



THE CASE FOR SUPPORT OF THE OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM

IOWA'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



Since 1857, when it was deeded to the still-young University of Iowa, Old Capitol has served as the University's most recognizable and enduring symbol. This elegant edifice is as much a symbol of our state as a flagship for our university, having played a prominent role in Iowa history even before statehood was achieved in 1846. Today, more than 160 years after its cornerstone was laid, Old Capitol is poised to reflect Iowa's proud past and promising future for decades to come – *but only if we act now to preserve and enhance this statewide treasure for new generations of Iowa citizens.*

Photos from left to right:
Old Capitol, circa 1850;
steel frame constructed around
dome during 1920's rehabilitation



IOWA'S HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Old Capitol's own history is an illustrious one, paralleling the history of the state and the University. When the building's cornerstone was laid on Independence Day 1840, Iowa City became the first state capital of Iowa, and the last four territorial legislatures met within Old Capitol's limestone walls. In Old Capitol, Iowa made the transition to statehood; here, the first governor was inaugurated, the first six Iowa general assemblies met, and the state's constitution – still the fundamental law of the state – was drafted.

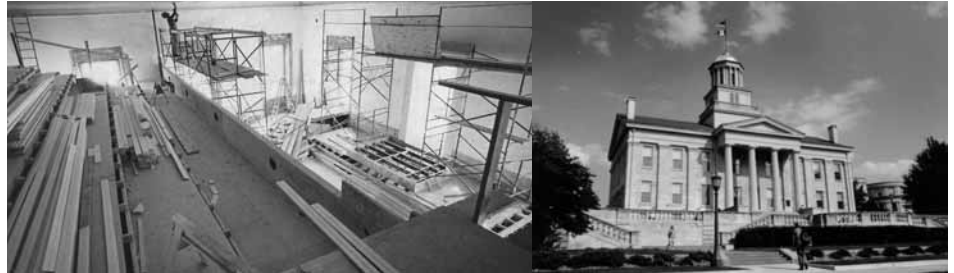
In Old Capitol, the University of Iowa's charter was made official by the First Iowa General Assembly in 1847, just 59 days after Iowa's admission to statehood. When the state government moved to Des Moines in 1857, Old Capitol became the first permanent building owned by the UI. Over the ensuing 145 years, Old Capitol became the symbol and focal point of the University, serving as a library, chapel, armory, and providing space for classrooms and offices as the University grew.



As the first state capital of Iowa, the building's construction represented the vision and the hope of Iowa's early pioneers for a flourishing territory and state. However, with too little funds available, Old Capitol was built with such substandard methods and materials that its architect disowned it. Its continuing existence represents the commitment of generations of Iowans to maintaining the building as a beloved and moving testimonial to Iowa's history and its evolving civic life.

The Iowa General Assembly funded a major physical rehabilitation of the building in the 1920s, and it remained a functioning classroom and office building until the 1970s. At that time, faced with the decision as to whether to remodel the interior of the building into a full-fledged University office building, the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, voted to not convert the upper chambers to offices.

Photos from left to right:
Interior construction during
1970's restoration; west facade



As a result, University offices were moved out of the building, and a major renovation project was begun to restore the building to its historic splendor. That project also marked the beginning of a vital *funding partnership* that continues to sustain Old Capitol to this day. The state, the University, and hundreds of private contributors joined together to assure that the Old Capitol project would reflect the building's complete and varied history, and enable it to serve in perpetuity as a living museum of territorial expansion, early statehood, and the founding of one of the nation's finest public universities.



“Throughout the bicentennial weekend [in 1976], more than 12,000 people signed the guest book and toured Old Capitol. They praised the restoration for its authenticity, its innovation in recapturing the three periods of occupancy, and its beauty. All seemed to agree that Old Capitol's restoration was a . . . project worthy of a great state and a great University, for the histories of the building, the state, and the University were—and still are—inseparable.”

UI Professor Emeritus,
Margaret N. Keyes
*Old Capitol: Portrait of
an Iowa Landmark*
University of Iowa Press, 1989

Old Capitol reopened to the public on the nation's bicentennial, July 4, 1976, as a National Historic Landmark. Since that time, tens of thousands of visitors – from schoolchildren and UI students, to local, state, and national tour groups – have been drawn to Old Capitol each year to learn from its historic facilities and exhibits.

PRESERVING OUR FUTURE THROUGH IOWA'S PAST

The 1970s interior restoration awakened the public to Old Capitol's historic significance. However, the project dealt only with the building's interior and did not address the deteriorating structural conditions. The building has continued to experience the gradual deterioration to which all centuries-old structures fall prey. By the early 1990s it was clear that substantial deterioration had occurred within the underlying building structure as well as cornices, windows, and other physical features.

As Old Capitol's custodian for the state, the University began making plans for much-needed restoration to portions of the building's exterior, a project that was to be funded largely by University resources, with a limited (but important) private gift component. At the same time, the University began to look ahead toward its

At right:
Replacing the dome in February
2003, following 2001 fire



first comprehensive campaign, an unprecedented fund-raising effort that would touch every portion of the campus, and it was clear that the Old Capitol Museum would be included among the campaign's priorities.

Disaster struck on November 20, 2001, when fire engulfed the Old Capitol's golden dome, just six months before the campaign's public kickoff. Fortunately, the damage was contained by the concrete floor at roof level, which had been installed during the 1920s restoration. Fire-related damage has been covered by insurance.

Today, the basic structural needs that were identified in the 1990s are being addressed through continuation of the restoration project that had begun at the time of the 2001 fire. What remains to be accomplished are plans to enhance Old Capitol's potential as a living museum and educational resource dedicated to Iowa's cultural and environmental history, as well as government and civic life.

To realize these ambitious goals, the University seeks the support of all Iowans and friends of the University to restore and preserve this historic structure. Your help will enable Old Capitol to become a center of learning for present and future generations of Iowans and for developing an appreciation of their responsibilities as citizens of this great commonwealth.

OLD CAPITOL FUND-RAISING GOALS

Within the *Good. Better. Best. Iowa* campaign, the UI seeks to raise a minimum of \$2 million in private gifts to revitalize the Old Capitol Museum — \$1 million for capital improvement, and \$1 million for a programmatic and operational endowment, as follows:

At right:
Preliminary architect's
renderings of Discovery Center



Gifts totaling \$1 million or more will be used to transform Old Capitol's ground floor into an engaging museum and education center, with permanent gallery space, rotating exhibits, areas for small-group discussions and multimedia presentations, as well as space for offices, storage, and ongoing conservation efforts. When construction is complete, we envision a museum that uses the three lives of Old Capitol – as territorial capital, state capital, and University cornerstone – to understand the history of our state and University in the context of national and international events.



“So much has happened since Old Capitol's first exterior restoration nearly 30 years ago, but the building still stands as a reminder of our history and a beacon for our future. We have a responsibility to assure that the next generation of students and leaders can benefit from the lessons Old Capitol can teach us.”

Mary Louise Petersen
Co-Chair,
National Campaign
Steering Committee
Co-Chair,
Old Capitol Museum
Campaign

Students of all ages will benefit by having such an enhanced educational resource located at the heart of the UI campus. Students from grades K-12, already among the Old Capitol Museum's most frequent visitors, will be greeted by enticing new displays focused on Iowa's past, present, and future. And visitors from other states and countries will be drawn to the museum to learn more about our state and University, including Iowa's pioneering role in fields ranging from creative writing to space exploration.

Among the highlights of the new ground floor facilities will be the multi-media **University Gallery**, a changing exhibit space for UI-focused historical, scientific, and cultural exhibits, such as those from the Office of the State Archeologist and the UI Department of Anthropology. This gallery will be especially well suited to photographic exhibits, for example, that showcase the UI's history and achievements, as well as traveling exhibits and displays from across the country and around the world. Another popular space will be the **Discovery Center**, a hands-on discovery gallery with books, maps, computers, and interactive displays that invite students, families, and other visitors to explore Iowa's past, present, and future.

Photos from left to right and below:
Interior restoration details, 2004



We also will seek gifts totaling \$1 million or more to create a programmatic endowment that will provide annual support for these learning spaces, museum staff, educational events, and other needs associated with Old Capitol’s mission of service to the state.



These exciting dreams for bringing our past into the future can’t happen without the help of all Iowans, including those who live beyond the state’s borders. As has been true since its historic renovation in the 1970s, the Old Capitol Museum must rely on private support from individuals and organizations to supplement the minimal annual funding that can be supplied by the University. *Only with your support* will Old Capitol’s historic dome serve as a 21st-century beacon, drawing visitors to an exciting new museum and education center that proudly showcases Iowa’s past, present, future – and *Iowa’s best.*

RECOGNIZING YOUR GENEROSITY

Gifts of all sizes are needed to help us reach Old Capitol’s \$2 million campaign goal, and contributors who are able to make especially generous commitments may qualify for special forms of recognition. The following list of funding priorities includes some of the opportunities for generous donors to have their names, or the names of their loved ones, permanently associated with Iowa’s most cherished landmark.

In addition, we encourage gifts during this campaign to Old Capitol’s **programmatic endowment**, which will provide critical, annual support for important needs such as changing museum exhibits, educational materials, special events, staff development, and other needs associated with Old Capitol’s mission of service to the state.

Contributors whose commitments reach \$10,000 or more will be recognized by giving level on a permanent plaque to be installed in Old Capitol at the campaign’s conclusion.



CAPITAL FUND-RAISING PRIORITIES

Ground Floor

Education Center

\$1 million

A gift commitment at this extraordinarily generous level will name the building’s entire ground floor, which will be transformed into an engaging and dynamic education center for students of all ages. Here the three lives of Old Capitol—as territorial capital, state capital, and UI centerpiece—will be used to illustrate the past, present, and future of our state and University in the context of national and international events.



“In these times of dramatic change, it’s imperative that we instill in our children an understanding of their responsibilities as citizens of their state, nation, and world. The Old Capitol Museum can make those lessons come alive if enough alumni and friends believe in our vision of what Old Capitol can become.”

Willard L. “Sandy” Boyd
UI President Emeritus
Co-Chair
Old Capitol Museum Campaign

University Gallery and Instructional Exhibit Area

\$500,000

The multi-media “University Gallery” in the northeast quadrant of the ground floor will be a changing exhibit space for UI-focused historical, scientific, and cultural exhibits, such as those from the Office of the State Archeologist and the UI Department of Anthropology, and also will host instructional programming and related events for students and other visitors.

Discovery Center

\$250,000

As part of Old Capitol’s educational mission to celebrate and perpetuate Iowa’s pioneering spirit, this hands-on exhibit gallery in the northwest quadrant of the ground floor will include books, maps, computers, and interactive displays that invite students, families, and other visitors to explore Iowa’s past, present, and future.

Museum Office Suite

\$250,000

Situated in the southeast quadrant of the ground floor, this complex includes the offices of the Old Capitol Museum Director and Assistant Director, a reception area, meeting area, and climate-controlled archival conservation room for rare books, manuscripts, and other materials.

Archive/Artifacts Conservation Room

\$100,000

Director’s Office

\$50,000

Conference Rom

\$50,000

ASSOCIATED RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES

Although Old Capitol's first and second floors will be fully restored using University funds and other resources, opportunities exist throughout these areas of the building to recognize high-level contributors whose campaign commitments are directed toward the Old Capitol Museum's ground floor education center needs.

First Floor



Old Capitol's elegant, reverse-spiral staircase, while not unique, is still uncommon, as most spiral staircases curve initially to the right rather than to the left. The present staircase, based on the original plan and built during the building's 1920s rehabilitation, was designed by Walter Seichert, who liked to point out that the staircase "ends up on the second floor exactly above where it started on the first floor."

Spiral Staircase (extends from Ground Floor to Second Floor) *\$500,000*

The architectural centerpiece of Old Capitol, this unique reverse-spiral staircase was built in the 1920s, based on the original 1850s plans. Its graceful design is uncommon, as most spiral staircases curve initially to the right rather than to the left. The hand railing and balusters are walnut and the stair treads are oak.

Grand Rotunda *\$125,000*

This stately entryway, with the stairway centerpiece and grand columns, is the welcoming space that greets visitors as they enter Old Capitol's impressive main floor.

President's Office and Reception Area *\$100,000*

This large, multi-purpose area adjacent to the President's Office on the museum's first floor will house the mobile Old Capitol Museum History Gift Shop counter, which can be moved in order to convert and expand the space for guest receptions and other gatherings.

Territorial and State Library *\$100,000*

This treasure-trove of Iowa's past houses priceless volumes from Iowa's history as a territory and state, which are valued by UI researchers and other scholars.

Auditor's Office *\$50,000*

Located on the south side of the Grand Rotunda, this office overlooks the Iowa River valley and west campus.

Photos from left to right:
Territorial and State Library,
Senate Chamber,
and Auditor's Office



Treasurer's Office

\$50,000

Located adjacent to the northeast corner of the Grand Rotunda, this office includes a safe that dates from the 1840-1850 period and weighs 3,100 pounds.

Old Capitol Museum History Gift Shop

\$50,000

Located in the President's Office Reception Area, the Gift Shop will consist of a hand-crafted, mobile display counter that will be built to match Old Capitol's original woodwork and trim.

Second Floor

Senate Chamber

\$500,000

Many noteworthy events have occurred in this stately room, which served as the site for meetings of both the Territorial and State senates. Following the current restoration, the Senate Chamber will be used as a classroom for orientation of K-12 student groups and others touring Old Capitol and the UI Museum of Natural History.

Grand Rotunda

\$125,000

Visitors who climb the spiral staircase to the second floor will find themselves in the spacious Rotunda, illuminated by 10-foot windows on the east and west.

Exterior

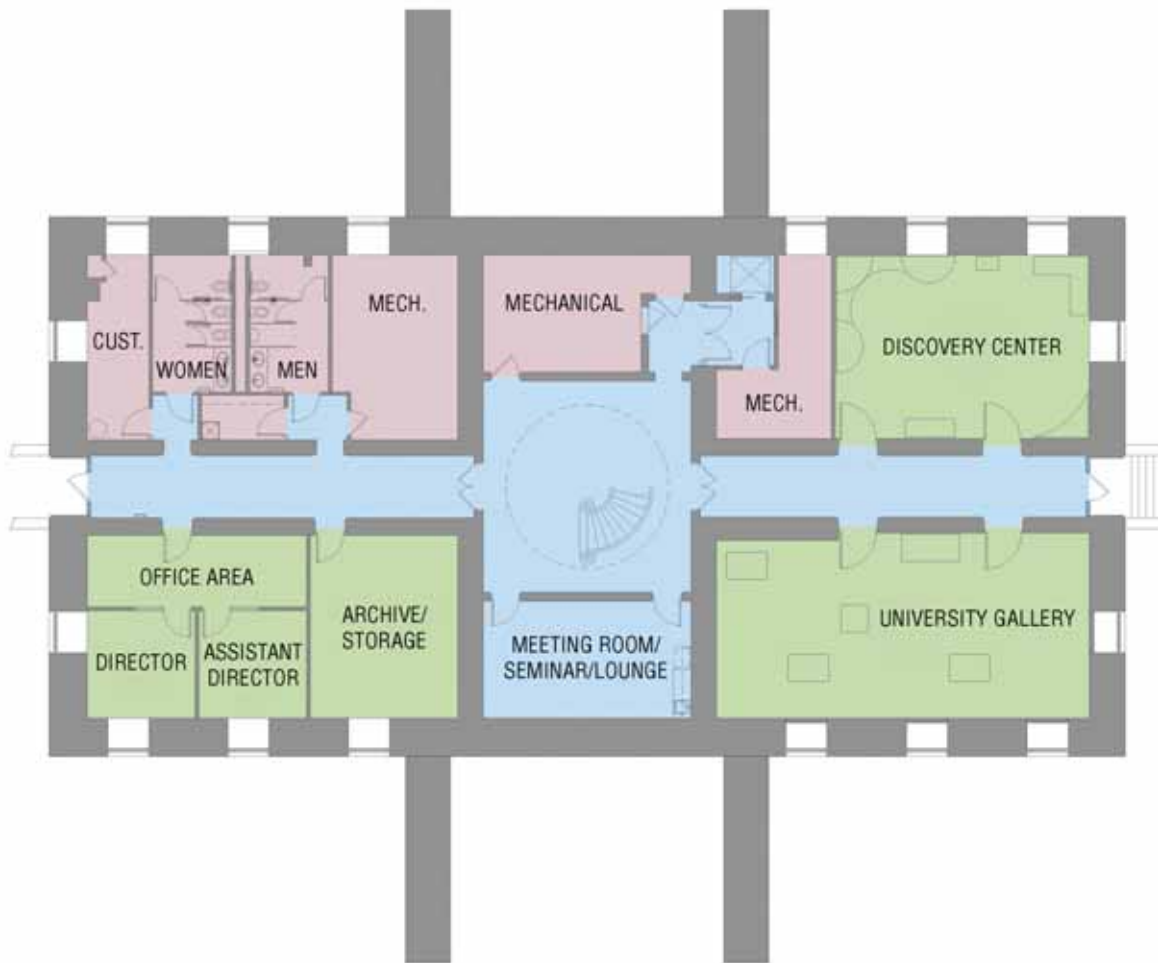
West Overlook Terrace

\$1 million

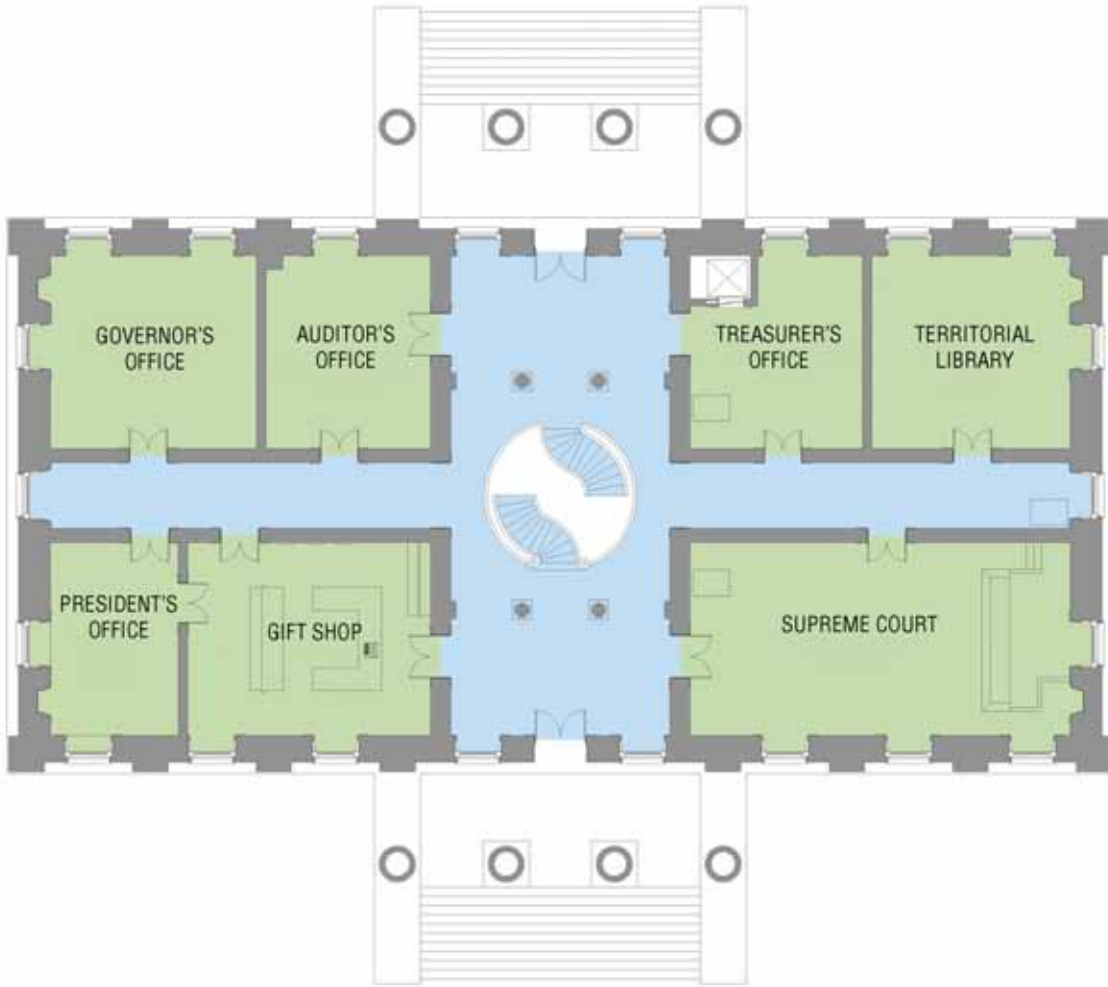
Serving as the Old Capitol Museum's west-facing plaza, the West Overlook Terrace is a large and lovely gathering space that requires extensive restoration before it can be further enhanced with landscaping and other improvements.



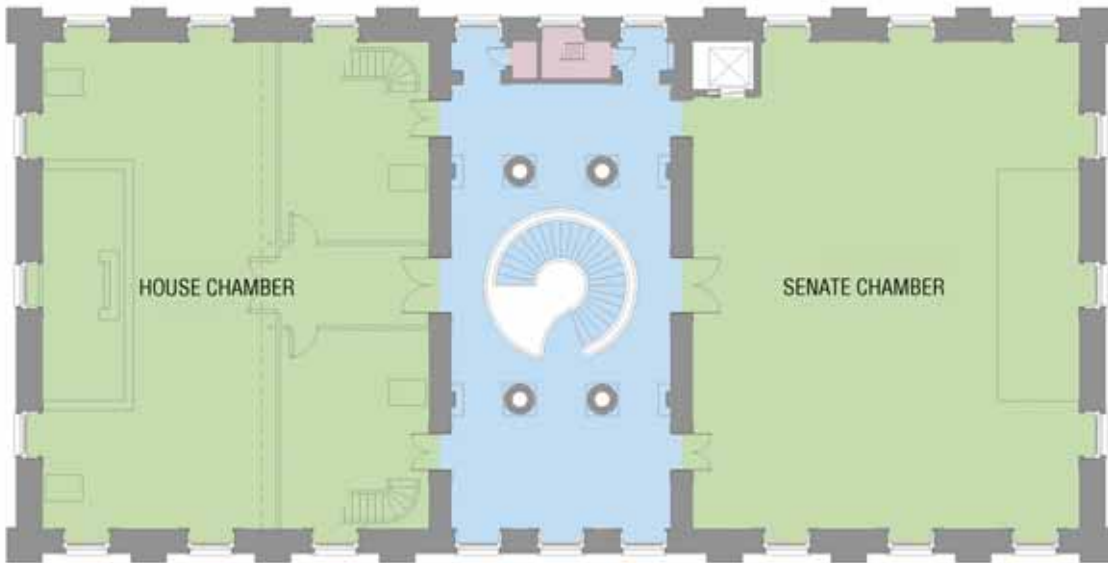
West Overlook Terrace (recognition opportunity)



Ground Floor



First Floor



Second Floor



JOIN US IN PRESERVING IOWA'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Old Capitol's role in Iowa history is etched in the building's limestone walls, and in the hearts and minds of all Iowans. **Your help is needed** to ensure that this historic facility will be fully restored and serve as an exciting center of learning for new generations of Iowa citizens and UI alumni.

For more information on how you can support the preservation and enhancement of Old Capitol – preserving Iowa's past while transforming its future—please contact:



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Learn more about the campaign at: www.GoodBetterBestIowa.org
Visit Old Capitol's award-winning web site at: www.uiowa.edu/~oldcap/



The Campaign to Advance Our Great University