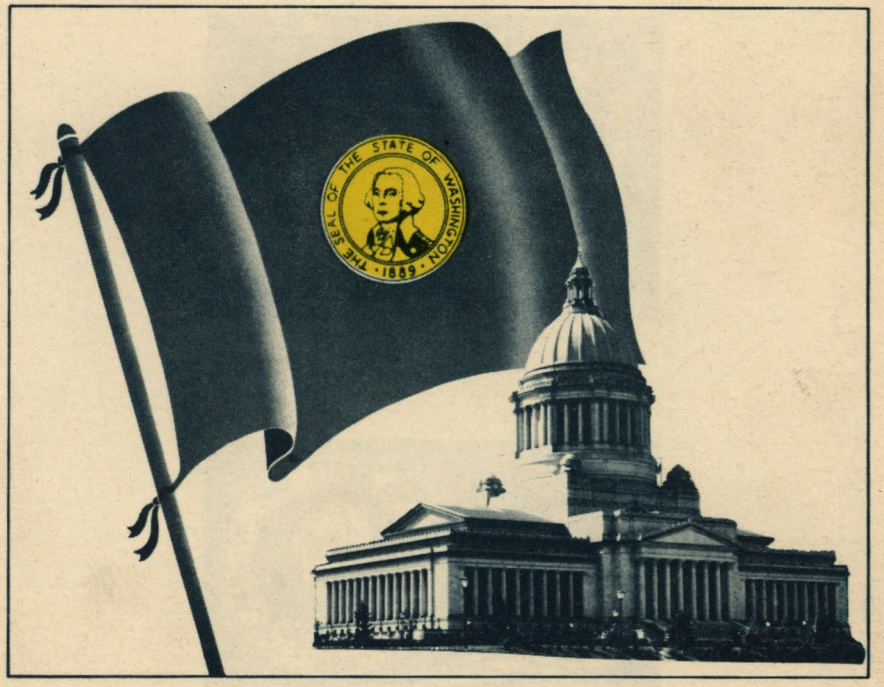
washington

state capitol



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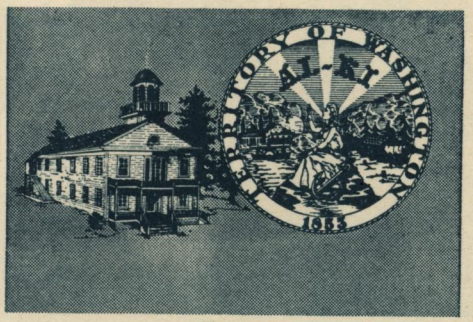
SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON STATE CAPITOL



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EARL COE

Secretary of State

THE STATE CAPITOL GROUP

1. LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
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3. INSURANCE BUILDING
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HISTORY OF THE STATE CAPITOL GROUP

Washington Territory was created by Act of Congress on March 2, 1853 and Governor Isaac I. Stevens arrived in Olympia on November 28 of that year. Stevens designated Olympia as the seat of government and this choice was approved by the first Territorial Legislature which met above the town's Gold Bar resturant early in 1854. Since that time Olympia has always been the capital of both the Territory and the State.

The territorial and state capitol from 1856-1903.

The first capitol was a frame building constructed in 1856 on a 12-acre tract donated by Edmund Sylvester, the founder of Olympia. This building stood on approximately the same spot as the present Legislative Building and served as the territorial and state capitol until 1903, Washington having been admitted to statehood on November 11, 1889.

Definite steps were taken in 1893 toward erecting a permanent Capitol Building, $500,000 being appropriated, and in a nation-wide competition Mr. Ernest Flagg

of New York was selected as the architect. From his drawings, the foundations of the new building were erected, all of a very substantial character and with the exterior faced with Tenino stone. His plans contemplated a building about 250 feet long, 150 feet deep and three stories high, with an attic over a certain portion. Above this was to rise a dome to a height of approximately 150 feet, or about half the height of the present dome. This building was to house all of the State departments, as well as the chambers of the House and Senate,and the Supreme Court. The growth of the state's requirements is shown by the fact that the old capitol building, more than half as large again, was hardly more than adequate for the Executive Offices and the House and Senate. For some reason, presumably to have sunlight on the entrance front, this building was to face directly south and turned its back on the wonderful vista of Puget Sound.

The Legislature of 1895 appropriated $930,000 for the completion of this building but, owing to the financial depression of the period, the warrants could not be sold and no work was undertaken.

The Legislature of 1897 appropriated $500,000, but this was vetoed by Governor Rogers.

In 1899, several removal bills were introduced and defeated and the Legislature of 1901 appropriated $350,-000 for the purchase of the Thurston County Court House and the construction of the necessary additions thereto.

The election of Governor Rogers involved an entire change of policy from that previously pursued by Governor McGraw. Governor Rogers decided to abandon the foundations just completed at a cost of some $90,000 and purchase the Thurston County Court House, between sixth and Seventh Avenues and Washington and Franklin streets. To this a complete new wing was added on the east, the total cost being some $445,000 and this building was in use as the State Capitol from 1903 to 1928.

The legislative home from 1903-1928 still houses many state offices.

The present Legislative Building was completed in 1928.

In 1907, the Legislature provided for the erection of the Governor's mansion by appropriating $35,000 for that purpose. It appears to be the opinion of all that those who planned the building succeeded in giving it a "homey" appearance.

By 1909, the congestion in the Capitol Building had become so serious that steps were taken toward relieving it. The Legislature of that year authorized the completion of the "Flagg plans," but apparently no appropriation was made.

THE GROUP PLAN

In 1911, the Legislature, acting on the suggestion of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, passed an act providing for another country-wide competition for a group scheme of capitol buildings to serve as a guide in future construction, the competition also to include plans for the first unit of the group, namely, the Temple of Justice, for which an appropriation of $300,000 was provided.

Under the terms of this act, the State Capitol Commission consisting of Governor Hay, the Auditor, Commissioner of Public Lands, Tax Commissioner, and three citizens appointed by the Governor, engaged Charles H. Bebb, of Seattle, as their advisor in drawing up a program for the competition and at his suggestion, later, engaged Kirkland K. Cutter, of Spokane, and W. B. Faville, of San Francisco, to act with Mr. Bebb in the judging of the designs. Thirty-seven of these were submitted and in the award, those of Wilder and White, of New York, were selected, not only for the group plan but also for the Temple of Justice.

The problem of the grouping, as it appeared to them, lay in the difficulty of splitting up what would be the usual Capitol Building into six or more parts without so diminishing each part as to make it comparatively in-

significant. To obviate this, the Legislative Building was placed in the center and the other buildings were so grouped around it as to present, from nearly every angle, the same general effect of a very broad base from which an adequate dome could rise, and this plan has been adhered to in all of the work that has been done.

THE TEMPLE OF JUSTICE

The Temple of Justice, because it was to house one of the three co-ordinate branches of the state government, the Supreme Court, as well as the Attorney General's Department and the State Law Library, was designed to be a monumental building, possessing a simple dignity in keeping with the character of the departments housed therein.

It was quickly apparent that the $300,000 appropriated would only partially meet the expense of the construction of the building called for by the plans which had been adopted. The problem was solved by the erection of the building with the exception of the outer facing of stone, which was left to be taken care of by a later session of the legislature. This arrangement

permitted the use of the building by the departments.

During the Legislature of 1913 and that of 1915, two bond issues were authorized against the Capital Grant lands, but in each case the Supreme Court held that the bond issue was unconstitutional in that the credit of the state was involved beyond the constitutional debt limit.

In 1917, an appropriation was made to complete the Temple of Justice and erect the Administration Building on the old foundation, but the outbreak of the war made it inadvisable to do more than place the stone facing on the Temple of Justice.

In providing for this, the first step was to select the stone to be used. It was necessary not only to find suitable stone but to be sure that enough of it could be had to finish the entire group. The Wilkeson Stone, located in Pierce County, satisfied the State Capitol Commission and a survey proved that there was an abundance of it. Numerous compliments have been paid the quality and appearance of this stone by Eastern authorities who assert that, if it were located in the Middle West, it would speedily become popular for building throughout the country.

In 1918, Governor Lister's health failed and upon his death Lieutenant Governor Louis F. Hart became Governor. Under the new Civil and Administrative Code, passed in 1921, the Capitol Commission of seven members was changed to a Capitol Committee, consisting of the Governor, Auditor and Commissioner of Public Lands. This committee authorized the completion of the interiors in the Temple of Justice.

INSURANCE BUILDING

In 1919, the Legislature made an appropriation of $2,500,000 for further building plans. By that time, it had been absolutely necessary to provide more

room for the business offices of the state government for the state was then renting quarters in private buildings. Therefore, the Capitol Committee provided, in 1920, for the erection of a modern office building designed for purely business purposes, in marked contrast with the monumental design of the Temple of Justice and to be known as the Insurance Building.

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

In 1921, the balance of the 1919 appropriation was made available. During the year, plans for the Legislative Building were adopted and the foundations and first floor walls were erected.

In 1923, another appropriation of $2,000,000 was made and a contract awarded for the erection of the superstructure up to the base of the dome. In 1925, the Legislature authorized the erection of the dome and the completion of the interior, and also authorized the State Capitol Committee to issue $4,000,000 of bonds to provide the necessary funds. These bonds are not a general obligation of the state but are secured by the Capitol Land Grant.

The Legislative Building, as it stands, has been the result of constant growth. The original competition program in 1911 called for the Legislative Building to be erected on the old foundations designed by Mr. Flagg in 1894 and, as noted above, these foundations covered an area of only about two-thirds of the size of the present building.

Under Governor Hart, the design of the Legislative Building was taken up in detail and it was felt by the Committee that the small rooms provided for the main Executive Offices would result in considerable loss of dignity. No enlargement was possible without extending beyond the old foundations, so this extension was approved and the Legislative Building lengthened nearly 80 feet and increased 20 feet in width. This, of course,

added proportionately to the cost. The result, however, was much finer and the increased size of the building permitted material increase in the height of the dome. This was approved by the Capitol Committee under Governor Hart and again under Governor Hartley.

As to the building, itself, there are many interesting features. In the first place, the old foundations were all in excellent condition and although the new building has spread out beyond them, a great many of the old walls are used. Some of the old "Progress Photographs" show the old foundations in connection with the new and remind one very strongly of the old Roman ruins.

The great height of the dome, and particularly its weight, involved serious problems. Very few modern domes are of masonry construction throughout and are more or less sham construction of steel covered with stone or copper and the inner dome of plaster on metal lath. The dome of the Legislative Building, however, is honest construction throughout and involved the construction at the footings of a huge reinforced concrete mat 130 feet square on which rest four massive concrete piers. The distribution of the load of these piers over a sufficient area of soil to avoid unequal settlement, was a problem in reinforcement, and the photograph of the reinforcing steel looks like a small forest of undergrowth. Moreover, this concrete mat had to be poured in one continuous operation involving problems, not only in the pouring of the concrete, but in providing adequate supplies of sand, gravel and cement. The piers, themselves, practically 19 feet square with the inside corner cut diagonally, solid except for vent, stair and elevator shafts in the center, and extending from the footings to the spring arches 80 feet above, involved further problems of form work and pouring not found in ordinary construction. At the arches again, more problems in reinforcing arose, for these arches, with curved surfaces between, carry the square form of the piers to the circular form of the dome above.

All the weight of the dome of solid masonry rests on these arches and curved surfaces and to insure the proper distribution on to each of the four piers, necessitated reinforcing steel in so many different directions as to again resemble a forest of saplings, but this time after it had been struck by a Florida hurricane. Here, again, continuous pouring of concrete was essential, complicated by the height above the ground, and the problem of bracing the different forms so that they

The House Chamber

should not give under the tremendous load was not an easy one. The forms for the curved surfaces between the arches or "pendentives" required very accurate construction to constantly changing curves, all of which had to be maintained at the same distance from the center and a slip at any point would have involved trouble almost impossible to correct.

These arches end at the square base of the dome and above this point the problems were much simpler until the dome itself was reached. From this point on, the surfaces were all curved in two directions, presenting

a very intricate problem of stone cutting. A special building was erected by the stone contractor containing a floor which in size and character was equal to a dancing pavilion, and on this floor one-fourth of the dome was laid out full size and the size of each stone determined. A very ingenious arrangement in connection with the "planers" permitted the cutting of these doubly curved stones by a machine and the accuracy was such that practically no fitting was required at the building. Absolute accuracy of setting was essential for each course had to be maintained at the constant circle in order to receive the course above, and to maintain this circular form was difficult with the mass of interior and exterior scaffolding required. Inside the outer dome is a cone shaped construction of steel and concrete, capped by a huge circular concrete slab on which the stone lantern rests. Both this slab and the outer dome were so accurately placed that when the last course of stones of the dome was set there was just one-half inch clearance between them and the concrete slab. This space permitted the lining of both the concrete slab and the top course of stone with heavy sheet lead thoroughly greased and leaves the outer dome free to expand and contract under varying climatic conditions without affecting the lantern.

This lantern was damaged in a severe earthquake on April 13, 1949 and was replaced by a lighter replica in stone and steel.

Surmounting the dome is the stone lantern thirty feet in diameter and forty-seven feet high. It was essential that this should be of as light and graceful a character as possible and its delicate form involved the greatest care, not only in the cutting of the stone but in its erection. As an illustration of the care exercised, it should be noted that when the last stone or finial was placed, Oct. 13, 1926, there was exactly the 3/8 inch projection on all sides called for by the drawings.

Below the cone and forming the ceiling of the rotunda is a solid brick inner dome which rests on an interior row of twenty-four columns at the same level as those on the outside. These columns would have been of solid marble had the marble facing of the rotunda been carried to the top, but are now of plaster surrounding steel columns and are the only point outside of the cone where steel is used in the construction of the dome, except for the steel reinforcement in the concrete.

The Senate Chamber

The construction of the other portions of the building offered no particular problems other than those met with in any monumental building but all of the work is of the highest character of material and workmanship.

On the interior, it was felt that the finish should express the purpose for which the rooms were to be used. With this in view the main entrance vestibule on the north and the main stair hall on the south, as well as the rotunda and public corridors are all finished in Alaska Marble which is of a light gray tone. The Senate and House chambers are also finished in marble for half

their height and here a warmer color was desired. The Formosa marble in the Senate Chamber is quarried in Germany and has a ground varying from almost black to a pearl gray and veined in golden yellow and rose pink. The Escalette marble in the House Chamber comes from France and has a cream ground mottled with a warm yellow and a certain amount of pink and red veining.

The Senate chamber is similar in design to the House with heavy carpets on the floor, tapestry-lined men's and women's lounges and large, comfortable galleries. But soft lighting on the dark reddish gray of the sombre Formosa marble of Germany brings new thrills.

The Reception Room

In the State Reception Room, it was felt that a greater gaiety of effect was justified and here Bresche Violet marble from Italy was used, having a cream ground with violet veining. Chandeliers of Czechoslovakian crystal designed by Tiffany's of New York bring vivid reflections to the marble on the walls. Here figures are easily discernible in the marble, of eagles, an Indian sun worshiper and butterflies. A large seamless

carpet, 25½ x 55½ feet, cushions the teakwood floor.

Up one floor we pause momentarily to view the chamber from the gallery and then enter the tiny elevator which will take us to the perambulatory at the base of the dome. We hold our breath and look down to the seal where we were a short time before, more than 100 feet below.

THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA

After pausing several times to catch our breath, we complete the climb of 149 steps of circular staircase and step out onto the observation tower of the dome. Looking down nearly 275 feet, the people below seem as ants scurrying to and fro, the winding walks take on a pattern and we find the habitual route of the mower stands out in relief on the grass.

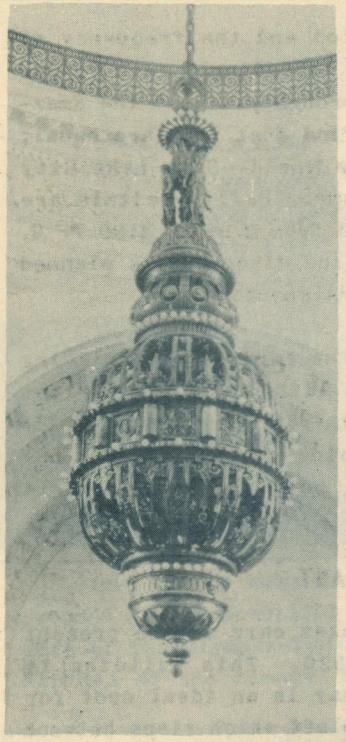
Raising our eyes, we see Mount Rainier towering in the east, not sixty miles away. To the north is Mt. Baker, to the south Mt. St. Helens and to the northwest we see the rugged Olympic Chain over Budd Inlet, the southern end of puget Sound.

ROTUNDA AND CHANDELIER

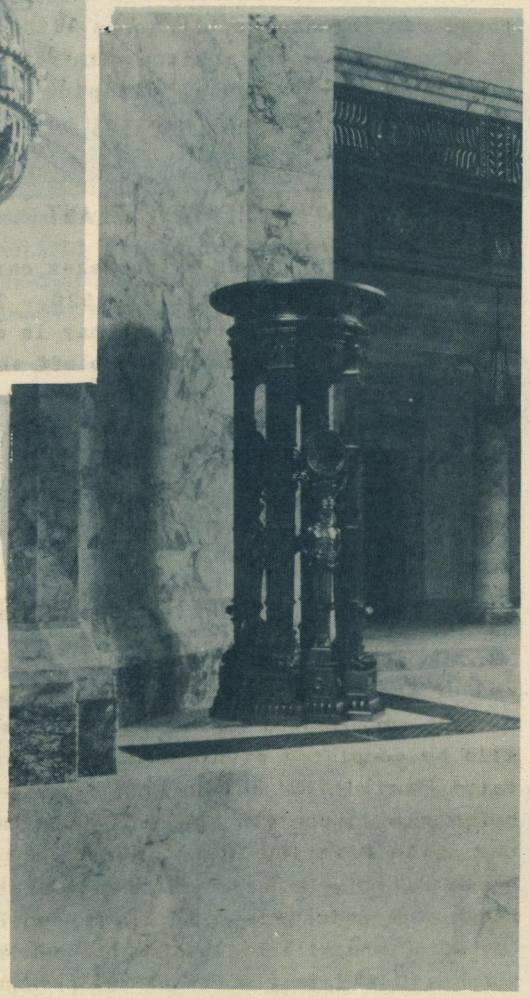
The great five-ton $10,000 bronze chandelier which is so impressive a feature of the spectacular Capitol Rotunda is held in place by a giant chain 101 feet long which itself weighs one-and-one-half tons. The chandelier swings fifty feet above the marble floor directly over a bronze reproduction of the State Seal four feet in diameter embedded in the marble and encircled by a wreath of oak leaves and acorns. At the four corners of the supporting columns of the Rotunda stand tall bronze standards, elaborately carved and fluted, which are exact replicas of the early Roman firepots, the top of each containing a powerful globe for floodlighting the Rotunda at night. Around the four balconies running between the supporting columns of the Rotunda are ornamental bronze railings decorated on each side with three reproductions of the State Seal measuring eighteen inches in diameter.

No ordinary light fixture, the enormous chandelier is a masterpiece of the handiwork of the artists in the Tiffany Studios of New York and the heroic-sized result of their labors fits harmoniously into the tremendous space of the Rotunda. The chandelier itself is eight feet in diameter in the middle portion and twenty-five feet in length, beautifully carved in a number of different designs between the open fret-work. A few feet above the chandelier itself is a cluster of thirty-two lights, while 204 lights encircle the top, middle and bottom portions of the chandelier.

A discovery in acoustics so remarkable that it will undoubtedly result in world-wide fame, was made at the State Capitol during the closing days of the 1945 Legislative Session. Phil Raboin had been playing daily recitals on an electric organ in the State Reception room. On moving the organ out onto the balcony, Raboin found that the rotunda, with its 165-foot dome, is in effect a huge pipe with a sub-audible frequency vibration. There are no resonant peaks and hence no sound interference with any tones or pitches that come from the



Five-ton Rotunda chandelier seen from the fourth floor balcony.



Corner of Rotunda showing one of four large Roman firepots, part of balcony railing and door to Senate Chamber.

organ. The reverberation period and the frequency of the rotunda match, which is an exceedingly rare condition. Sound engineers have thoroughly tested the amazing acoustical properties and find that they are equal, at least, of the finest in the world--Salt Lake City Tabernacle or St. Peters at Rome. Daily recitals are given at 12:30 to 1:30 P. M. and from 2:30 to 4:30 P. M. Sundays. Full exploitation of the discovery is planned as an attraction for music lovers and tourists.

At the north entrance to the Legislative Building three cast bronze double doors with a combined weight of 30 tons greet the visitor with reproductions symbolic of the power, logging, shipping and sheep grazing industries, the first capitol building and an early homestead cabin.

HEATING PLANT

The Heating Plant which takes care of the present entire group was erected in 1920. This building is located at water level on the bay in an ideal spot for it is hidden from sight by the bluff which rises between it and the Capitol Group. A large tunnel brings the heat through pipes to a distributing point on the grounds. The new building which is to be built, in the near future, will be supplied with steam heat and hot water directly from the plant through 6 inch pipes and a 125 pound pressure pump.

NEW OFFICE BUILDING

Construction of a new office building at the north end of the Capitol Grounds will change the appearance of that approach to the campus. The new building, which will be completed within two years, will cost an estimated four million dollars. A four-story structure, the building will contain 175,000 square feet and will house the State Printing Plant, Department of Agriculture, State Patrol, Department of Licenses, Department of Labor and Industries and Employees Retirement. The new structure will be located between Water and Columbia streets immediately north of the present grounds.

One of the most recent additions to the Capitol grounds is the beautiful Tivoli fountain shown here. A gift of the Olympia-Tumwater Foundation, it is an exact replica of the famous Tivoli fountain in Copenhagen, Denmark.

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING DATA

	Feet
Length at terrace level	339
Width at terrace level ends	176
Width at terrace level center	235
Height of main roof above terrace	60
Height of central roof above terrace	90
Height of square base of dome above terrace	102
Height of base of lantern above terrace	231
Height of top of lantern above terrace	278
Height of terrace above grade at north	9
Height of terrace above mean high tide	113
Diameter of base under dome colonnade	110
Diameter of base of dome	80
Diameter of base of lantern	31

Story heights:

1st floor 12 feet 6 inches;
2nd floor 18 feet 0 inches;
3rd floor 18 feet 0 inches and
4th floor 12 feet 0 inches.

Area of garage in basement	22,000 Square ft.
Capacity of garage	125 cars
Length of terrace	411 feet
Length of terrace steps	170 feet

	Cu. Ft.	Pounds
Brick & concrete in dome	150,000	18,000,000
Stone in Dome	80,000	12,800,000
Total weight of dome		30,800,000
Brick in building below dome	250,000	30,000,000
Concrete in building below dome		51,000,000
Stone in building below dome	233,000	37,300,000
Total weight of building below dome		118,300,000
Total weight including dome		149,000,000
Total weight including dome		74,500 tons

Height of top of lantern from grade at north, 287 feet. As compared with other domes: Minnesota, 223; Missouri, 242; Utah, 208; Wisconsin, 238; National Capitol, 307; St Pauls at London, 319 and St. Peter's at Rome, 408 feet.

APPROXIMATE COST OF PRINCIPAL FINISH MATERIALS

Marble	$ 840,000.00
Plastering	187,000.00
Ornamental Iron	45,000.00
Ornamental Bronze	320,000.00
Stone Carving	180,000.00
Interior Wood trim	84,000.00
Rubber tile	65,000.00
Painting	122,000.00
Elevators	96,000.00
Plumbing, Heating & Ventilating	383,000.00
TOTAL COST OF BUILDING	6,791,595.88
COST OF FURNISHINGS	594,172.33
TOTAL	$7,385,768.21

In the Legislative Building are the House and Senate Chambers, Legislative Council, the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, State Patrol, Buildings and Grounds, Department of Budget, Civil Defense and the Cafeteria.

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING

(Thurston County Courthouse)

Purchase, Additions & Furnishings (1901)	$ 503,339.88
Interest on Bonds and Warrants	381,013.14
Remodeling (1940)	199,202.70
TOTAL	$1,083,555.72

The Old Capitol houses the following departments: Agriculture; Education; Vocational Education; State Teachers' Retirement System; Employment Security; Pollution Control and Veterans Rehabilitation Council.

TEMPLE OF JUSTICE

Construction (1919)	$ 942,339.98
Furnishings	62,861.80
TOTAL	$1,005,201.78

In the Temple of Justice we find the Supreme Court, Attorney General's Offices, Law Library, The State Library and Code Revision.

INSURANCE BUILDING

Construction (1921)	$1,032,035.00
Furnishings	51,462.97
TOTAL	$1,083,497.97

The Insurance Building contains the offices of the Insurance Commissioner, Tax Commission and the Public Service Commission.

LABOR & INDUSTRIES BUILDING

Constructed (1934)	$164,417.98
Furnishings	6,999.11
TOTAL	$171,417.09

The entire building is occupied by the Department of Labor and Industries.

PUBLIC LANDS--SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING

Construction (1937)	$783,326.23
Furnishings	47,487.25
TOTAL	$830,813.48

This building contains the offices of the Commissioner of Public Lands, Director of Social Security, Liquor Control Board, Department of Public Institutions (this department includes the divisions of Banking, Purchasing, Savings and Loan Associations, Veterans Loans, and Capitol Buildings and Grounds, as well as the division of Public Institutions).

TRANSPORTATION BUILDING

Construction (1940)	$916,579.87

In the Transportation Building are the offices of Highway Department, Department of Licenses, Department of Conservation and Development (this department includes the Divisions of Forestry, Reclamation, Division of Water Resources, Columbia Basin Commission, Mines and Geology, Flood Control and the Washington State Advertising Commission.

THE STATE CAPITOL MUSEUM

The State Capitol Museum is housed in the C. J. Lord Mansion which was made a part of the Capitol Grounds in 1941.

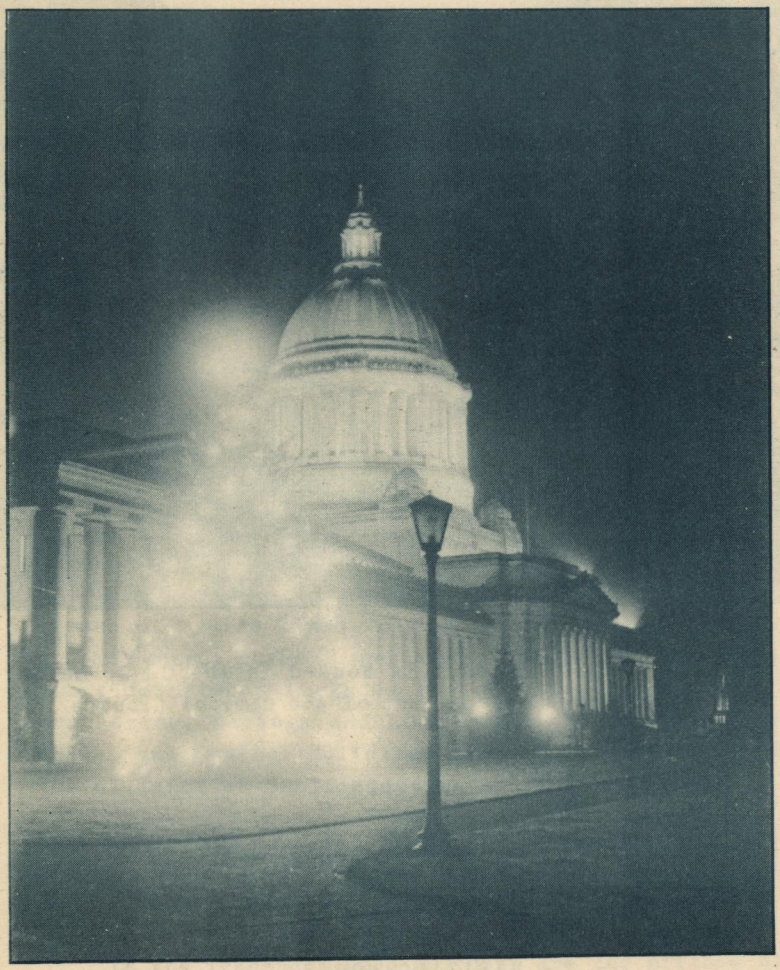
LOCATION

The State Capitol Museum is located at 211 - 21st Ave. West (in the second block west of Capitol Way) 7 blocks directly south of the State Capitol Group.

VISITING HOURS

Everyday except Monday. . . . . .1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

Tours may be arranged for school children and teachers and other special groups.



The Capitol at Night