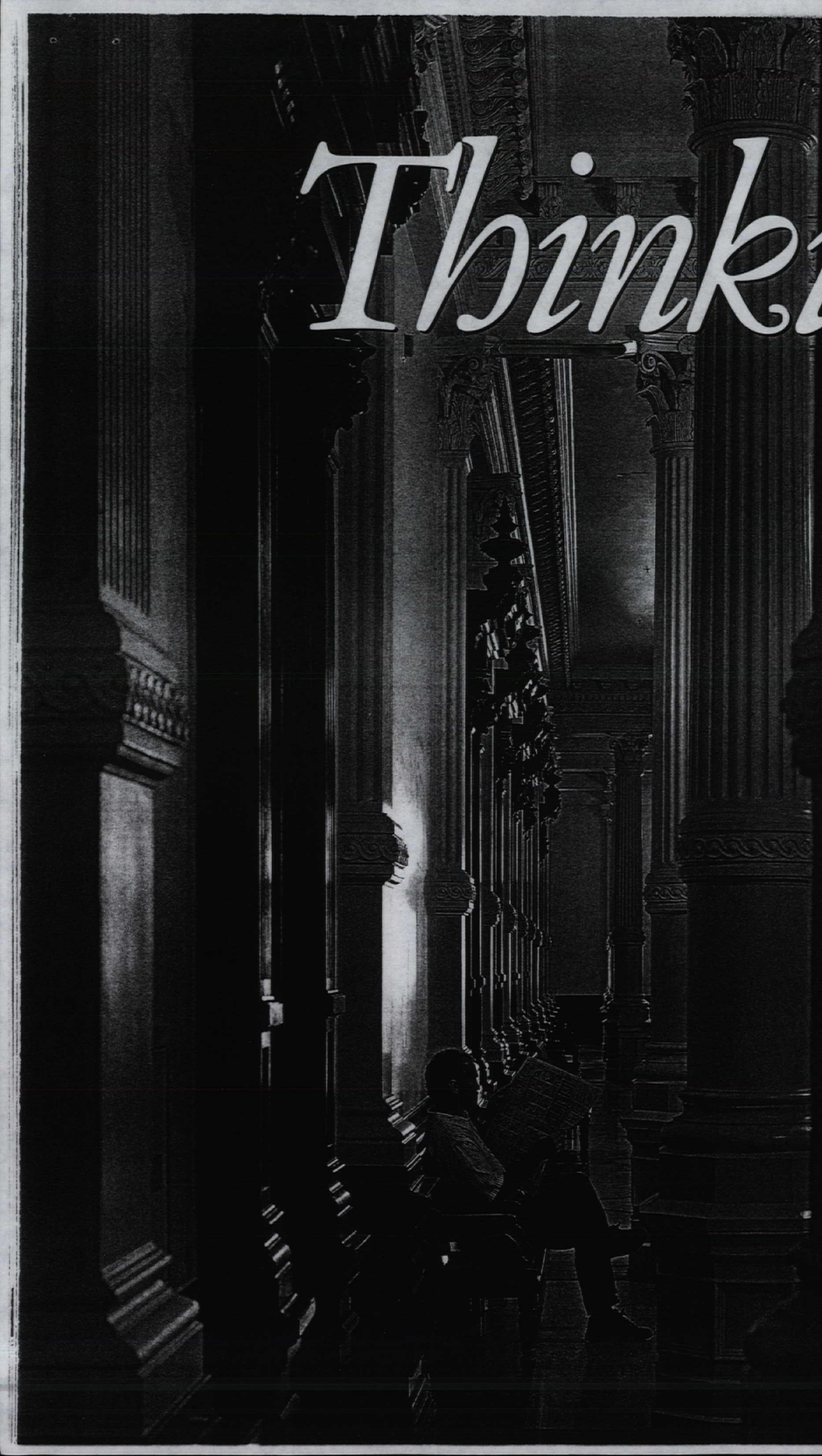
Board, the agency overseeing the

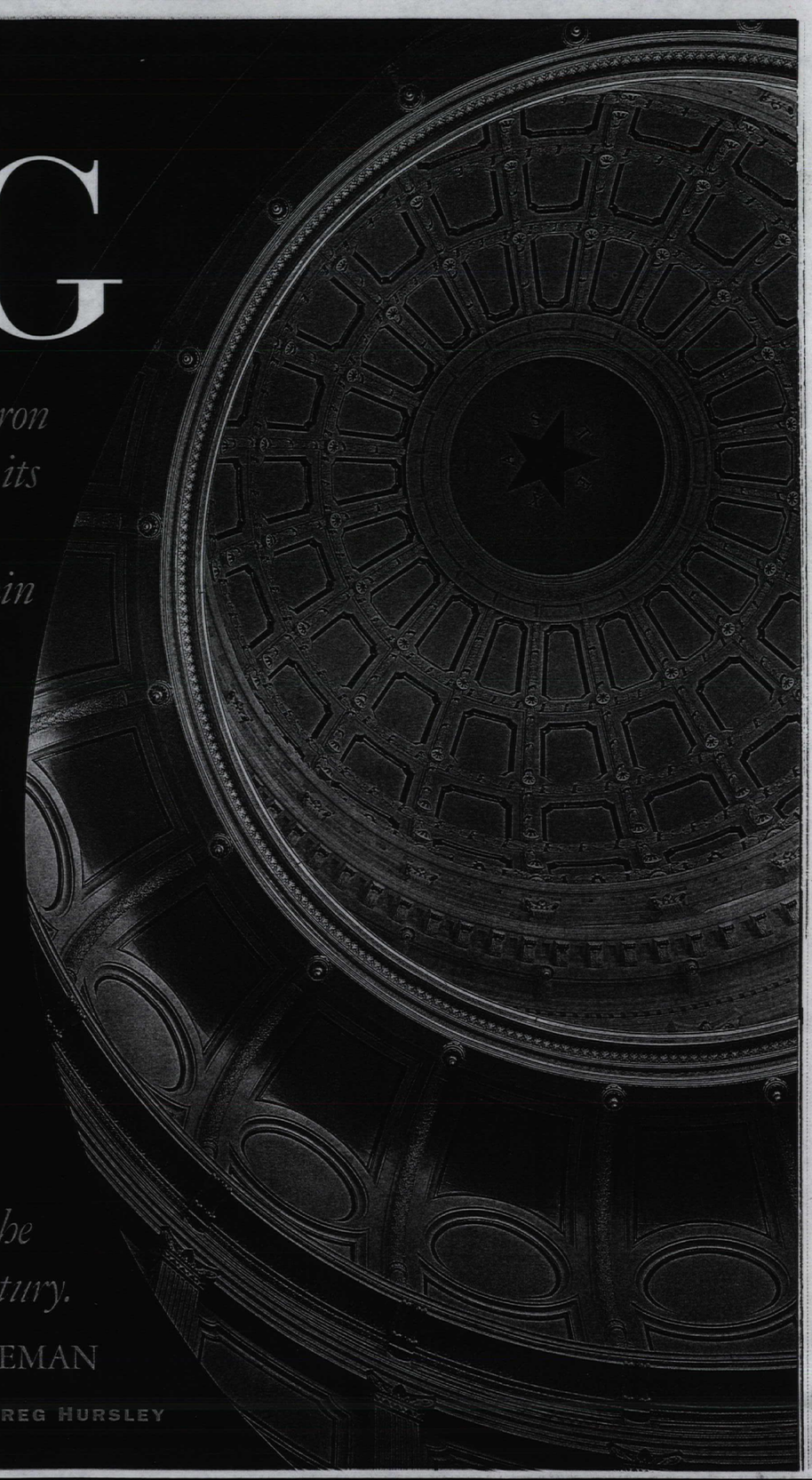
Thinking BIG

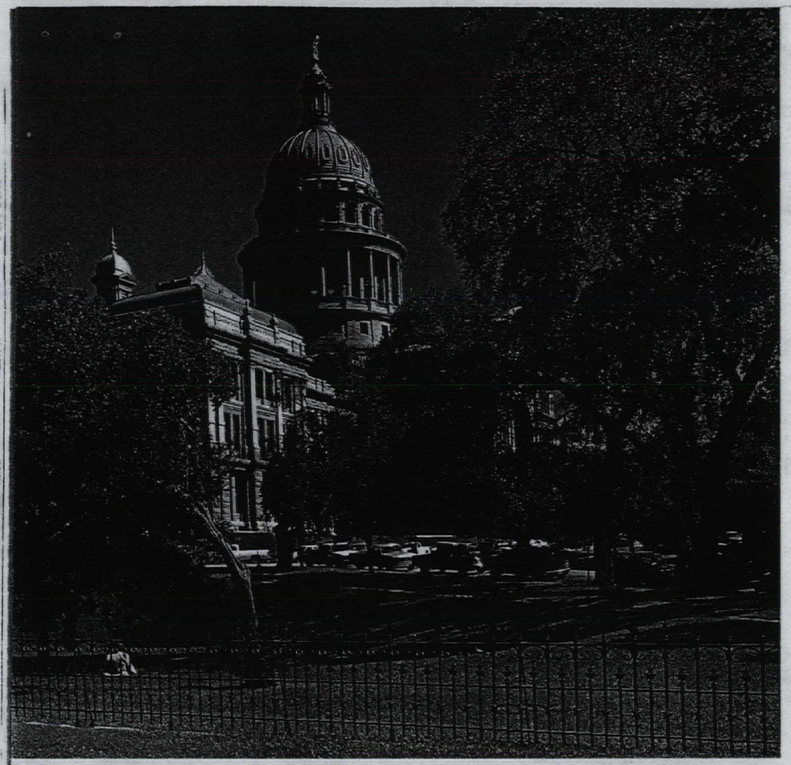
From the cast-iron columns lining its corridors to the Lone Star within its dome, the Texas Capitol receives a comprehensive restoration. Vision, grit, planning, and $180 million have prepared Austin's 1888 landmark for the twenty-first century.

BY ALLEN FREEMAN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG HURSLEY





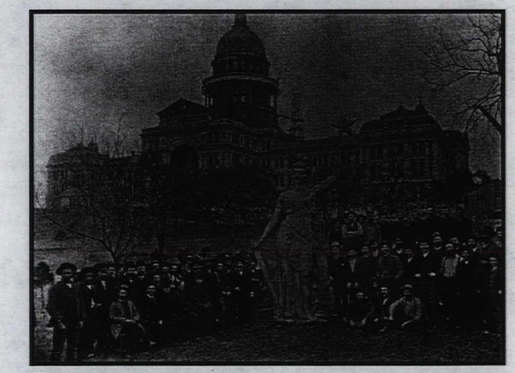


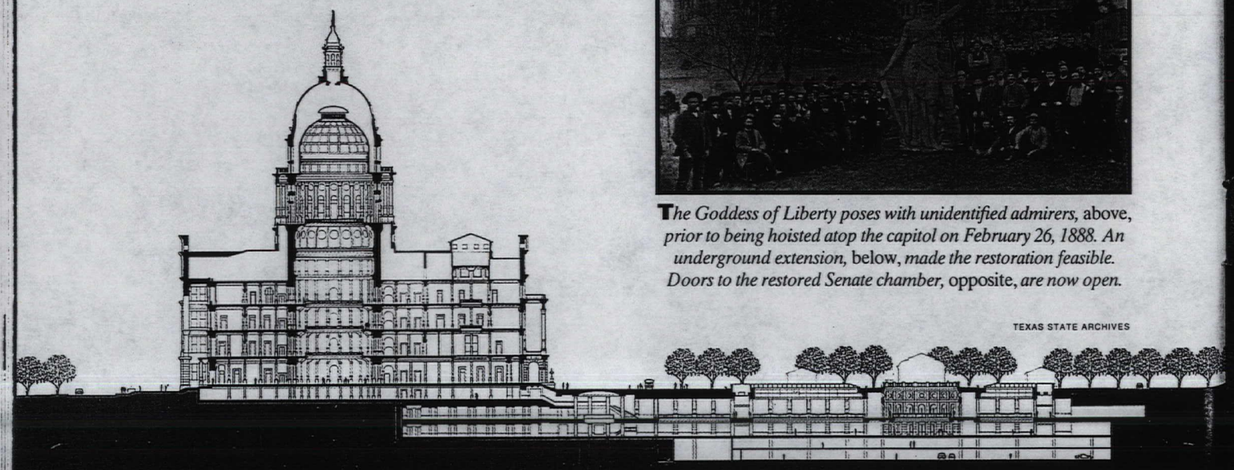
tion, a set of upper artificial teeth, a plaster model of an upper jaw, and teeth filled with gold, amalgam, tin, porcelain, cement, and gutta percha.

Thus began the history of a building that ranks near the Alamo in the hearts of many Texans. When completed in 1888 it was said to be the fifth-largest building in the world (an unconfirmed claim) and its dome was said to be higher than that of its counterpart in Washington, D.C. (also unverified). The structure was and remains, however, one of the most pleasing examples of a building type unique to America: the state capitol.

As its centennial year approached the Texas Capitol retained an enduring popularity but had become a haphazardly subdivided warren of dingy, make-do offices. Of more urgency, it was a crowded fire trap, and in February 1983 an early-morning blaze killed one person and gutted a second-floor corridor and the lieutenant governor's apartment and caused extensive smoke and water damage. Although successfully contained and extinguished, the fire could easily have spread to the attic and caused structural failure, and that realization led the Texas Legislature to appropriate $6 million to the Senate for restoration of damaged areas and to create the State Preservation Board. The Preservation Board was set up to "preserve, maintain, and restore" the capitol; the 1856 General Land Office Building, which is on the capitol grounds; the contents of the buildings; and the grounds themselves.

On the forty-ninth anniversary of their independence from Mexico—March 2, 1885—Texans laid a cornerstone in Austin, and the attendant high-flown oratory lasted for hours. Judge George Quinan of Wharton, Texas, who was introduced by Governor John Ireland, actually said: "Divide the State! Oh! Dumb forever be the tongue would utter the sacrilegious word! Withered the hand would sever her broad domain!" The objects deemed worthy of deposit in the cornerstone's time capsule seem no less quaint. Included were the constitution and bylaws of the Texas Sheriffs' Association; a buttonhole bouquet—banded by a gold ring—in a velvet case, donated by Miss Bobbie M. Wilcox; and, from Dr. R. E. Grant & Son, a list of the members of the Texas State Dental Associa-

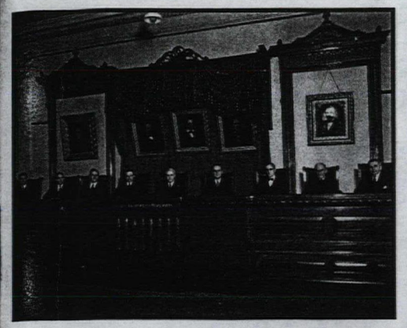




The *Goddess of Liberty poses with unidentified admirers,* above, *prior to being hoisted atop the capitol on February 26, 1888. An underground extension,* below, *made the restoration feasible. Doors to the restored Senate chamber,* opposite, *are now open.*

TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES

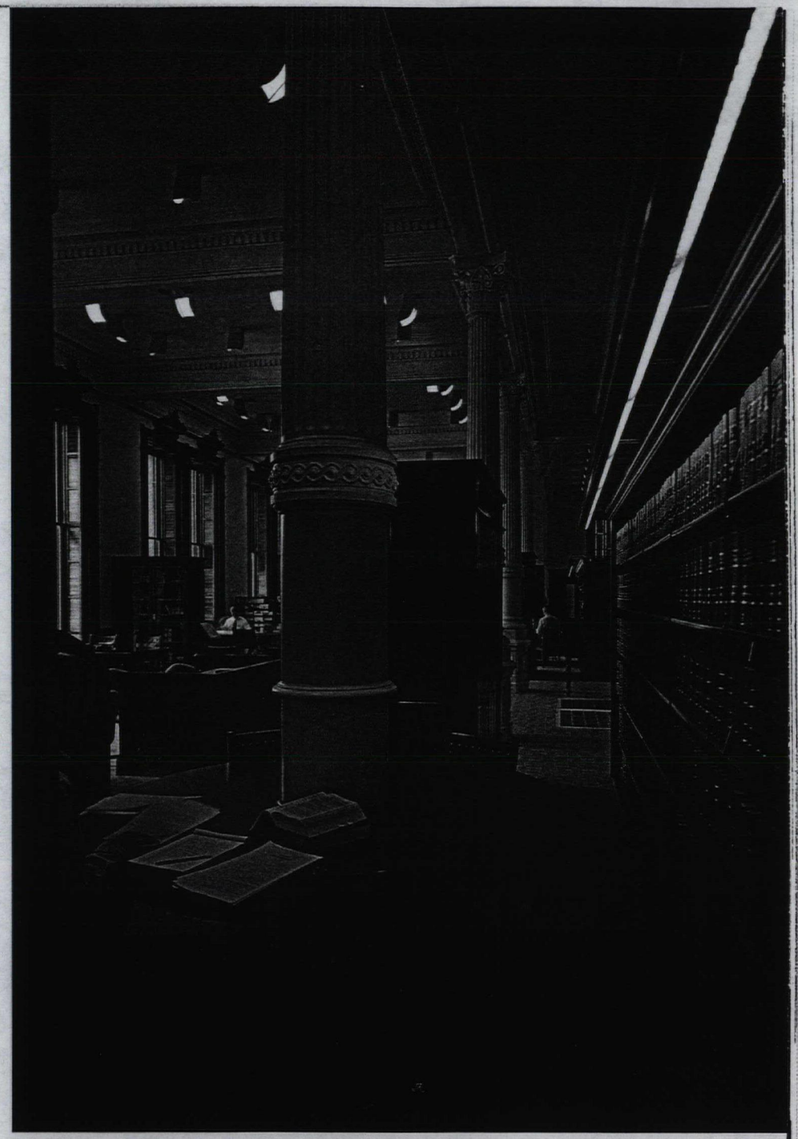
"Every one of the fully restored rooms will be used for the business of the state."

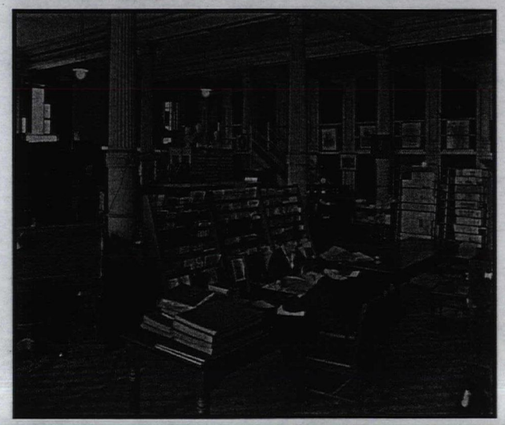


This January the centerpiece of that effort, the restoration and underground extension of the capitol, will be virtually complete and ready for the seventy-fourth Texas Legislature. At a cost of more than $180 million, the project is among the most comprehensive statehouse restorations ever undertaken.

The origin of the building meriting this expenditure was an 1881 design competition juried by New York architect Napoleon Le Brun, who selected from among eleven anonymously submitted competition entries an Italian Renaissance Revival scheme by Elijah E. Myers of Detroit. Myers had designed the Michigan Capitol in Lansing and subsequently would design the 1886 Idaho Territorial Capitol in Boise and the Colorado Capitol in Denver, completed in 1908. He was a capable architect and fine draftsman but is little remembered today. His aggressiveness in obtaining commissions—he denigrated his peers and cut his fees—discredited him among architects who were struggling to institute ethical standards for their profession. Many of his projects also incurred cost overruns, and Myers tended to lose interest in them after his initial design. Indeed, during the construction of the capitol in Austin the job supervisors found Myers so unresponsive that they began to work around him. There is no record, however, of his dismissal from the job.

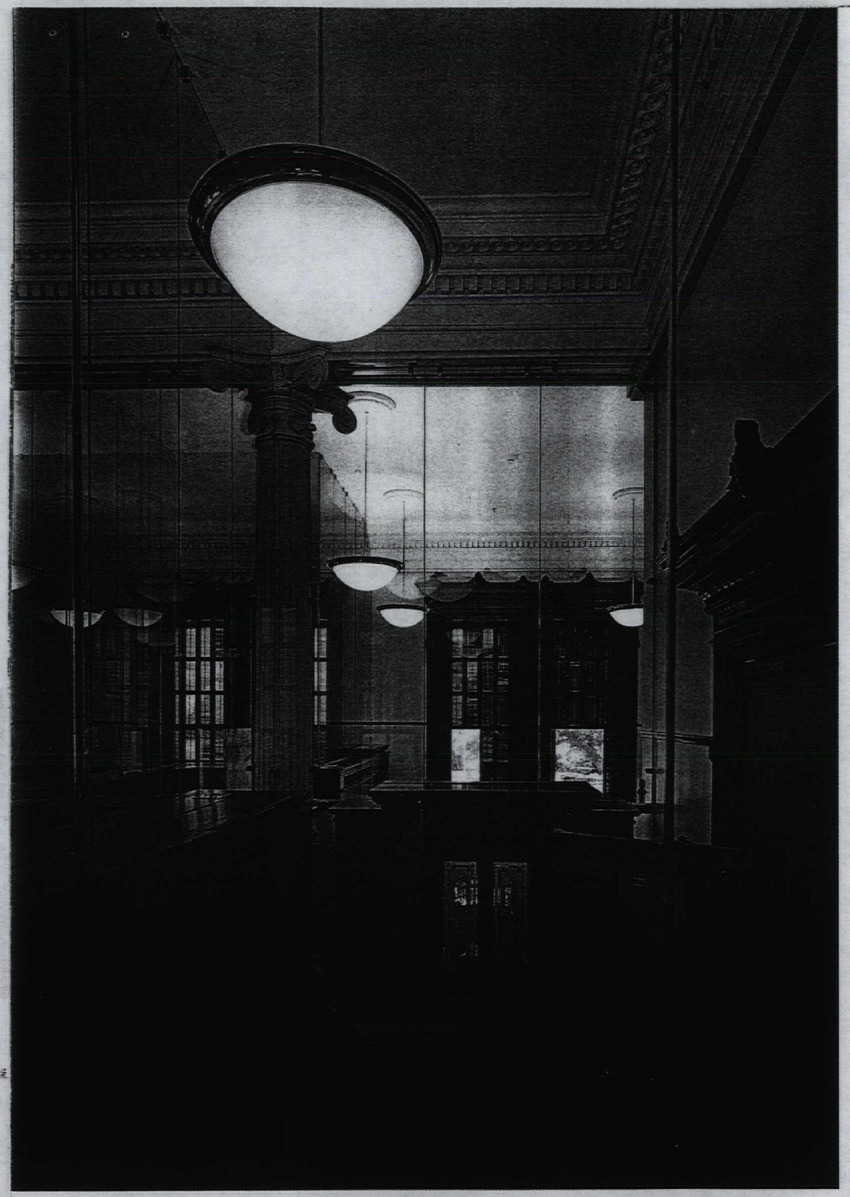
The capitol, as constructed, was considerably modified from Myers's competition-winning entry. Soon after endorsing the selection of Myers the state's project supervisors asked the architect to redesign its dome, the design's most distinguishing feature. Myers replaced the square-based form with a circular, double-vaulted dome that would be fabricated—as was the one designed by Thomas U. Walter in the 1850s for the U.S. Capitol—of cast iron.





T*he restored room* opposite *served the Texas Supreme Court from 1888 until 1959. The bench, which was elongated in the 1930s,* above left, *has been returned to its original three-person configuration. The Legislative Reference Library,* at left, *circa 1915 and,* above, *fully restored, had been subpartitioned and its atrium ceiling, now reopened to a skylight, had been blocked by lay-in acoustical panels.*

AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER, CHALBERG COLLECTION, *TOP;* TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES, *BOTTOM*



For economic reasons, the supervisors eliminated porches on the east and west ends, leaving the north porch and the heroic arch on the south elevation. The supervisors also substituted copper for the black-slate roof, and when they determined that the iron-rich Texas limestone specified as exterior cladding would streak and that it would be impossible to obtain blocks sufficiently uniform in color and striation, they substituted red Texas granite. Then, because of the difficulty of working the harder stone, the fluted Corinthian pilasters in Myers's original design were downgraded to Doric, and the intricate moldings, balusters, and urns that complemented the higher classical order were eliminated. No doubt the simplifications improved facades that otherwise would have been very fussy. To today's design sensibilities the capitol's proportions and simple (by Victorian standards) aesthetics seem transcendent.

An 1888 ceremony similar in effusiveness to the cornerstone laying three years earlier featured a dedicatory address by Temple Houston, the son of the late Sam Houston, the revered president of the Texas Republic. During his speech Houston called the capitol a "sentinel of eternity." Only minutes later, when a drenching rainstorm passed over Austin during the conclusion of the address, the assembled masses discovered that the new copper roof leaked profusely.

The roof eventually was fixed, but Texas prosperity has *(Continued on Page 96)*

T*he photo* at right *shows how the capitol's high-ceilinged rooms were subpartitioned at the time the restoration began. In contrast,* above, *glass now provides acoustical privacy. Dealey Herndon,* above right, *has led the overall project since 1991. The rotunda's decorative floor,* opposite, *installed in 1936 for the Texas Centennial, replaced glass blocks.*

COURTESY, STATE PRESERVATION BOARD

(Continued from Page 93) would turn to cabinetmakers for repairs, but for his all-steel house Morrow sought out sheet-metal workers to smooth out the dents.

The house Morrow acquired was amazingly authentic to 1949. Much of the upkeep and renovation he subsequently performed reflects his personal taste rather than attempts at historical accuracy. He painted the house's light gray roof and exterior trim enamel a dark brown shade to contrast with the pale yellow walls, replaced the furnace and introduced central air-conditioning, added countertops, and disconnected the Automagic. Strict preservationists who disapprove of his alterations might bear in mind that Morrow purchased the house as his residence—not as a house museum—and that his changes are, for the most part, reversible.

Morrow regards the interior design of his Lustron house as an outgrowth of the Bauhaus and Art Moderne movements of the late 1920s and the 1930s. After all, not much happened in the design world during World War II. That is why he has chosen to furnish his All-Steel Historic Home in large part with pre-World War II furniture rather than with the low-slung, cushioned furniture that appeared in Lustron's advertising campaigns. Bauhaus-style tubular-steel chairs and tables do, in fact, complement his living room's rounded corners. In two bedrooms steel-constructed suites designed for the Simmons Company in the 1930s by Norman Bel Geddes make a strong case for applying the American industrial designer's philosophy of truth of materials to a house that makes no bones about its all-steel construction.

On the shelves of the built-in dining-room buffet Morrow displays his collection of miniature antique cars as a reminder of the stylistic lineage shared by the automobile industry and his Lustron house. He sees the hand of streamline-conscious automobile stylists in such details as the recessed drawer handles of the built-in furniture and the picture windows that replace traditional projecting components with flush-mounted casements.

"As I began to finish and furnish the house to a presentable state, my feeling became, 'My god, this house is an important part of our heritage, and there's no sense keeping it a secret,'" Morrow says. With the encouragement of Indiana's state historic preservation office, he listed his house in the state and national registers of historic places. His is believed to be the only Lustron house listed in the National Register, and it is almost certainly the only Lustron open to the public as a historic house.

Like others before him, Morrow finds the avant-garde lonely at times. "My family and friends think I'm a nut—a real basket case," he confides. He believes the historical significance of the house also eluded its original owners, even though Norris Coambs was the longstanding president of a local preservation organization. (Others might interpret Coambs's failure to modernize his all-metal house as an intuitive—if not conscious—act of preservation.) Morrow's neighbors have shown little interest in his all-metal house, the only one in the neighborhood. He's unsure whether many of them even realize that it's open to the public.

All of which is fine with Morrow. He wants to keep a low profile because suburban zoning prohibits commercial establishments. That's why he refuses to call his property a historic-house museum; it's a historic house that is open to the public. His situation prevents him from charging an admission fee, but he does accept donations. He has neither parking space for tour buses nor public rest rooms, and the house is not barrier-free for persons with disabilities.

Morrow would like to share the responsibility of operating his historic house with a historic preservation organization. He maintains a standing offer to donate his Lustron house and to provide a modest annual subsidization to a historic preservation organization that will staff and operate the house as a museum. Morrow remains incredulous that no organization that he has approached has accepted his offer.

Public enthusiasm for his All-Steel Historic Home, however, inspires Morrow, as it did Carl Strandlund. During the first three months that Morrow publicized his house in newspapers and through the local tourism bureau more than a thousand visitors crossed its steel threshold. On some days—although perhaps not many—Morrow is forced to keep visitors waiting while he conducts a tour. (He limits tours to a maximum of eight people because of the small size of the house.) At least one party shows up each day, says Morrow late in the afternoon of a day when, so far, no visitors have appeared. As if on cue, the doorbell rings, and Morrow greets a middle-aged couple.

"We just like to look at old houses," explains a man who identifies himself as an electrician by trade, still looking ambivalent about approaching a stranger's house in an unfamiliar neighborhood. "Well," he continues, "they don't have to be old—just different." As he scans the lustrous surface of the porcelain-enamel-coated interior, his face shows that he has come to the right place. ▼

The All-Steel Historic Home, located at 411 Bowser Avenue, Chesterton, Indiana 46304-0508, (219) 926-3669, is open Tuesday through Sunday, 1-5, from May 1 through October 31 and other times by appointment. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

THINKING BIG

(Continued from Page 58) caused less easily remedied problems. The state outgrew its red-granite sentinel of eternity. The population has increased almost sixfold in this century, and the demographic balance has shifted from the farm to the suburb. When built, the capitol accommodated, with room to spare, virtually the entire state government—the legislative and administrative branches, a legislative law library, the Texas Supreme Court, and the Texas Court of Appeals. As early as 1914, however, a superintendent's report mentioned overcrowding. To accommodate new and expanded staffs the superintendent partitioned corridors and subdivided committee rooms. The crowding intensified after World War II despite a spate of new construction; six nearby state office buildings were completed between 1959 and 1961, and more have followed. And, as the capitol's mechanical and electrical systems became obsolete, new ducts and conduits were layered over the old systems, which typically were abandoned behind dropped ceilings and furred-out walls. The resulting dead spaces became potential flues for smoke and flames, and the narrowed corridors and crowded offices exacerbated the threat of fire. The danger was brought home by the 1983 fire.

The State Preservation Board that was established soon after the fire was modeled on the office of the architect of the U.S. Capitol. Three successive agency directors have been faced with carrying out a highly visible project in a politically charged environment during a severe economic downturn. The first architect of the capitol, Roy Eugene Graham, was successful in generating enthusiasm for historic preservation and restoration and in promoting

the State Preservation Board as a concept and was able to carry out projects limited in scope. One of these proved to be a source of broad public interest. The Goddess of Liberty, the dome's crowning ornament, had been fabricated in the 1880s of zinc alloy and had since become corroded and cracked. Once the statue had been removed and disassembled, molds were made of her sections, which were replicated in aluminum. The original statue was restored, but its inherently fragile condition precluded its continued display more than 300 feet in the air. The replica toured six Texas cities before being placed atop the dome in June 1986.

In the fall of 1988 the State Preservation Board selected Allen McCree as the architect of the capitol. McCree's primary charge was to develop a master plan that would be submitted to the legislature. He realized that in order to obtain funding from the legislature he had to promote restoration and extension as a pragmatic, logical solution to the problems of overcrowding and safety. McCree lobbied for the restoration to be funded and executed as a single project rather than incrementally, and he promoted the concept of an underground extension. Working as a joint venture, two Texas architecture firms—3D/International of Houston and Ford, Powell & Carson of San Antonio—were selected in December 1988. Once the project's scope was determined, the State Preservation Board obtained a $161-million legislative appropriation.

Construction began in January 1991. Since April of that year the complicated restoration project has been brought to a point of near completion by a woman who previously had no experience as a construction manager and who lacked formal training in either architecture or historic preservation. Dealey Decherd Herndon holds the title of executive director of the State Preservation Board. A Texas native who recently joined the National Trust Board of Trustees, Herndon had served for four years as the only "citizen" member (not an elected official) of the six-person State Preservation Board; she has also been a director of the A. H. Belo Corporation and served as the administrator of the Friends of the Governor's Mansion. "I am a phenomenon that nobody can figure out," Herndon says. "The most frequently asked question about me is 'How did you get this job?' Basically my experience is in government business, preservation, as a mother [two grown sons], and as a volunteer in nonprofit organizations, so it completely

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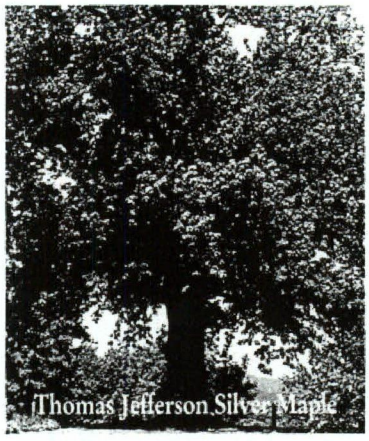
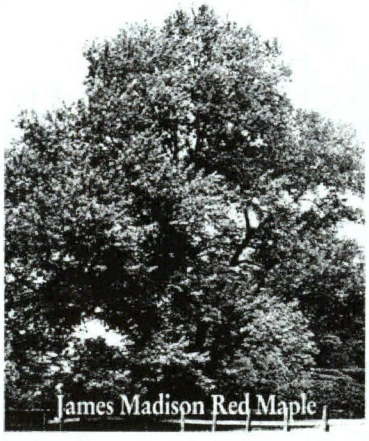
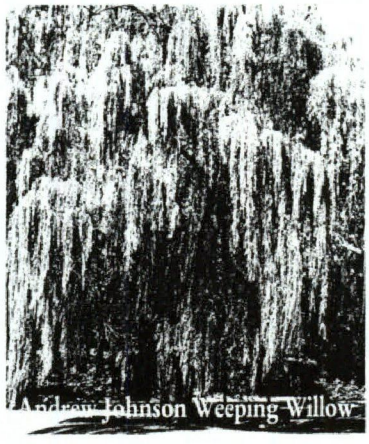

Thomas Jefferson Silver Maple


James Madison Red Maple


Andrew Johnson Weeping Willow

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threw the press when I was appointed. My talent is in managing an incredible staff." Herndon's staff consists of fifty people who, by all accounts, are a highly committed group. "Somehow, she has the ability to get fifty to do the work of a hundred and twenty," says Bonnie Campbell, the curator of the capitol. Working alongside the staff is a similarly dedicated team of architects, engineers, crafters, and construction workers.

Herndon explains that the biggest single issue at the beginning was what to do with the 1,300 people working in a building designed to accommodate 750. McCree's plan for an underground extension was the long-term solution; in the interim, two other buildings provided "staging areas" in which the 1,300 could work while the disruptive restoration work progressed. Because "almost no one would agree to move out of the capitol forever," she says, "our next challenge was creating enough space for the members and staffs of the House and the Senate, for the legislative council, and for the offices of the governor and secretary of state." (The state's supreme and appellate courts moved out of the capitol more than thirty years ago.)

3D/International designed the underground capitol extension as a two-story, skylighted, north-south spine intersected by two east-west corridors. Light courts supply the offices and meeting rooms on either side of the spine with natural illumination. Two parking decks lie beneath the structure. "We think of the capitol and the extension as a single building," Herndon says, and a measure of the extension's acceptance as such by Texas legislators is the fact that in the office selection process some legislators chose the extension over the capitol. The legislators returning to the 1888 building are moving into rooms restored to their original architectural character. Ford, Powell & Carson, the restoration's designers, subdivided large rooms for offices with glass partitions that rise from custom-designed wood cabinets to the ceilings, thus providing full acoustical privacy without blocking natural light.

Light, in fact, is one of the most important qualities being restored within the capitol. During the period in which Myers designed the building, the available artificial light source was gas. For that reason, explains architect Carolyn Peterson of Ford, Powell & Carson, Myers manipulated and maximized natural light at every opportunity. He provided oversized windows, interior windows, and interior doors with etched glass. Light that entered the colonnade at the base of the dome was transmitted through the glass floor of the rotunda to the basement; in the north wing a skylight filtered light down three stories into the library.

"Natural light had been shut off by all the renovations through the years," says Stanley Graves, the director of architecture for the Texas Historical Commission. "The character of the light in the building is going to be significantly changed compared to the recent past."

Throughout the capitol the spaces deemed historically significant are being painstakingly restored. These include the rotunda, the public corridors, the House and Senate chambers, the two courtrooms, the Treasurer's Office, the Legislative Reference Library, and the original governor's office and reception room. "Every one of the fully restored rooms will be used for the business of the state—not as museum period rooms," says Herndon. "In this way we will be able to tell the story of the capitol as it was originally used, but in the context of today."

When the Goddess of Liberty was removed from the top of the dome, a wad of crumbling papers was found inside the star she had held in her left hand for almost one hundred years.

The meticulously restored courtroom of the Supreme Court, which was reopened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in October, shows how just one room had changed over time. In 1888 the Texas Supreme Court was an itinerant body of three judges who shuttled from Galveston to Tyler to Austin, the state's most populous areas. When holding sessions in Austin the judges lived in apartments provided in the capitol. Because they wore suits instead of robes, no robing anteroom was needed, but spittoons, or gaboons, as they were politely called, *were* required for the tobacco-chewing justices and lawyers.

"This room served as the primary and then the exclusive location of the Supreme Court of Texas for nearly half of its existence," said Chief Justice Tom R. Phillips during the October ceremony. "It saw the court develop the law of the state from the time when we were...recovering from the effects of a lost war to the development of the great railroad industry crisscrossing the state to the discovery of oil and gas and this court's leadership role in developing the law of oil and gas for the United States and, indeed, for the rest of the world."

During the 1930s the Supreme Court, requiring six additional seats for commissioners, had the 1888 bench extended and repositioned from the north end of the room to the south end. When the Court vacated the capitol and moved to a new building in 1959, the bench remained in place. Now, guided by Darlene Marwitz, the State Preservation Board's historian and furnishings project manager who relied extensively on period photographs, the bench has been returned to its smaller size and to its original position. Marwitz supervised the reproduction of objects lost over time, including an unusual two-blade ceiling fan, a pigeonhole filing cabinet, chairs, draperies, and carpeting. The reproduction furnishings bear inconspicuous marks of their date of manufacture.

An unexpected bonus of the restoration was the discovery of original interior wood shutters behind a false wall that had been put up in the 1930s to cover a window in the courtroom of the Supreme Court. Elsewhere in the capitol restoration workers found letters and legal briefs, which had disappeared behind wainscoting and beneath floorboards, and a lady's fan and a pair of women's gloves beneath the floor of the House chamber.

Earlier, when the Goddess of Liberty was removed from the top of the dome, a wad of crumbling papers was found inside the star she had held in her left hand for almost one hundred years. "As it was studied carefully without taking it apart," says Bonnie Campbell, "we realized that what appeared to be a wad of nothing of consequence was rolls of newspaper, business cards, and other items." Conservators at the University of Texas were miraculously able to unfold and flatten most of the articles, which included German newspapers printed in Austin. "We know that a lot of German craftsmen worked on the capitol, so it was an exciting find."

And Miss Bobbie M. Wilcox's buttonhole bouquet and Dr. R. E. Grant's set of false teeth presumably remain well-preserved somewhere down in a capitol cornerstone. ▼