

Walk with
us through
this

INDIANA'S STATE HOUSE

architectural

treasure—

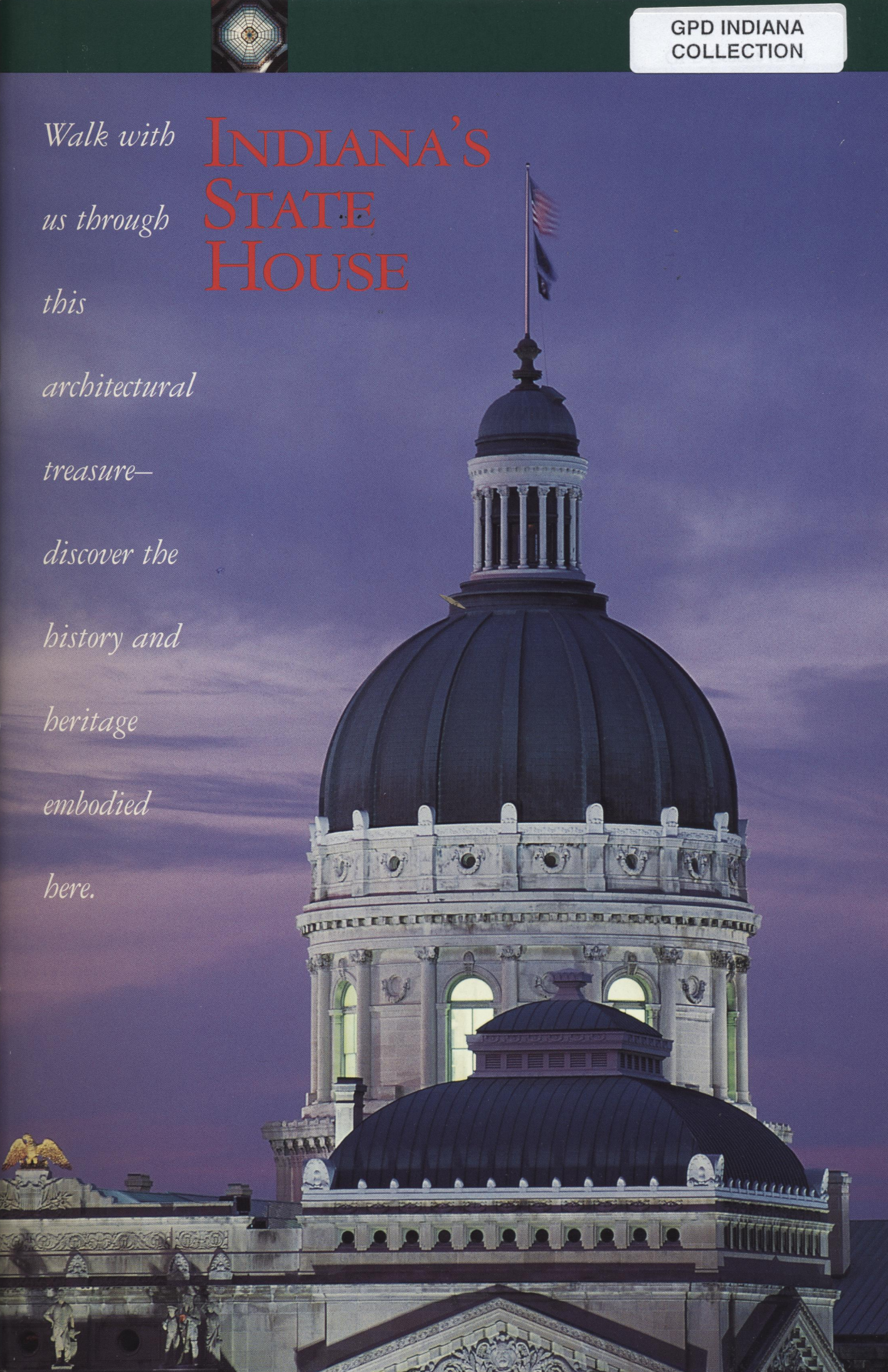
discover the

history and

heritage

embodied

here.



INDIANA'S STATE HOUSE

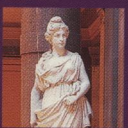
Weintraut & Associates Historians, Incorporated



A CENTER
OF CIVIC LIFE



IN CHARACTER
WITH THE PARTHENON



IN CLEAR
ARRANGEMENT



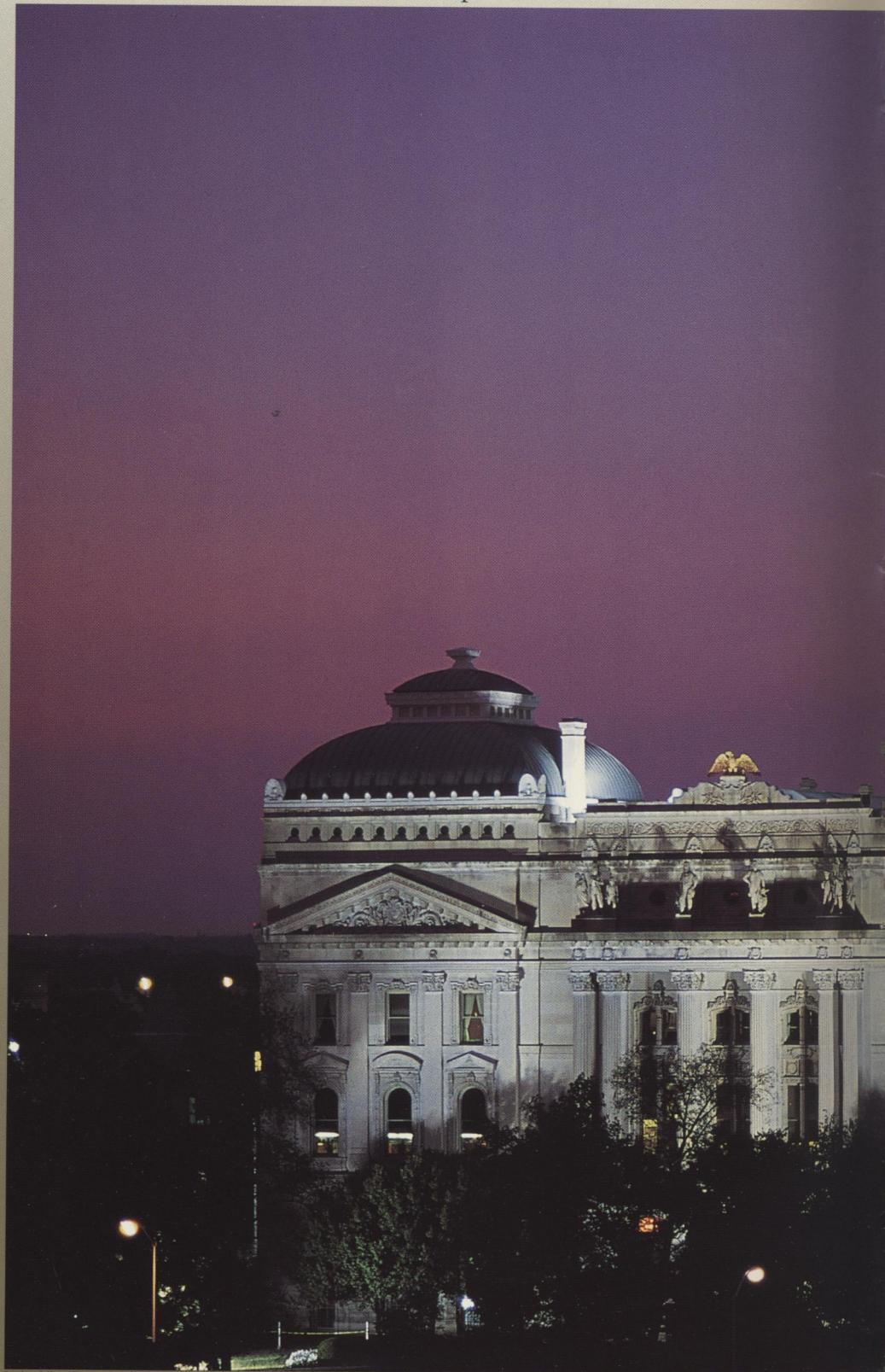
THE FIRST
ONE HUNDRED YEARS



RESTORATION
AT ITS BEST



A SOLID FOUNDATION



Stephen Sellers / Department of Natural Resources Photo

Cover Photo: Stephen Sellers / Department of Natural Resources Photo

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A CENTER OF CIVIC LIFE

ART GLASS DOME
OF ROTUNDA,
STATE HOUSE



Richard Fields / Department of Natural Resources Photo

"GARRISON FLAG,"
ATRIUM OF STATE HOUSE

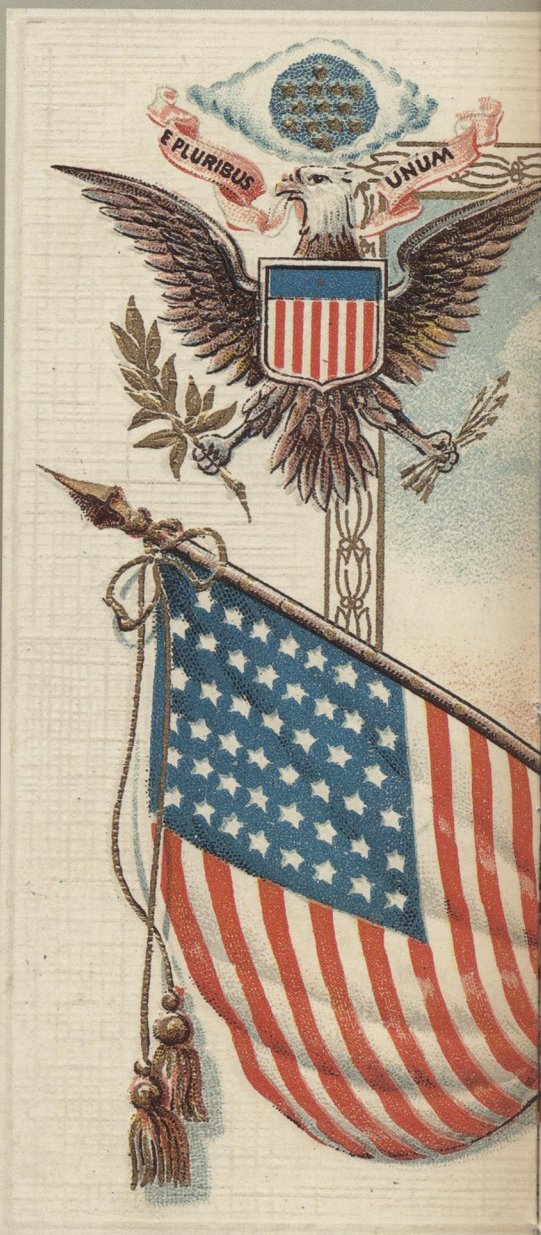


Richard Fields / Department of Natural Resources Photo

Indiana's State House, a building of outstanding architectural beauty, has served as a center of civic life in Indiana since 1888.

Elected and appointed representatives of all three branches of government work at the State House. The governor's office is here. The Indiana General Assembly, our citizen legislature, has chambers here for the Senate and for the House of Representatives. The State Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals are also located in this building. When the State House was constructed in 1888, it housed all the governmental

POSTCARD WHICH COMMEMORATES INDIANA'S
STATEHOOD, EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY



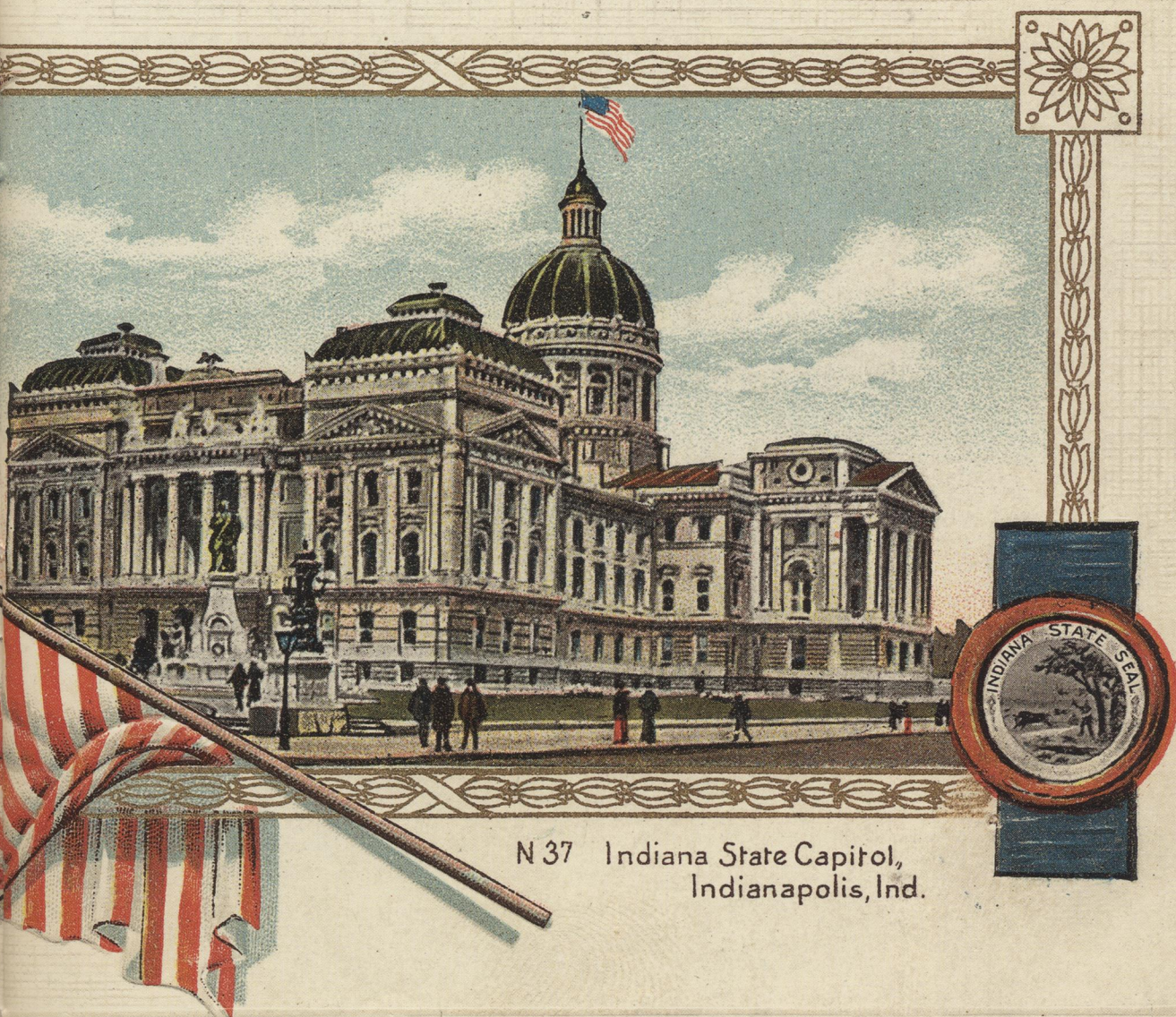
Private Collection

offices. However, as the size of government increased, some offices were moved off-site. Today many governmental offices are located in a complex to the west of the State House.

The State House itself has undergone many alterations since it was built. Some renovations were undertaken in an effort to accommodate the growth of government, others to enable a nineteenth-century building to meet modern needs, and still others for cosmetic reasons. In 1988 the most substantive restoration/renovation returned many of the public areas of the State House to their original Victorian era appearance.

The State House has witnessed many debates affecting the course of Hoosier history. For example, women lobbied here in pursuit of the vote, and labor and racial issues have motivated people to rally here in protest.

This is a place, too, where people come to commemorate individuals and events from our past, as well as to celebrate the present and the future. Indeed, the State House is a symbol not just of government but of the Hoosier State and its people.



N 37 Indiana State Capitol,
Indianapolis, Ind.



1787

*Northwest
Territory formed*

1800

*Indiana
Territory created*

1812

*War of 1812 began;
ended in 1814*

1813

*Territorial government
moved to Corydon*

1816

*First State Constitution
drafted; Indiana
19th state*

1821

*Indianapolis platted as
new capital city*

1825

*Seat of government
officially moved
to Indianapolis*

1835

*First Capitol in
Indianapolis completed*

1851

*Second State
Constitution adopted*

1861

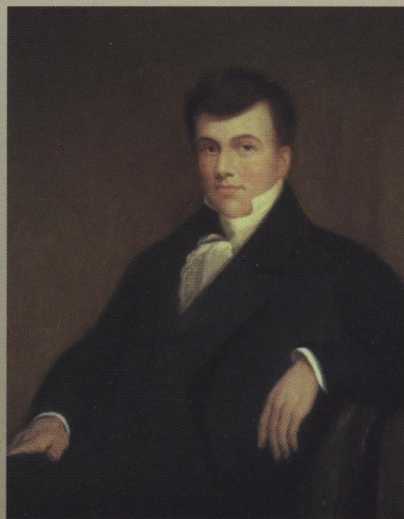
*Civil War began;
ended 1865*

1868

*General Assembly
ratified 14th
Amendment to U.S.
Constitution (drafted
by Stephen Neal, former
member of Indiana
House of
Representatives)*

IN CHARACTER WITH THE PARTHENON

JONATHAN JENNINGS,
FIRST GOVERNOR
OF THE STATE OF INDIANA
(1816-1822)



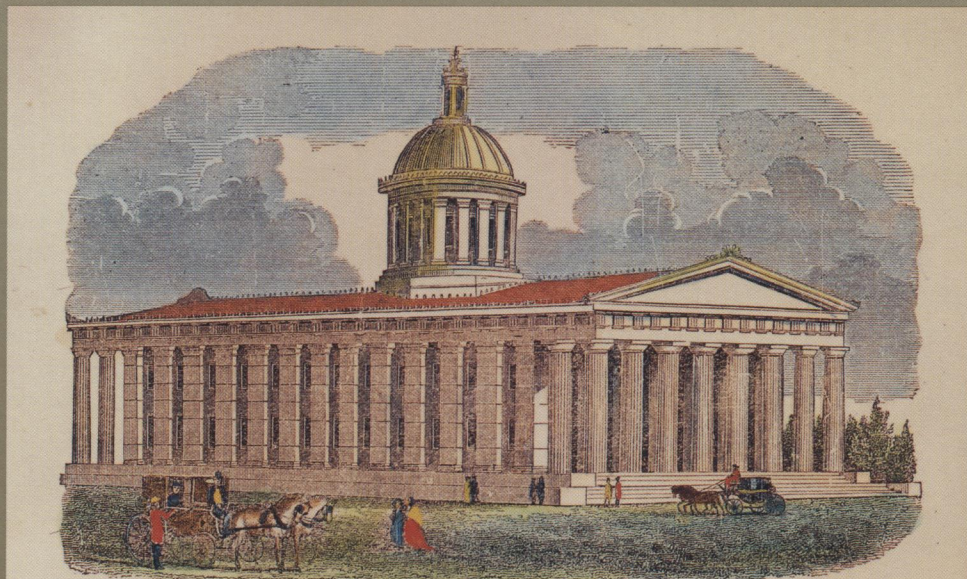
Governors' Portraits Collection, Indiana Historical Bureau

Indiana's governmental roots can be traced back to the territorial era, when simple buildings served as the capitols. In 1813 the assembly for the Indiana Territory petitioned the U.S. Congress to move its capital from Vincennes to Corydon. Corydon then became the state capital when Congress made Indiana a state in 1816. Corydon's statehouse was a two-story building originally constructed to be the Harrison County Courthouse. Its floor was made of flagstones and covered with sawdust. A small tower topped the building, and large fireplaces heated both floors.

The seat of state government officially moved to Indianapolis in 1825, just four years after Alexander Ralston laid out the town. Weeks before, State Treasurer Samuel Merrill had transported state documents and the treasury to the new capital in wagons. That trip, which takes about three hours on modern highways, took Merrill ten days to complete over the rough roads and trails between Corydon and Indianapolis.

The legislature at first rented quarters in the Marion County Courthouse, but by 1831 the General Assembly had authorized construction of a state capitol building. It was funded by the sale of lots within the

FIRST CAPITOL IN INDIANAPOLIS, CIRCA 1840



The Capitol of Indiana, Indianapolis.

Indiana State Library

ten-year-old town, which counted approximately 1,900 residents by then.

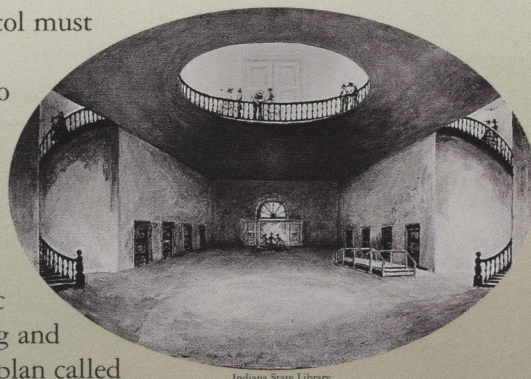
Commissioner James Blake offered a \$150 award for the best plan for the Capitol. The design of New York architects Town and Davis was chosen from the twenty-one entries submitted. Like most of the drawings offered, the design of Town and Davis featured a Greek Revival style. This architectural style had become common in public buildings of the period because a recent political revolution in Greece had reawakened the interest of Americans in their own democratic roots.

The contract between Town and Davis and the General Assembly called for a building that would "correspond in character...with the Parthenon" in Athens. The well-known architects added a dome to their design, which proved to be a somewhat controversial element. It drew praise from some, but criticism from others, including architectural purists who pointed out that the Greeks did not have domed buildings and a disgruntled Hoosier who called it a "Greek temple with a cheese box on top."

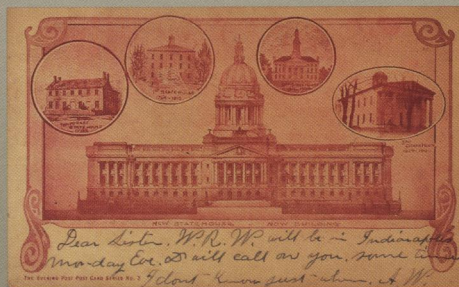
Initially, however, many Hoosiers were pleased with their Capitol, which was completed ahead of schedule. One local newspaper deemed it "truly splendid." And so it must have seemed to many whose town streets were "knee-deep with mud" when it rained, a problem, made doubly troublesome by the fact that Indianapolis did not yet have sidewalks.

The completed Capitol must have shone in that environment. It rose two stories from a foundation of blue limestone, and its brick exterior walls were stuccoed to resemble granite. A zinc roof topped the building and the dome. The interior plan called for offices of the governor and other state officials to be on the first floor. Halls for each of the legislative houses were located on the second floor.

INTERIOR OF THE
CAPITOL IN THE
1840S, PAINTING BY
HOOSIER ARTIST
CHRISTIAN SCHRADER



Indiana State Library



POSTCARD FEATURING
A RENDERING OF THE
STATE HOUSES OF
INDIANA, EARLY
TWENTIETH CENTURY

Indiana State Library

MARKET STREET AND THE CIRCLE
IN 1840 AS SEEN FROM ILLINOIS
STREET, JUST EAST OF THE
CAPITOL, DRAWING BY HOOSIER
ARTIST CHRISTIAN SCHRADER



Indiana State Library



The old Capitol had served its purpose, but it would soon be replaced by a grander and sturdier structure.

The General Assembly charged the state librarian, Nathaniel Bolton, with the care of the Capitol. In addition to his duties of tending to the library, he maintained the fence and gates, trimmed the trees on the property, and mowed the lawn. His wife, Sarah, a poet and advocate of woman's rights, sewed carpets for the building.

Over the next few decades, while the state progressed, the Capitol lost most of its luster. By the end of the Civil War, Greek Revival architecture was out of favor, and the building was drawing increasing criticism for its design. Worse, it had begun to deteriorate. By the 1860s the soft blue limestone foundation was failing, and the stucco was chipping off, causing one local historian to call its appearance "disgusting." In 1867 the ceiling in the Representative Hall collapsed. After an 1873 State House Committee in the General Assembly

failed to find a solution to the structural problems, it was only a few years before the Capitol was condemned and demolished.

By 1877 Indiana had become one of the thirteen most populated states in the U.S., and the population of Indianapolis had grown to nearly 75,000. The capital city had earned the nickname "Crossroads of America" because so many rail lines met at Union Station, just a few blocks south of the Capitol.

The legislature's decision to build a new capitol building was based on practical necessity, but it was also supported by a growing desire among Indiana citizens to be viewed as residents of a progressive, important state. Even before it was demolished, this capitol building had not conveyed that image.

Despite its relatively short life, the first Capitol in Indianapolis

THE CAPITOL BEING
DEMOLISHED, 1877



had been a silent witness to innumerable history-making events. Included among them were the near-bankruptcy of the state in 1839; legislative debates on woman's rights; the beginning of free, public education; and the end of the Whigs and birth of the Republican party. The building had seen the creation of a new State Constitution in 1851 that prohibited the settlement of African Americans in Indiana, and it had held in state the body of the Great Emancipator, Abraham Lincoln. (In 1866 Article 13 of the State Constitution forbidding settlement of African Americans was declared void by the Indiana Supreme Court.)

The Capitol had also provided a meeting space for Hoosiers. For example, in 1859 the members of Christ Church met in the building while their new church was under

construction. The initial session of the Indiana Medical College was held there a decade later.

In 1877 the General Assembly created a commission to supervise the erection of a new capitol building, the present State House. The old Capitol had served its purpose, but it would soon be replaced by a grander and sturdier structure.

11TH INDIANA
REGIMENT TAKING
THE OATH OF LOYALTY
TO THE UNION
AT THE CAPITOL,
FROM *Harper's Weekly*,
JUNE 1861



Indiana State Library

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF
INDIANAPOLIS SHOWING THE
CAPITOL'S DOME, 1854



Indiana Historical Society



1877

Act passed to build new
State House

1879

General Assembly
met in new Marion
County Courthouse

1880

James Sidney Hinton
first African American
elected to Indiana
House of Representatives

1887

First session of General
Assembly in new State
House; President
Grover Cleveland
attended reception in
new building

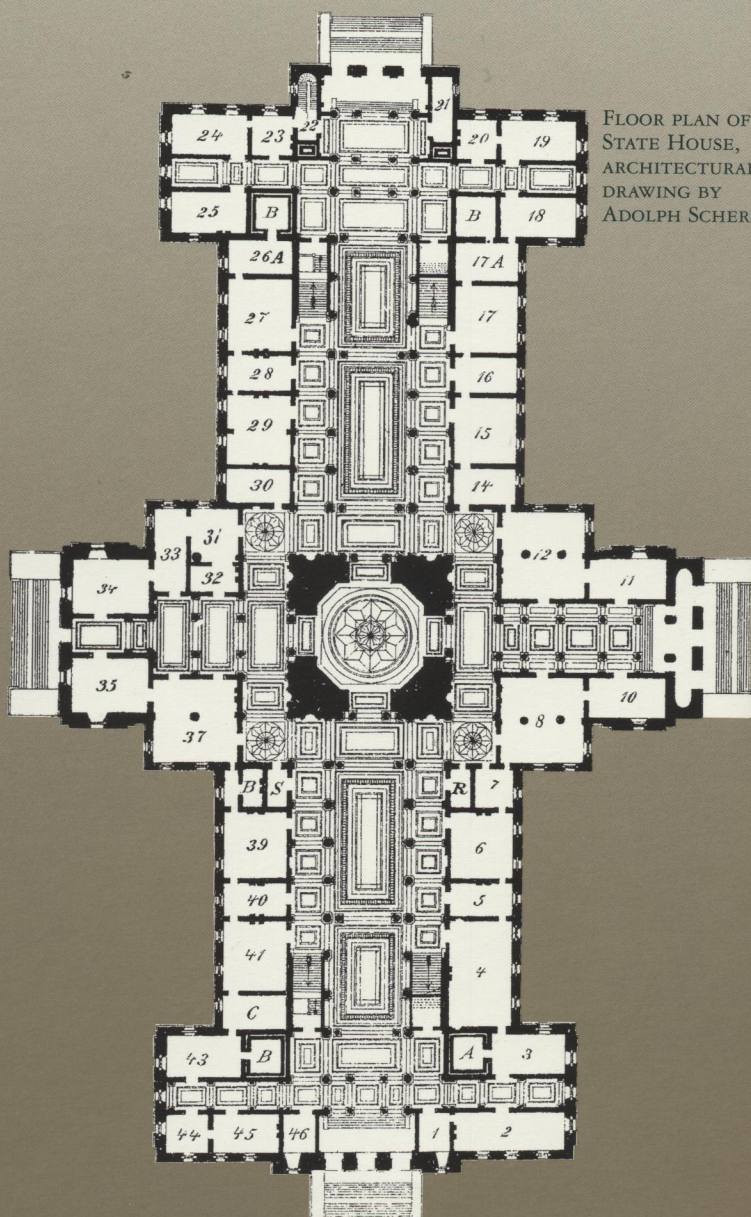
1888

Construction of State
House completed

IN CLEAR ARRANGEMENT

Competition to design the new State House attracted drawings from more than twenty architects. The General Assembly was looking for an impressive public building that would far outlast the first capitol building, both in style and in structural stability. Having learned from the problems of the Capitol, the General Assembly specified that the new building was to stand on a solid foundation.

In 1878 the Board of State House Commissioners selected the submission of Edwin May, an Indianapolis architect, for the state's new capitol building. May estimated that his building would cost \$1,792,911.60; the legislature mandated that construction costs not exceed \$2 million.



FLOOR PLAN OF
STATE HOUSE,
ARCHITECTURAL
DRAWING BY
ADOLPH SCHERRER

May titled his design *Lucidus Ordo*, Latin for "clear arrangement." Shaped like a Greek cross, the structure featured a central dome and rotunda. The main floor was built fourteen feet above ground level, and it held the governor's and other executive and administrative offices. On the second floor, May located the chamber for the House of Representatives on the east, balanced by the Senate chamber on the west. Offices and other rooms surrounded the open atriums, and the Indiana Supreme Court was located in the north end.

The interior was designed in the style of the Italian Renaissance. Whenever possible, the plan called for Indiana materials. For instance, wainscoting, doors, and trim were made of Indiana oak, maple, and walnut.

Skylights provided as much natural light as possible. Atrium skylights brightened the north and south wings. The central feature of the rotunda was a striking art glass inner dome, primarily in blue tones, suspended below a skylight.

The exterior of the building was Corinthian in design. Here, too, the architect used Indiana materials. The walls were constructed of brick, covered with oolitic limestone quarried from Monroe, Lawrence, and Owen counties. The foundation of blue limestone came from quarries near Greensburg and North Vernon.

Workers laid the cornerstone, a ten-ton block of limestone from Spencer, Indiana, on September 28, 1880. Its inscription read simply "AD 1880." Placed within the cornerstone were forty-two different items. They included annual reports from various government agencies; a Bible; forty-seven varieties of cereal and vegetable seeds grown in Indiana,



Indiana State Archives, Commission on Public Records

WASHINGTON STREET
FACADE OF
STATE HOUSE,
ARCHITECTURAL
DRAWING
BY EDWIN MAY

STATE HOUSE UNDER
CONSTRUCTION,
CIRCA 1887



Indiana State Archives, Commission on Public Records



Hoosiers could point to their State House as an example of how a modern state had made a public space both beautiful and practical.

“incased in small glass cylinders, hermetically sealed”; new coins; maps and newspapers; a history of Indianapolis; and pamphlets from various institutions in the city.

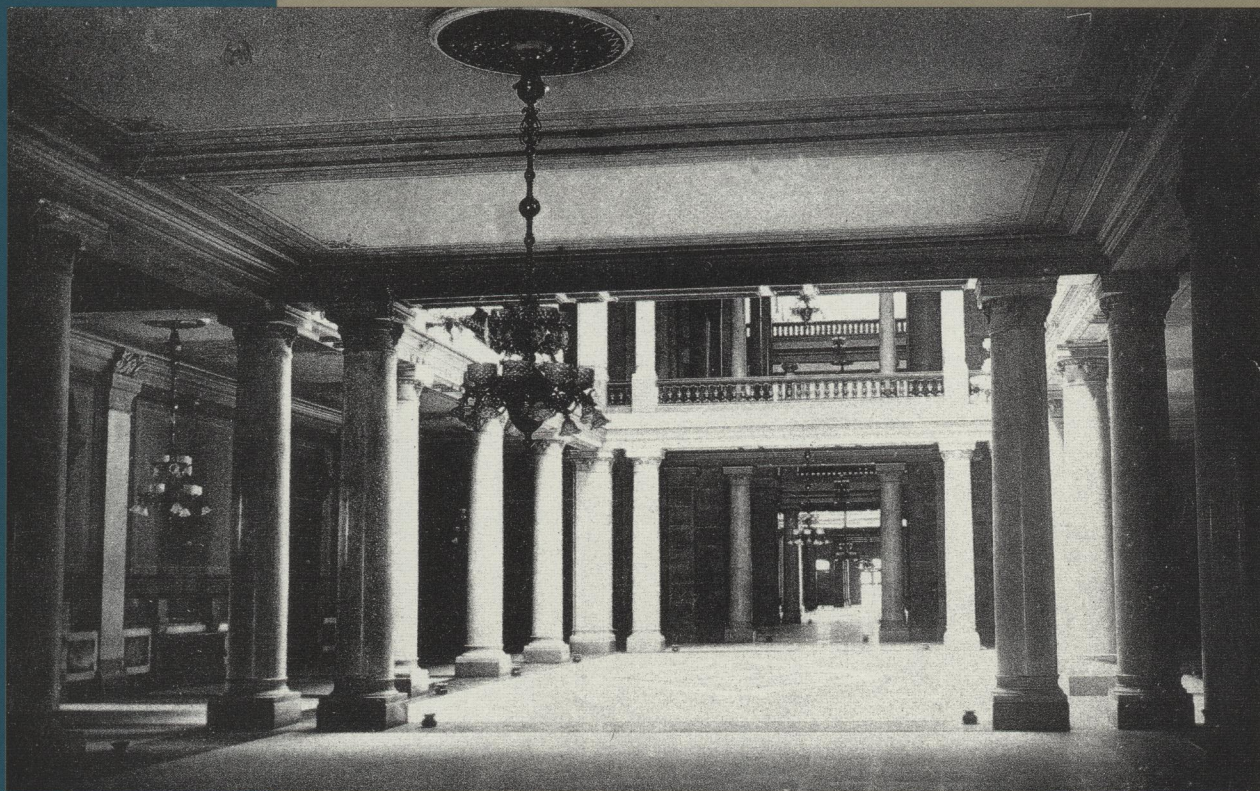
Unfortunately, architect Edwin May did not live to see construction completed on this, his most prestigious project. Having been ill for several years, May died while on a trip to Florida in February 1880. His chief draftsman, Swiss-born architect Adolph Scherrer, took over the project.

Thus, the State House was the product of work by two of the city’s most prolific architects. Between them, May and Scherrer designed many public buildings in Indiana. May’s work included the Women’s Building at Central State Hospital in Indianapolis, as well as courthouses in Fort Wayne, Greensburg, and Shelbyville. Several other structures designed by Scherrer are still standing in Indianapolis, among them the Boulevard Place entrance to Crown Hill Cemetery, the Old Pathology Building at Central State Hospital, and the Independent Turnverein (now the Turnverein Apartments) on Meridian Street.

In the 1880s, construction on the State House was slowed by contractor disputes, lawsuits, and difficulties moving the huge slabs of limestone. Contractors Howard & Denig from Columbus, Ohio, completed the stone construction of the dome in 1883. That year, the contracts for electrical wiring were awarded for the chandeliers and wall sconces. However, Indianapolis’ new electric plant did not yet have sufficient power to bring electricity to the building, so the light fixtures were at first lit with natural gas.

In addition to using Indiana materials in building construction, the contractors and architects employed local artisans as subcontractors whenever possible. Indianapolis boasted a large community of metalworkers, plasterers, and decorative artists in the nineteenth century. Often these people were relatively newly arrived immigrants from Germany, Italy, or Slovenia. The local firm Mueller and Bahl earned \$1,440 for carving the six gables on the building’s exterior; Haugh, Ketcham and Company Ironworks, from which the Indianapolis suburb Haughville took its name, made the original lamp posts around

INTERIOR VIEW OF
FIRST-STORY
CORRIDOR, 1888



Indiana State Library

the building; and Guido Presser and Frank Fertig painted some of the interior frescoes.

Although no women artisans are known to have worked on the construction of the building, an Indiana woman was the model for the statue of Justice, one of eight marble statues located in the rotunda. Alexander Doyle carved the statues "of heroic size" from Italian marble. He gave seven of them classic Roman features. The eighth he modeled from the likeness of the wife of an Indiana judge.

The building was not yet finished when the 1887 legislative session began. The General Assembly held its first meetings in the new State House while it was still a work in progress. The sounds of construction may have distracted lawmakers, but they were likely pleased when the building was finished the following year within budget, at just under \$2 million.

In the near-decade during which the State House was under construction,

Indianapolis underwent many changes. In 1878 the state's first telephone company was organized in the city. By 1880 the population of Indianapolis was 75,056; the first Chinese immigrants (ten men) had arrived, and African Americans constituted 8 percent of the total population. There were 211 miles of streets, paved and unpaved, and 40 miles of those streets were illuminated with gas streetlights.

By 1888 Hoosiers could look with pride on their new State House. Its completion came at an opportune time. In that year Indiana was thrust into the national spotlight with the election of Indianapolis attorney Benjamin Harrison as president of the United States. As counties in Indiana built new courthouses and other states in the Union constructed new capitol buildings, Hoosiers could point to their State House as an example of how a modern state had made a public space both beautiful and practical.

"ART," ONE OF EIGHT STATUES COMMISSIONED FOR THE ROTUNDA, CIRCA 1880S



Indiana State Archives, Commission on Public Records

Washington Street, Indianapolis at Dusk,
A PAINTING BY
THEODORE GROLL,
DEPICTING ACTIVITY
SURROUNDING STATE
HOUSE, CIRCA 1895



Indianapolis Museum of Art, A Gift of a Couple of Old Hoosiers



1890

Statue of Thomas A. Hendricks installed at southeast entrance

1898

Spanish American War began; ended that same year

1907

Bronze statue of Oliver P. Morton and bas-relief bronze plaques placed at Market Street entrance

1913

Woman's Franchise League asked for suffrage amendment

1914

Women's Relief Corps presented a bronze tablet of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in rotunda

1916

Centennial of statehood

1917

U.S. entered World War I; war ended 1918

1920

General Assembly ratified 19th Amendment to U.S. Constitution; Delaware County resident Julia D. Nelson first woman elected to Assembly

THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS

Indiana's State House saw many changes in its first hundred years. An ever changing cast of legislators, office workers, judges, and citizens walked its halls. Indianapolis grew up around the State House, as nearby homes and commercial buildings were replaced by government and office complexes. As the city and the state have changed, so has the State House itself undergone updates and additions.

Shortly after the State House was built, Finnish Baroness Alexandra Grippenberg stopped in Indianapolis during an American tour and marveled at the building. She observed that "in its halls one can meet people of all kinds." She found "small boys with crackers in their hands, men who squirt tobacco juice on the stairs, schoolgirls, tourists, college students, and women dressed in silk." It was clearly a house for all who called themselves Hoosiers.

STATE HOUSE FROM VANTAGE OF THE CIRCLE AFTER THE GOVERNOR'S HOUSE WAS REMOVED, CIRCA 1890



William H. English Collection, Indiana Historical Society, C1924



Bretzman Collection, Indiana Historical Society, CR271

THE GATHERING
TO WITNESS THE
DEDICATION OF THE
STATUE OF CIVIL
WAR GOVERNOR
OLIVER P. MORTON, 1907

It was here that people came to remember Indiana's role in the Civil War, which ended in 1865, long before the State House was built. In the years following that conflict, Indiana established itself as the "home of patriotism." For a while it even served as the national headquarters of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization of Union veterans from the Civil War. In fact, the GAR met several times in Indianapolis.

Later a statue of Indiana's war governor, Oliver P. Morton, was added to the east entrance, along with two plaques honoring Morton's and Indiana's role in saving the Union. Rudolf Schwartz, the sculptor of the Morton statue, also carved the statuary on the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument (1901), the Federal Courthouse (1905), and the public library (1917) along Meridian Street, a movement grew to replace the 1888 State House. Some said that the building was already too small for the offices of state. Others wanted it moved to Meridian Street, where the parades that marked public life in the early twentieth century usually took place.

With the completion of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument (1901), the Federal Courthouse (1905), and the public library (1917) along Meridian Street, a movement grew to replace the 1888 State House. Some said that the building was already too small for the offices of state. Others wanted it moved to Meridian Street, where the parades that marked public life in the early twentieth century usually took place.

Still, in times of extreme distress, when people hoped to capture the attention of the governor or the General Assembly, parades and protests made the State House their focus.

GRAND ARMY OF THE
REPUBLIC'S ENCAMPMENT
WITH REPLICA OF U.S.S.
KEARSARGE ON THE STATE
HOUSE LAWN, 1893



Bass Photo Company Collection, Indiana Historical Society, 17805

POSTCARD OF INDIANA'S STATE HOUSE,
CIRCA 1900





1933

*General Assembly
passed Executive
Reorganization Act;
10,000 farmers
marched in support of
Gross Income Tax*

1940

*Robert Lee Brokenburr
first African
American elected to
Indiana Senate*

1941

*U.S. entered World
War II; war ended
1945*

1950

*Korean War began;
armistice signed 1953*

1952

*Leon Kroll mural
installed in Senate*

1960

*13-story State Office
Building completed*

1964

*Indiana State Museum
to former Indianapolis
City Hall*

For example, 8,000 citizens marched to the State House lawn in 1913 to protest a work stoppage by streetcar drivers and the city's inability to control the violence that had erupted during the strike.

At other times commemorations of a different sort took place at the State House. Just as the old Capitol briefly had held the body of Abraham Lincoln, who spent most of his boyhood in Indiana, Hoosiers came to the State House to pay their final respect to public figures. These included Governor Alvin P. Hovey (1891), President Benjamin Harrison (1901), U.S. Senator

and Vice President Charles Warren Fairbanks (1918), and the beloved Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley (1916). People also honored the sacrifice of private citizens here, including Evansville resident James Bethel Gresham, the first American soldier killed in World War I, whose body lay in the rotunda.

Little of the grand celebration that accompanied the state's centennial in 1916, however, took place at the State House. In most cases these events were held at the state fairgrounds, at parks, or at the Circle. One exception was the ceremony at which the Daughters of the American Revolution presented a



Indiana State Library

fountain and a marker memorializing the Old National Road (today known as U.S. 40 and Washington Street). At the unveiling ceremony, Governor Samuel Ralston praised the women's "high degree of civic virtue."

Across the United States, women with "civic virtue" had sought the right to vote since the 1850s. The Indiana General Assembly had allowed them to use its chambers for suffrage meetings as early as the 1870s, but few victories had been achieved. In 1911 the women of Indiana presented a bust of State Senator Robert Dale Owen to the State House to honor his work on their behalf

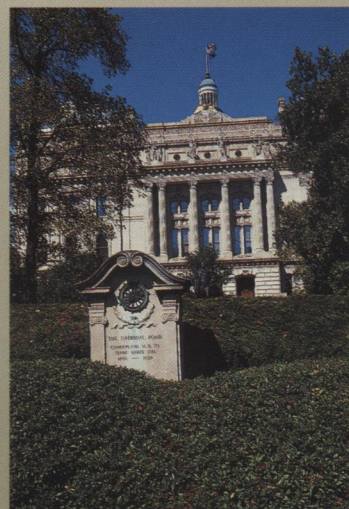
and to draw attention to their ongoing desire for the vote. (Many years later, the bust was stolen from the State House grounds.) Two years after the presentation of the Owen bust, suffragists marched on the State House, but it was 1920 before the General Assembly ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting women the vote.

As the struggle for women's suffrage was making inroads, the United States entered the Great War, as World War I was called at the time. While Indiana women knitted socks and rolled bandages for soldiers, leaders worried about traitors and "subversives."



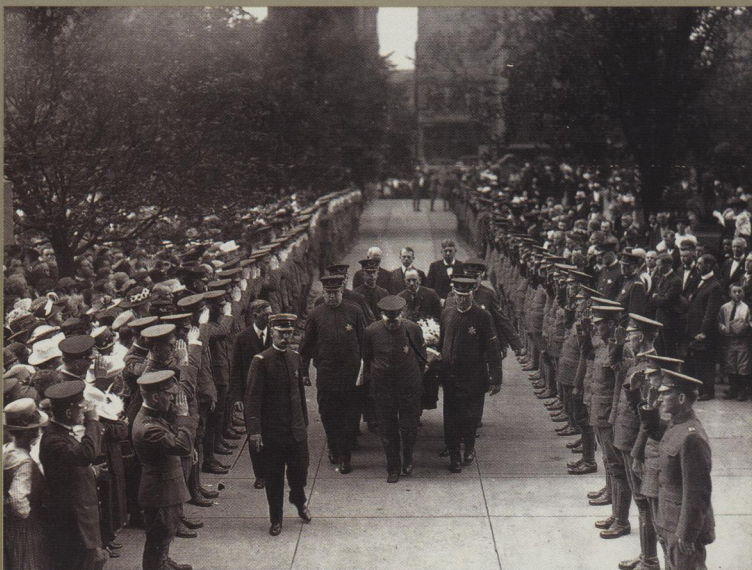
MEN DRAFTED INTO WORLD WAR I, BUT NOT YET ASSIGNED TO A MILITARY INSTALLATION, ON STEPS OF STATE HOUSE FOR A SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER SERVICE, 1918

WASHINGTON STREET FACADE WITH THE NATIONAL ROAD MARKER IN THE FOREGROUND



Stephen Sellers / Department of Natural Resources Photo

BODY OF FORMER VICE PRESIDENT CHARLES WARREN FAIRBANKS BEING CARRIED INTO THE STATE HOUSE WHERE IT LAY IN STATE, JUNE 1918



The Indianapolis Star





1965
*Coal Miner memorial
added to west lawn*

1973
*U.S. and Vietnam
signed "agreement on
ending the war"*

1977
*Women rallied for
doomed Equal
Rights Amendment*

1987
*Statue of George
Washington placed on
south lawn*

MISS MONICA
HOOGLAND, PUBLIC
LIBRARY COMMISSION,
IN OFFICE OF THE
INDIANA STATE
LIBRARY IN THE STATE
HOUSE, CIRCA 1906

From his office in the State House, Governor James P. Goodrich established the "Liberty Guards" in 1917.

Its mission was to maintain order and to watch for anyone who might be working against the war effort.

The crisis of the war finally quieted cries for a new State House, and renovation of the existing structure began. The increasing number of state employees and offices had led to the need for more room, so in 1917 workers converted some of the stable area in the basement to finished space.

Office space was at such a premium that in 1919 the collection of the State Museum, which had occupied a large room on the third floor of the State House, moved to the basement. In the

final stages of the renovation on the building (1917 to 1920), workers repainted walls in "brighter colors" and reworked the original gas and electric chandeliers.

A desire to reform society arose after the war. In addition to the 19th Amendment, in 1919 the Indiana General Assembly ratified the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibited the manufacture, sale, and transportation of intoxicating liquors. Along with others across the country, Indiana's temperance workers believed that Prohibition would make the state safer and more wholesome.

By 1920, the U.S. Census deemed Indiana an urban state. More people now lived in cities than in rural areas, and for the first time fewer than half of

GOVERNOR HENRY F.
SCHRICKE (LEFT) AND
HOOSIER ACTRESS CAROLE
LOMBARD PROMOTING WAR
BONDS, JANUARY 1942



Bass Photo Company Collection, Indiana Historical Society



Indiana State Library

all Hoosiers counted farming as their principal occupation. Automobiles became a common sight. Northwest of the State House, jazz music resounded on Indiana Avenue. Flappers danced the night away.

The patriotic feelings born during the war continued into the 1920s. The recent Russian revolution and changes in society had evoked fear that Bolsheviks or anarchists were plotting an overthrow of the government. In a show of loyalty, Italian Americans presented a bust of Christopher Columbus to the state.

While cries of patriotism rang in the air, scandal tainted the state's highest office. Governor Warren T. McCray was convicted of mail fraud in 1924 and

forced to resign. That same year, citizens elected an advocate of clean government, better schools, and lower taxes, Edward Jackson, as governor. Jackson, a member of the Ku Klux Klan, was indicted but not convicted of bribery in 1928.

The decade-long Great Depression saw few changes to the State House. Early in the decade, in 1931, the building had its first exterior steam cleaning. Three years later, the Indiana State Library, the Indiana Historical Bureau, and the Indiana Historical Society moved to a new building across Senate Avenue, freeing up space for a growing state government.

THE CHAPEL'S ART GLASS WINDOW WITH THE STATE BIRD, A CARDINAL, AND A SYMBOL OF PEACE, A DOVE



Richard Fields / Department of Natural Resources Photo



PAUL V. McNUTT (1933-1937)
WHO SOME AT THE TIME CALLED
"THE NATION'S MOST POWERFUL
GOVERNOR"



STATE HOUSE FROM
MONUMENT CIRCLE,
CIRCA 1950



Indiana's State House saw many changes in its first hundred years.... Indianapolis grew up around the State House, as nearby homes and commercial buildings were replaced by government and office complexes.

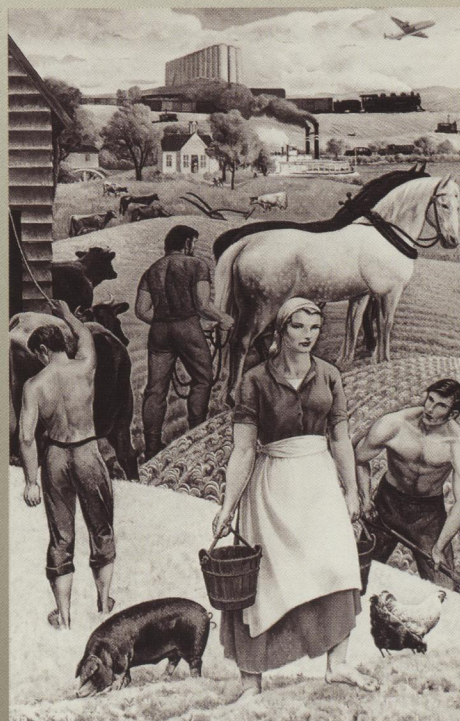
The troubled times of the Great Depression spurred reform in state government. Governor Paul V. McNutt envisioned government as "a great instrument of progress." From his office in the State House, he reorganized state government and strengthened the power of the governor. A similar feat had been attempted by Governor Thomas R. Marshall in 1911 with his so-called "Marshall Constitution," which the Indiana Supreme Court found unconstitutional in 1912.

With the General Assembly, McNutt was able to pass legislation providing funds for public relief and welfare as well as an income tax act. It has been said that no governor since the Civil War's Morton has had as much of an impact on state government as McNutt.

Henry F. Schricker, Indiana's only non-consecutive two-term elected governor, led the state during World War II, a time of rationing, blackouts, and fire drills. To coordinate civil defense, Schricker and the General Assembly established the Indiana State Council of Defense and worked with federal agencies to boost war production in Hoosier factories and to raise money for the war effort through bond drives.

During and after World War II, the General Assembly began to examine racial discrimination. Robert Lee Brokenburr, the first African American elected to the State Senate, helped draw attention to racial injustices. As a result, the General Assembly passed landmark legislation, including a 1947 anti-lynching law and a 1949 act that gradually eliminated segregation in

AGRICULTURAL PANEL OF MURAL PAINTED BY LEON KROLL



Leon Kroll, Indiana Historical Society, C8305

STATE GOVERNMENT CENTER, VIEW FROM THE SOUTHEAST, 1999



Stephen Sellers / Department of Natural Resources Photo

public schools—years before *Brown v. The Board of Education of Topeka*, a 1954 landmark case in national history.

Indiana entered a period of prosperity with the war's end. Hoosiers, like the rest of the nation, rushed to purchase new cars, appliances, and homes. Historic architecture was not greatly appreciated in a society focused on the future.

As a result, the State House experienced “modernization” in the late 1940s, when workers removed the original oak doors on the north and east sides of the building and replaced them with new glass entry doors. Considered dated, the 1919 wall sconces were replaced with the popular new fluorescent fixtures.

In the next few years, the architectural firms of Walter Scholer and Associates of Lafayette and Miller and Yeager of Terre Haute redesigned the House and Senate chambers to create additional office space. In the process workmen removed the original granite columns, wooden balconies, and ornamental plaster ceilings in the chambers and installed up-to-date

electric voting boards. The renovations were not always popular. “Hoosier lawmakers walk on plush carpets [and] relax in deep seated armchairs (\$84 each),” complained one local paper.

While newspapers criticized extravagance, they also drew attention to the fact that the State House needed renovation. Over the next few years, the last of the stables in the basement were converted into office space, and workers painted the Supreme Court walls.

In 1952 came one of the more controversial changes to the State House. New York artist Leon Kroll painted a mural for the Senate chamber in three panels depicting scenes of Indiana. In an era of strong anti-Communist feelings, one legislator charged that the artist belonged to twenty-two Communist organizations. Another thought that the “people in the farm picture look like Bolsheviks.” The Legislative Advisory Committee refused to bow to the paranoia of the moment, and the mural remained in place until a 1970s remodeling.

MURAL BY EUGENE F. SAVAGE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES





By the 1980s its age was showing, but the State House remained a sturdy, dynamic edifice. It would soon receive a facelift that would restore it to its earliest grandeur.

Beyond the problem with the Kroll mural, Hoosiers felt that their State House looked faded and was not up to the standard of other statehouses. "Indiana's Capitol Dome Mars Planned Skyline" ran a headline in one newspaper in 1958. Soot from area factories covered the dome, which was also "marred by rifle shots," perhaps some of which were the work of Judge James Emmert.

Emmert, who at times lived in his office at the State House when the Supreme Court was in session rather than make the round-trip to his home in Shelbyville, practiced his marksmanship on the pigeons that flocked around the building. One clerk recalled the judge sitting in a third-floor window in the late 1940s, picking off offending birds. Another remembered seeing him shuffling along the corridors of the State House at night in his bathrobe.

It is hard to imagine such informality, especially as government grew in power and prestige in the 1960s. A new State Office Building opened, freeing up space in the State House. A pedestrian tunnel provided access to the new building from the State House and the State Library building. In 1964 the Indiana State Museum finally moved out of its basement quarters into the former Indianapolis City Hall at Alabama and Ohio streets.

Although the late 1960s and the early 1970s were times of turmoil, with race riots and Vietnam War protests nationwide, only a few such activities took place in Indiana. This era did see a change in the way the General Assembly operated. Indiana's part-time legislature has always been composed of citizen legislators, who work at other jobs when the Assembly is not in

PROTEST OF PROPOSED TAX HIKES, 1963



Photograph from Matthew E. Welsh, *View from the State House* (1981)

session. Since the pioneer era, the Assembly had met every other year, but in 1971 it began meeting annually. The demands of government had become too great.

These were also years of rebuilding and change at the State House. The Chapel, which had been dedicated by Governor Matthew Welsh in 1964, was moved to the building's fourth floor, in part to halt its use as a legislative meeting room. Workers again remodeled the House and Senate chambers, and Covington, Indiana, artist Eugene F. Savage painted a mural for the House of Representatives. Unlike the mural added to the Senate a decade earlier, this work of art evoked no controversy.

The bicentennial of the nation in 1976 increased feelings of patriotism and interest in history. By then, Indiana had seen many historic structures torn down, and citizens who mourned their

passage began to work to save the buildings that remained. In 1975 the Indiana Department of Natural Resources nominated the State House for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Three years later, workers re clad the capitol dome in copper. In 1984 the art glass inner dome suspended over the rotunda was cleaned and repaired. These relatively modest renovations set the stage for a major restoration to come.

The Indiana State House saw many physical changes on its grounds and within its walls in its first hundred years. It provided a setting for discussions on such issues as the role of labor, civil rights, women's rights, and more. Through it all, the building itself stood as a changing but constant sentinel. By the 1980s its age was showing, but the State House remained a sturdy, dynamic edifice. It would soon receive a facelift that would restore it to its earliest grandeur.

STATUE OF GEORGE
WASHINGTON,
SOUTH LAWN



Stephen Sellers / Department of
Natural Resources Photo

ROTUNDA, 2000



Richard Fields / Department of Natural Resources Photo

1988

*Restoration of State House completed;
Washington Street
Parking facility built*

1991

*Indiana Government
Center South dedicated;
Senate Avenue Parking
facility built*

1999

*Indiana State Museum
groundbreaking*

2000

*Constitutions of
1816 and 1851
displayed in rotunda;
Millennial Celebration*

2005

*Bicentennial of Indiana
Territory General
Assembly's first meeting*

2016

*Bicentennial
of statehood*

RESTORATION AT ITS BEST

DETAIL OF REPLICATED
LIGHT FIXTURE



Richard Fields / Department of Natural Resources Photo

One hundred years after its completion, Indiana's State House underwent a major renovation/restoration which was part of the statewide "Hoosier Celebration 88" announced by Governor Robert D. Orr at his inauguration. The restoration at the State House was one of the most visible elements of this yearlong celebration, which in itself renewed interest in historic architecture in many communities across the state.

It was apparent that the State House had suffered decades of "benign neglect." Dirt and destructive cleaning processes had marred the exterior. Layers of paint on the interior and renovation projects of limited scope had obscured much of the original elegance. Even the magnificent dome

ATRIUM AFTER RESTORATION



Richard Fields / Department of Natural Resources Photo

leaked. The hundredth anniversary of the building proved to be the perfect time for a facelift.

A thorough cleanup of the stonework was required both inside and out. Marble and granite columns, pilasters, and capitals in the interior were cleaned and polished to a rich luster. Details of the eight Carrara marble statues in the rotunda became visible for the first time in many years during this cleaning.

Woodwork was stripped and repaired, and the finish was restored. Glass entry doors were replaced with reproductions of the original oak doors. Modern-day artisans reproduced handcrafted door moldings and other decorative elements.

A Victorian aura returned to the rotunda and atriums. Three layers of paint—the last applied in 1958 by prison labor—hid original stenciling. Indianapolis artisans spent months on the painstaking restoration. In recreating the original details, one of the architects later noted that “more than four acres of plaster needed to be hand stenciled.”

Lighting, too, drew upon the past. The fourth floor still had its original chandeliers; from these, new ones were recreated for the other floors. None of the original sconces remained in the building, but one was found in Indianapolis. The restorers replicated it and mounted the copies where the originals had once hung.

RESTORING GILDING ON
BALUSTERS, 1988



Indiana State Archives, Commission on Public Records

SPIRAL STAIRCASE LEADING TO THE
LANTERN ATOP THE DOME OF THE
STATE HOUSE
(PUBLIC TOURS NOT AVAILABLE)



Richard Fields / Department of Natural Resources Photo

Attention to detail allowed the restoration/renovation to recapture much of the original nineteenth-century ambience.

The massive art glass interior dome, a hallmark of the State House, received repairs. To ensure that light filtered evenly through the dome to the floor of the rotunda more than 100 feet below, workers painted the interior surface of the outer dome with highly reflective white epoxy paint and added artificial light behind the glass. As a result, the colors of the interior dome glow richly even on cloudy days.

The work on the State House drew praise, especially for the architectural firm the Cooler Group. According to the juror of one award, "This is restoration at its best. It glows. The vitality of the materials has been brought back." Attention to detail allowed the restoration/renovation to recapture much of the original nineteenth-century ambience.

An equally important goal, however, was to make the building functional for the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Technological improvements, such as computerization of the lighting systems, were central to the plan. Modern informational and security systems were designed to harmonize with the building's historic character. Yet even in such an up-to-date environment, it is still one worker's full-time job to change light bulbs in the building.

While many of the public areas were involved in the restoration, other areas remained virtually untouched. The governor's office is one such room.

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



Richard Fields / Department of Natural Resources Photo

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



Richard Fields / Department of Natural Resources Photo

Another is the Indiana Supreme Court courtroom, which still looks much as it did in the nineteenth century. It escaped the “modernization” that destroyed details in other parts of the building. When the carpet became worn in 1984, an exact copy was ordered to maintain the historic character of the courtroom.

The chambers of the General Assembly were not restored to their Victorian character. In order for Indiana’s General Assembly to continue meeting in the State House, its offices and chambers had been remodeled in the 1960s and 1970s to meet the demands of a functioning legislature. Offices installed around the periphery of the chambers allowed for more efficient use of space. New seating and lighting

were added to both the House and the Senate at that time to ensure that these rooms served the lawmakers’ needs.

Indiana’s State House remains a place of civic activity. Though many supporting offices have moved off-site, all three branches of government continue to work here. In the 1990s, the State Government Center grew to include two new parking garages and a new five-story state office building. The State House no longer contains *all* of the functions of government, as it did in 1888, but it serves as the working anchor for a 49.5-acre governmental campus.

INDIANA APPELLATE COURT



Richard Fields / Department of Natural Resources Photo

INDIANA SUPREME COURT



Richard Fields / Department of Natural Resources Photo

The revitalized State House has proved to be an engaging public space for civic life.

The revitalized State House has proved to be an engaging public space for civic life. Our representatives take the oath of office in its chambers. Solemn words resonate through the building as Indiana State Police and Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officers are sworn in. Businesses receive Half-Century and Century Awards for longtime contributions to the state's commercial life, and farm families are recognized here with Hoosier Homestead Awards for their role in perpetuating Indiana's agricultural heritage.

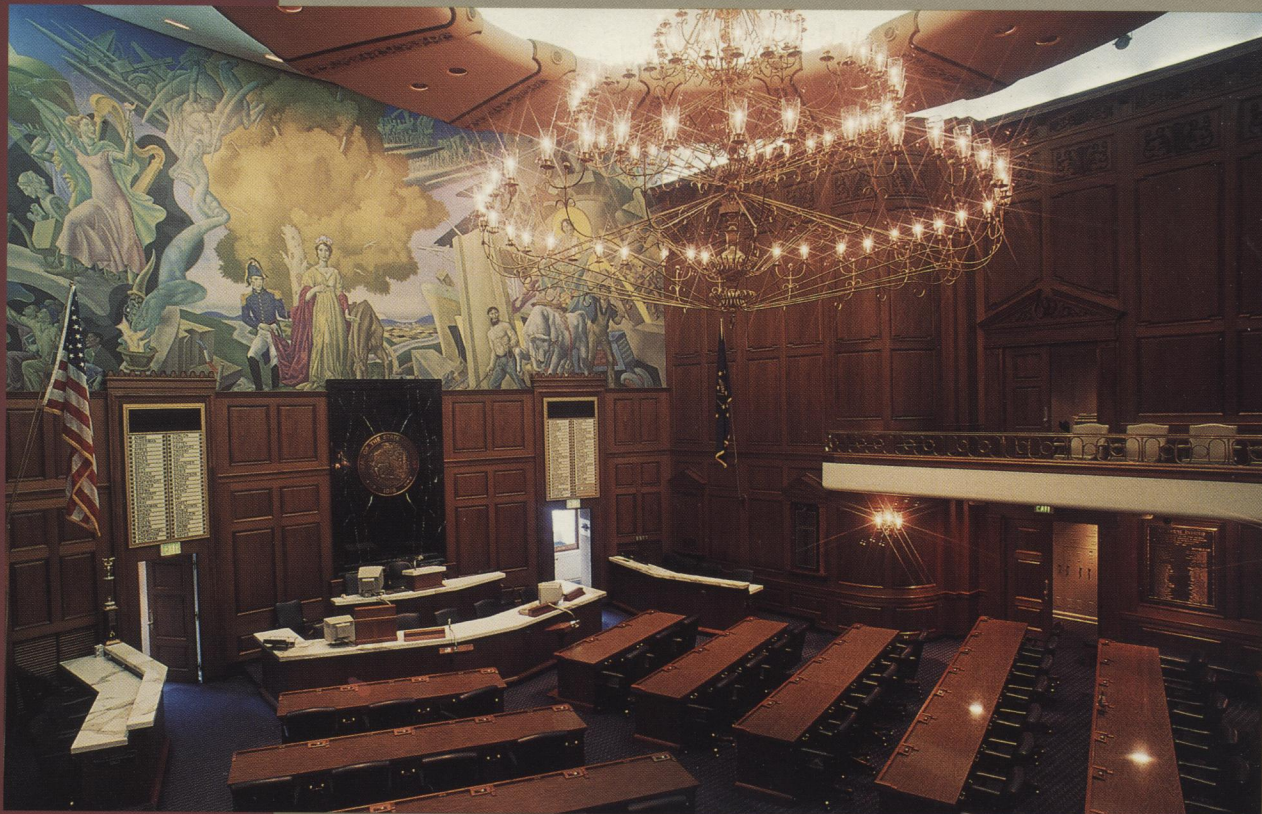
People gather at the State House to express their views on a variety of subjects, from capital punishment to the environment to the economy. Indeed, a few members of the Ku Klux Klan brought an uncomfortable memory to the fore with State House demonstrations in the 1990s. And, reminiscent of an earlier era, thousands gathered for a labor rally in 1995 at the State House.

CHAMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1917



Indiana State Library

CHAMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AS RECONFIGURED FOR MODERN NEEDS, 2000



Richard Fields / Department of Natural Resources Photo



SENATE CHAMBER, 1925

Indiana State Library



SENATE CHAMBER AS
RECONFIGURED FOR
MODERN NEEDS, 2000

Richard Fields / Department of Natural Resources Photo

This is a twenty-first-century working office building with the history and restored grandeur of a nineteenth-century public space.

The State House also provides an appealing site for other kinds of activities. Music from symphonies and choral groups swells through the rotunda and atriums during concerts. Children hang ornaments from branches of the state's holiday tree in the rotunda, and couples joyfully take their wedding vows here.

The State House has yielded its share of mysteries. As in many old buildings, rumors of ghosts haunting its halls arise in October as Halloween nears. Treasures have been unearthed,

including an old brass cannon and models of monuments found in the basement in 1905, and the seven bars of silver found locked in an old safe in 1995. Discoveries such as these contribute to the lore of the State House.

With all of the activities occurring here, it is easy to see that this is a site where both the past and the present unfold. This is a twenty-first-century working office building with the history and restored grandeur of a nineteenth-century public space.

CITIZENS GATHER FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR STATEWIDE RALLY- HEALTH AGENDA BEYOND 2000, ATRIUM



Richard Fields / Department of Natural Resources Photo

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY, 2000



Richard Fields / Department of Natural Resources Photo

SEVENTH GRADERS FROM THE GEORGE ROGERS CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL IN WHITING AT STATE HOUSE, 2000



Richard Fields / Department of Natural Resources Photo

PUBLIC CEREMONY, MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY, 2000



A SOLID FOUNDATION

*Ordinary people
come here to
express their
opinions about
government.
Here we exercise
our rights and
duties as citizens.*

LOTUS DICKEY HOMETOWN MUSIC & ARTS
REUNION, SUNSET ON THE MILLENNIUM,
DECEMBER 31, 1999

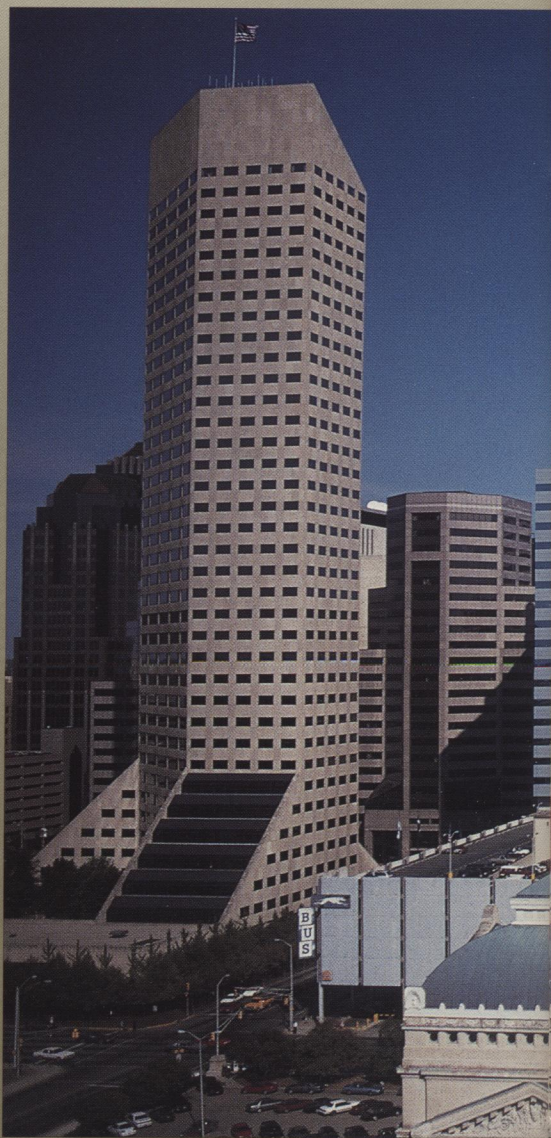


Richard Fields / Department of Natural Resources Photo

Legislators specified a solid foundation of Indiana limestone for Indiana's State House. Since 1888 it has proved to be a fitting move, for this is a building where much of the history of Hoosiers and of the State of Indiana has happened.

Voices have been heard here locked in political debate over wars, taxes, women's rights, and civil rights. Governors have led the state from here, citizen legislators have passed laws here that have affected every Hoosier's life, and judges have ruled here on the constitutionality of those laws. Ordinary people come here to express their opinions about government. Here we exercise our rights and duties as citizens.

The building's outstanding architectural beauty has drawn people for cultural and celebratory events also.



John Maxwell / Department of Natural Resources Photo

Its walls have heard the rustling of long silk dresses and jogging suits and echoed with the swells of music during concerts. Its grounds have seen the burst of fireworks in the night sky.

We come to the State House to commemorate the past. Here we place statues and plaques—as well as plant trees—to honor people who have influenced our public life. Here we mourn the passing of our public figures and remember the efforts of ordinary citizens.

This is the house of the citizens of Indiana. It is a building rich in experiences of the commonplace and the uncommon, of ordinary and extraordinary people. History has been made and the future looms at our State House, for it embodies what Indiana has been and will be. Indiana's State House has a rock-solid foundation.



John Maxwell / Department of Natural Resources Photo

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY,
SUNSET ON THE MILLENNIUM,
DECEMBER 31, 1999

INDIANAPOLIS SKYLINE FROM THE WEST, 1992

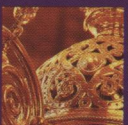
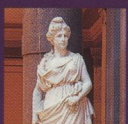




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Indiana Department of Natural Resources



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1816

*First State Constitution
drafted; Indiana
became 19th state
in Union*



INDIANA'S STATE HOUSE

1851

*Second State
Constitution adopted*



This is the house of the citizens of

Indiana. It is a building rich in

1888

*Construction of present
State House completed*



experiences of the commonplace

and the uncommon, of ordinary

1917

*First major renovation
of State House begun*



and extraordinary people. History

has been made and the future

1988

*State House restored to
its Victorian grandeur*



looms at our State House, for it

embodies what Indiana has been

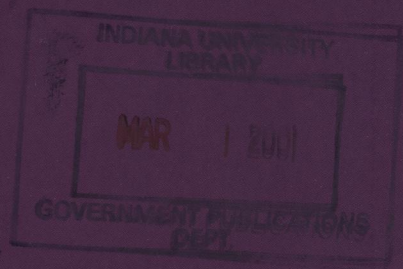
2016

*Bicentennial of
Indiana's statehood*



and will be. Indiana's State House

has a rock-solid foundation.



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