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**The Indiana
State Capitol Building:
A Centennial Restoration,
1888-1988.**

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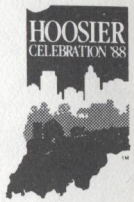
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Hoosier Celebration '88



The Indiana State House Centennial Celebration, September 2-3, 1988, is the centerpiece of Hoosier Celebration '88.

First announced by Governor Bob Orr in his 1985 inaugural address, Hoosier Celebration '88 was conceived as a way to focus attention on our proud heritage while at the same time encouraging long-term planning for economic and community development.

Hoosier Celebration '88 is a community-based program. More than 340 Indiana cities and towns have chosen to take part in Hoosier Celebration '88. Each of these communities plans and carries out its own projects at the local level, rediscovering its rich heritage, planning for future opportunities, and inviting all of America "back home again" to Indiana to witness first-hand the progress we've made and the steps we've taken to insure our future will be bright.

The State House renovation reflects the overall goals of Hoosier Celebration '88. The improvements in the State House itself are part of a larger project to update the structures that house Indiana state government and bring about improved and more efficient service to the people of Indiana.

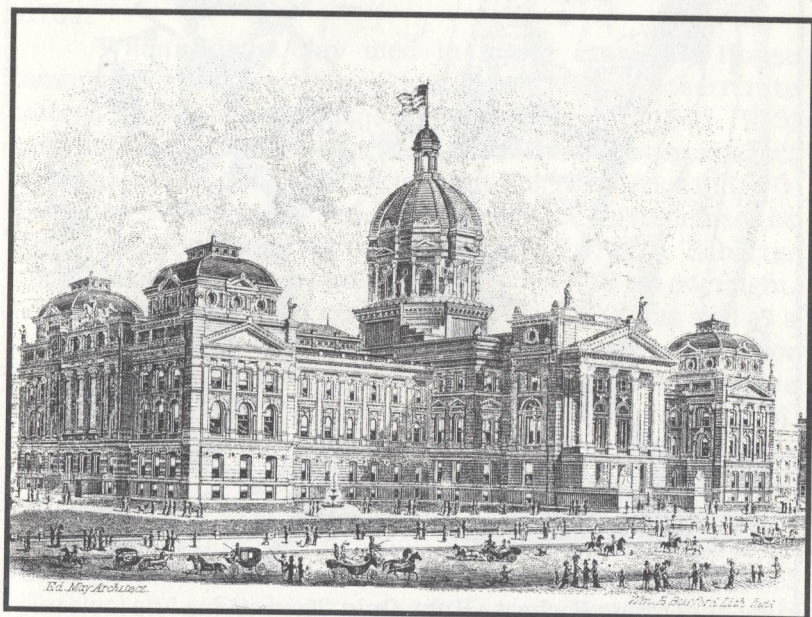
While the State House is certainly better prepared to meet the challenges of tomorrow as a result of the renovation, care has been taken to preserve and highlight the structure's historical and architectural significance as well. This premier historic landmark has been returned to its original Victorian splendor. It represents one of the more noteworthy historic preservation efforts in America.

Although Hoosier Celebration '88 concludes at the end of 1988, the energy, enthusiasm, and cooperative spirit that has been the driving force behind Hoosier Celebration '88 can be expected to continue for years to come. Hoosier Celebration '88 projects, such as the State House renovation and countless others in hundreds of communities all across Indiana, will serve as testimony to the efforts Hoosiers put forth to insure our state's continued growth and progress

A Brief History

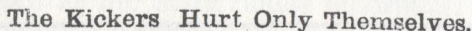
The present State House is Indiana's fourth Capitol building.

The territorial Capitol at Vincennes, which served from 1800 until 1813, is today a State Historic Site, as is the second Capitol at Corydon, which was used from 1813 until 1824, when the state capital was moved to Indianapolis. For the next eleven years, Indiana had no formal seat of government; the state offices were scattered about the new city in a host of various houses and storefronts, and sessions of the General Assembly were held in the Marion County Courthouse. A new Capitol building was finally authorized in 1832 and completed in 1835. This was a Greek Revival style building designed by the New York architects Town and Davis, who were then the most prominent designers in America. The third State House was modeled upon the Parthenon but was surmounted by a central



The Frontispiece of Proceedings at the Laying of the Corner-Stone
of the New Capitol of Indiana,
on the 28th day of September, 1880, at the City of Indianapolis.

In 1867, the ceiling of the House chamber collapsed. The damage was repaired, but the incident led to the creation of a special legislative body, the New State House Committee, in 1873. After four years of studying the project, a Board of State House Commissioners was created in 1877 and given the task of completing a new Capitol at a cost not to exceed \$2 million.



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The State House Commissioners initially studied four designs that had previously been submitted, but none was considered feasible within the budget, and an open competition was held in 1877 to select a new design. From the two dozen schemes that were submitted, a plan dubbed "Lucidus Ordo" (Latin for "a clear arrangement") and prepared by architect Edwin May of Indianapolis was selected.

Edwin May (1824-1880) was a native of Boston who came to Madison, Indiana, in 1840. Two years later, May joined his father's carpentry business in Indianapolis before striking out on his own as an architect in 1850. May built much of his career around the design of public buildings. In 1858 he designed the Northern Indiana Prison at Michigan City; he also designed the Hospital for the Insane at Indianapolis (1878), as well as county courthouses in Decatur (1853), Allen (1862), Knox (1873), and Hamilton (1878) counties. May obtained patents on a type of iron cell construction he used in several jail designs, as well as on a type of fireproof lath which was used in the Marion County Courthouse designed by one of his chief rivals, Isaac Hodgson, in 1869. May also designed a series of new ward schools which were built in Indianapolis in the late 1870s.

When Edwin May died in 1880, the State House Commissioners named May's draftsman, Adolph Scherrer, to succeed him as supervising architect. Scherrer (1848-1925) was a native of St. Gall, Switzerland, who trained as an architect in Vienna and Budapest before immigrating to America in 1870. After short stays in New York and Chicago, Scherrer joined the large German community at Indianapolis in 1873. Scherrer was to become an important Indiana architect in his own right. He designed the Tipton County Courthouse (1893) as well as a number of Indianapolis landmarks, including the Maennerchor Building (1906), the Meridian Street Turnverein (1907), and the main gates and waiting station of Crown Hill Cemetery (1885).

The design of the new Capitol as finalized in 1878 is an example of the Renaissance Revival style. As is true of most state capitols built after the Civil War, the building's general outline was influenced by that of the national Capitol at Washington, D.C. This includes such features as the choice of a classical style of architecture and use of a cruciform plan with a central domed rotunda. May's design differed from the general type by its placement of the two legislative chambers on

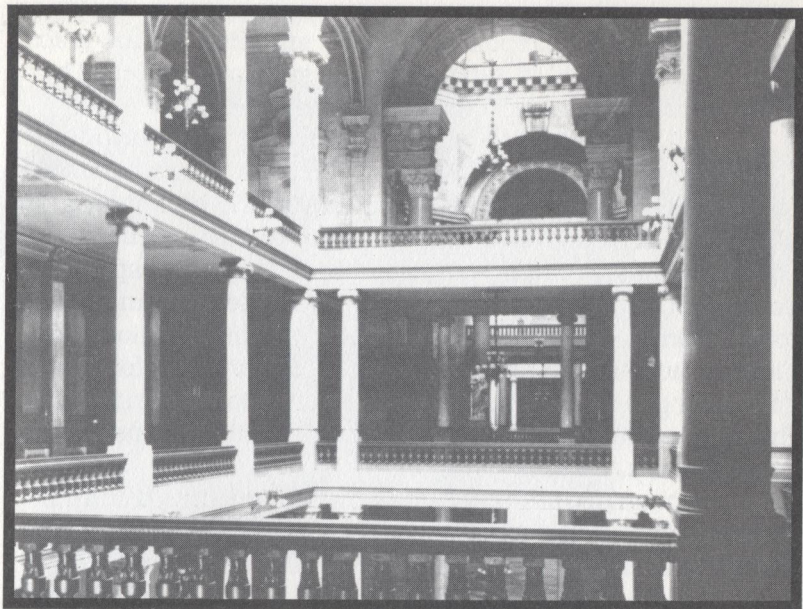
either side of the rotunda, rather than at opposite ends of the building; those locations were reserved for the Supreme Court chamber and the State Library. In keeping with the French influence popular in the mid-nineteenth century, the corners of the building were treated as small convex-roofed pavilions, and the architectural details of both the exterior and interior were the stylized classical motifs of the Neo-Greco style. Indiana's new Capitol was the largest, most ambitiously planned state house built in America up to that time.

Bids for construction of the new Capitol were opened on August 15, 1878, and a contract was awarded to Kanmacher and Denig of Chicago. Actual work began in October of that same year.

On September 28, 1880, formal ceremonies were held for the laying of the cornerstone, a ten-ton block of Spencer, Indiana, limestone simply inscribed "A.D. 1880." Former Governor Thomas Hendricks gave the principal address, and poet Sarah Bolton read an ode dedicated to the new Capitol. After further remarks by the commissioners and Governor James Williams, a metal box containing a selection of historical memorabilia was deposited in the cornerstone, which was then set in place.

By 1881, the foundation and the walls of the first floor had been completed; by the end of 1882, the walls had been built to the sills of the fourth floor windows. Although work was proceeding, a number of controversies swirled about the project. In 1879, architect Elijah Myers of Detroit filed suit against the commissioners, claiming that features of his design had been incorporated into the final version of May's scheme; a number of other local architects, who had also entered the competition, conducted a "media campaign" in support of Myers' suit, which was dismissed by a federal appeals court for lack of evidence. At the same time, a number of contractors who had unsuccessfully bid on the work questioned the qualifications of the contractor and the quality of materials selected. These questions led to a full investigation by a bipartisan committee of the House of Representatives, which concluded, after receiving 1,060 pages of testimony, that all allegations were groundless.

Having surmounted these obstacles, the project did suffer one real setback in 1883, when George Henry Kanmacher and Rush S. Denig, the general contractors, lost the support of



Corridor, third floor, 1897.
Courtesy Bass Photo Collection, Indiana Historical Society.

William Howard, a Chicago financier. The State House Commissioners subsequently declared the contract abandoned and solicited new bids for the project. Work was renewed in September, 1883, after the new contractors, Elias F. Gobel and Columbus Cummings of Chicago, had been selected. During 1884 the remaining walls were completed; the building was enclosed with the construction of the roof in 1885; and the last stone was set on the dome July 3, 1886.

During 1886, the interior of the new Capitol became the focus of construction work. Although they were still restrained by the statutory limit on the cost of the project, State House Commissioners actually found that they could make the interior of the building more lavish than originally planned. A number of changes were then made in the selection of materials to be used in the project. Columns and pilasters originally specified to be made variously of limestone and cast iron were changed to marble shafts with limestone and granite caps and bases; Polychrome marble replaced both the ceramic tile selected earlier as flooring and the oak originally intended to be used as corridor wainscoting; stair treads also were changed from limestone to marble. An elaborate paneled oak wainscot-

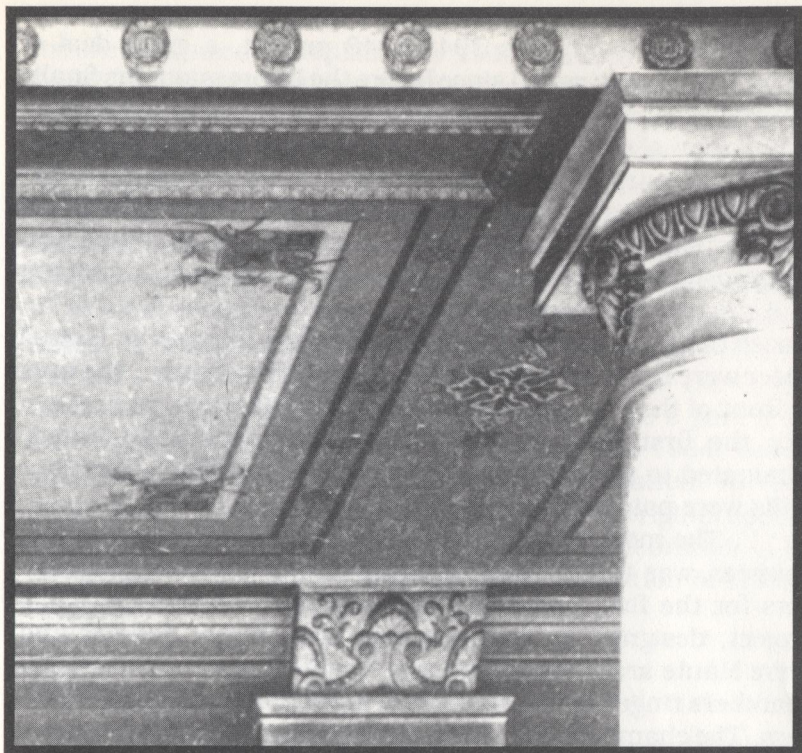
ing replaced the baseboards initially specified for the offices. These changes totaled \$253,958.55, a sum later matched by an additional appropriation for furnishing the building.

All of this finery was first seen by the public on January 6, 1887, when the General Assembly held its premier session in the new State House. Although work was still underway in the office areas, House and Senate chambers, the rotunda, and corridors and atriums were then complete. Newspaper accounts of the event were universally favorable. One anonymous letter from a disgruntled architect, published alongside a glowing account in the Indianapolis *Sentinel*, unfortunately gave later generations the opposite impression, when it became the only period description preserved in files of the Indiana State Library, Indiana Division.

Construction work on the Capitol continued until September, 1888, when grading and seeding of the grounds were completed. The State House Commissioners' final acts were issuance of a summary of their work and the official closing of their accounts on October 2, 1888. No ceremony is known to have marked this occasion, apparently because so much of the building had come into use by that time.

The Capitol appears to have remained largely intact until 1904, when its first major refurbishing was begun. At that time, the wallpainting designs were redone in oil, to remedy darkening of the original watercolors used on the walls. Much of the woodwork was refinished, and in 1906, the gilding was renewed on the lantern of the dome.

The growth of state government led to crowded conditions in the Capitol by 1909, when additions to the north and south ends of the building were proposed. Although this scheme was not adopted, major remodeling was undertaken between 1917 and 1920 during the administration of Governor James Goodrich. In a project supervised by Indianapolis architect Herbert Foltz, additional office space was provided by conversion of the stables on the first floor into finished space. This nineteenth century parking garage had been entered by a carriage ramp at the base of the north steps. Access to the first floor was improved by addition of new interior stairways at the east entrance, a new stairway on the southeast corner of the second floor, and new exterior doors located beside the original exterior steps. New electric chandeliers replaced all of the original combination gas/electric fixtures on the second floor,



Detail of repainting of original designs on second floor, 1905.
Courtesy Bass Photo Collection, Indiana Historical Society.

in the Governor's Office, and in the Senate and House chambers. Original openwork elevators were replaced with enclosed cabs. But the greatest change in the appearance of the Capitol was produced by repainting the original wallpainting with a restrained Neoclassical style scheme featuring subdued shades of green, buff, and yellow highlighted with red and blue. These new designs were later painted out in a 1928-1929 renovation, but the Goodrich project proved to be the last major improvement of the State House until after World War II.

The outside of the Capitol received its first cleaning in 1931, when steam was used to remove a black coat of soot presumably caused by the widespread burning of coal and the advent of the automobile.

By the post-World War II era, Victorian architecture had plummeted to its lowest popularity. This attitude led to a second major remodeling of the Capitol by the Ralph Gates

administration. In this 1945-1948 project, a great deal of maintenance postponed since before the Depression was finally completed, and the building's electrical wiring was updated by installation of wire channels on the corridor walls. Aluminum and glass entry doors were installed at all second floor entrances, and the original monumental oak doors on the north and east sides of the building were removed. Original cast iron lamp posts were removed from limestone bases on the retaining wall around the Capitol grounds, and florescent fixtures replaced the 1919 sconces on the east portico. Coolers for bottled water were replaced with electric drinking fountains. The area in front of the east steps was lowered to eliminate steps down into the first floor entrances; the west steps were largely eliminated to provide a new access to the first floor. Corridor walls were painted a neutral pastel color.

The most vivid change in the character of the Capitol, however, was the remodeling of the House and Senate chambers for the first time since the original construction. This project, designed by Lafayette architect Walter Scholar and Terre Haute architects Miller and Yeager, constructed smaller chambers ringed by legislative offices within the original chambers. The chambers were decorated in a restrained Neoclassical version of Art Deco style that included paneled wainscotings surmounted by murals.

In 1958 corridors were painted in the turquoise blue-sunflower yellow scheme still seen in 1987. Not until the Matthew Welsh administration, however, were any significant further changes made in the State House. In 1964 the exterior of the building was sandblasted, and the dome was painted with gold epoxy, which was slightly more costly than gilding but was judged to be more permanent. The parking lot established on the north lawn by the Gates administration was enlarged, and fifty spotlights were installed on the grounds to illuminate the building. The Governor's office was remodeled to eliminate the "loan office decor" installed around 1950.

In 1966, the House chamber was once again remodeled, this time by replacing the blond oak wainscoting installed in 1948 with walnut paneling. The Senate followed suit with a colonial-style remodeling in 1974.

In 1968, a number of original corridor chandeliers, which had been cleaned and rewired in 1958, were removed and replaced with modern fixtures on the third floor; the same type

fixture was used to replace the 1917 fixtures on the second floor. The sconce fixtures on the spandrels of the atriums on either side of the rotunda were removed at the same time.

In the wake of the American Revolution Bicentennial in 1976, tastes began to change. One aspect of a renewed interest in America's heritage since that time has been a new appreciation of the need to preserve and restore historic buildings. The architectural riches of the Victorian era have been rediscovered.

In the Capitol, this new trend found its first expression in the 1975 restoration of the Lieutenant Governor's office by Indiana's present First Lady, Josie Orr. In 1978, the Capitol dome was given its first new copper cladding as a part of the building's first major roofing replacement. In 1984, the art glass dome of the rotunda was cleaned and repaired. In 1986, planning of a major re-creation of the Capitol's original appearance began as a prelude to the centennial celebration of the completion of the State House as the culmination of Hoosier Celebration '88.

Publication Credits

Information and documentation provided by:

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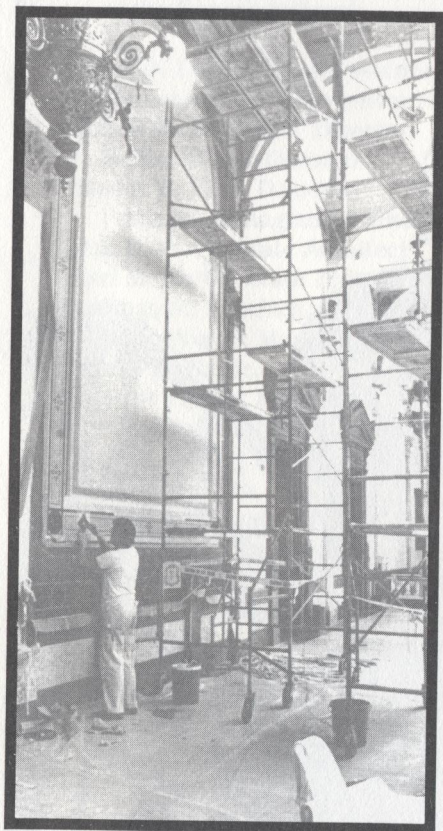
Some Restoration Statistics



The only original wall sconce located served as the model for replication.

- Approximately 4 acres of plaster walls and ceilings stripped, painted, and decorated with the original 1886 designs, equivalent to 3.6 football fields.
- Approximately 1,500 gallons of paint to recreate the original 1886 designs and refinish the area above the rotunda.
- 125,000 leaves (6 inch by 6 inch) of Dutch metal "composite gold" leaf used for gilding the skylight, ballustrades, and plaster details, equivalent to approximately .75 acre.
- Repair of damaged plaster throughout public spaces.
- Approximately 124,500 square feet interior marble and limestone cleaned, equivalent to 3.4 acres.
- Approximately 4.25 acres of Indiana limestone cleaned on the exterior of the building, equivalent to 4 football fields.
- 31.5 miles of mortar joints cut and repointed on the exterior limestone.
- 2,920 two foot square pieces of marble floor, approximately 1.1 miles in length, were removed and relayed for the installation of new electrical wiring.
- Approximately 45,000 board feet of white oak used in wood work and rehabilitation of doors, equivalent to 85 average trees, including
 - 4 sets of original white oak monumental entrance doors restored;
 - 4 sets of white oak monumental entrance doors replicated, incorporating approximately 975 board feet of oak;

- 188 ornamented white oak doors stripped, rehabilitated, and refinished;
- 26 original ornamented white oak doors replicated;
- 4 new white oak building directories;
- 1 new white oak guard station;
- 3 new white oak and glass vestibules.
- Restoration and replication of monumental entrance door hardware.
- Red bronze door and window hardware, along with the wainscot rosettes, rehabilitated or replicated including,
 - 196 large rosettes rehabilitated;
 - 14 large rosettes replicated;
 - 1,005 small rosettes rehabilitated;
 - 125 small rosettes replicated;



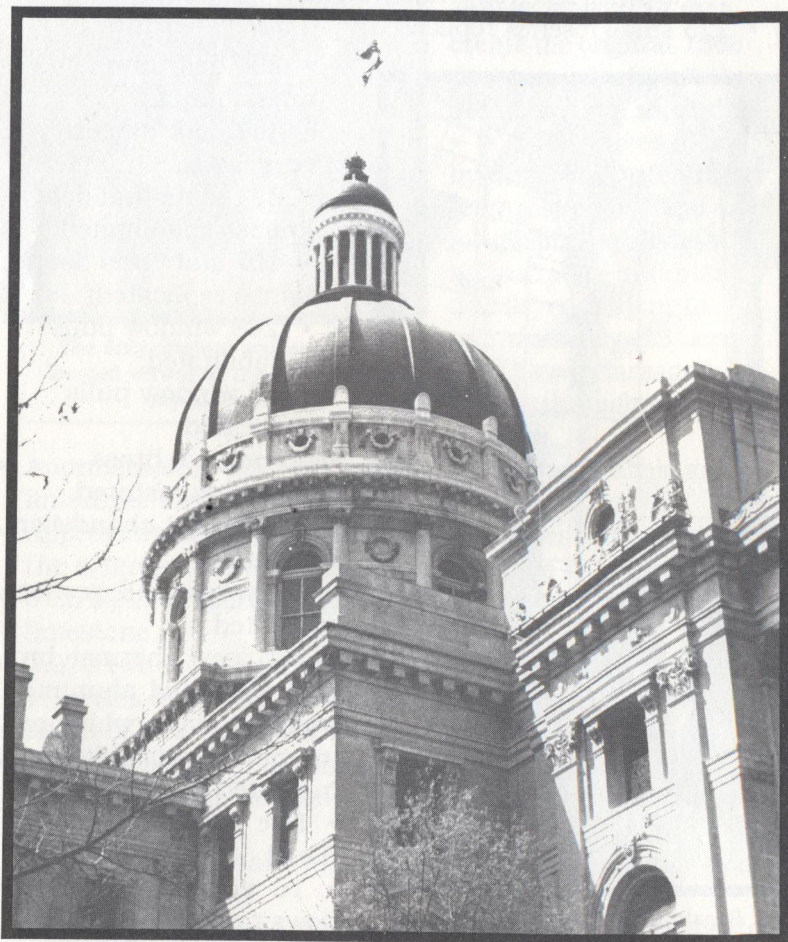
Repainting the interior designs
 Photograph by Joe Young,
Indianapolis News

- 396 door hinges rehabilitated;
- 457 door hinges replicated;
- 321 state seal door knobs rehabilitated;
- 107 state seal door knobs replicated;
- 248 window pulls rehabilitated;
- 92 window pulls replicated.
- 40 original brass chandeliers restored.
- 67 brass chandeliers replicated.
- 44 brass wall sconces replicated.
- 266 new thermal broken, insulated aluminum windows with white oak interior wood cladding and insulated glazing.
- Fire alarm system updated.
- 16 colored glass windows restored.
- 256 panels of the

-
- rotunda colored glass dome restored and cleaned.
 - Rotunda colored glass dome illuminated by using a reflective fabric structure above the glass and high intensity lights.
 - Rotunda statues and limestone arches lighted.

Cost

The cost of the Centennial Restoration of the Indiana State Capitol Building, including the repairs to the copper roof, the air conditioning of the entire building, and the restoration of the public spaces is approximately \$10,937,292.00.



State Capitol Building Dome. Photograph by Jane Partenhimer.

People Involved in the Centennial Restoration of the Indiana State Capitol Building

Robert D. Orr, Governor
John M. Mutz,
Lieutenant Governor

Robert D. Garton, President
Pro-Tempore of the Senate
J. Roberts Dailey, Former
Speaker of the
House of Representatives
Paul S. Mannweiler, Speaker of
the House of Representatives

Randall T. Shepard, Chief Justice
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Orval D. Lundy, Commissioner,
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Robert E. Campbell, Director,
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George B. Huff, Director,
Property Management Division
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Carl M. North, State Engineer
Thomas M. Popcheff,
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Milton Mault,
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Randy Woods,
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Glenroy Construction
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William E. Blevins,
Project Manager
Katherine Jones,
Project Manager
George Meyers,
Project Superintendent

Pamela Bennett, Director,
Indiana Historical Bureau
Marybelle Burch, Indiana
Division, Indiana State
Library

Special appreciation to
Dr. and Mrs. Larry M. Davis
for the loan of their original
wall sconce to permit
the authentic re-creation
of the fixture.

**Front Cover: The rotunda colored
glass, photograph by Paul Wilson.
Back Cover: The white oak
monumental doors, photograph
by Jane Partenheimer.**



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