

Capitol Building

Phoenix

1900

Now that the city council is about to come into its own, that is, take possession of the rooms in the city hall occupied by the governor, the secretary, the library and the legislature, let it fit up a council chamber with modern appointments....

----Arizona Republican (Phoenix) May 20, 1900, 2:3

Capitol commissioners have decided to lay no corner stone for the new building, E. B. Gage was the first to oppose, on the ground that it would cost several hundred dollars for a gingerbread proposition. So that part of the building has been abandoned.--(Phoenix) Enterprise.

----Arizona Daily Star (Tucson) May 25, 1899, 3:4

The capitol of Arizona was yesterday turned over to the capitol site commission by the contractor, Tom Lovell, and is now the property of the territory. Mr. Lovell received the last installment of his contract, \$117,290.28, and will leave this morning for his home in Texas. The building has been frequently described since the plans of the architect, J. Riley Gordon, were adopted more than two years ago. Though the plans have been somewhat changed since then, a description of the contemplated building is a good description of the completed structure, for while the changes have been frequently important in detail, they have not often altered the appearance of the structure.

The first step toward the building of the capitol was an authorization by the Nineteenth legislature of an appropriation of \$100,000 for that purpose. The Twentieth legislature added \$30,000 to the appropriation and though the building was then in outline, changes were made giving it greater solidity. This amount has been practically

exhausted. Every dollar of it has gone honestly into the building and so much has been given for the money that it is said that Mr. Lovell has worked nearly two years without profit. He saw quite early that he was "up against it." A member of the commission said yesterday that on more than one occasion Mr. Lovell could have saved himself by abandoning the contract, for though the territory was secured as to the original contract, the bondsmen could not have been held after it had been altered. The commission had in the meantime become so well acquainted with the contractor that no uneasiness was felt that he would avail himself of a technicality. He has justified the faith of the commission, for from the lowermost grain of cement in the deep foundation to the point of the topmost flame in the hand of the Goddess of Liberty surmounting the dome, there is not a dishonest or defective thing in the whole structure.

The style is one of the five classes of the Ionic Grecian architecture. Its length is 184 feet and its depth is eighty-four feet. The height of the top of the dome from the ground is seventy-six feet. The dome and "well hole," the latter surrounded on each floor by a handsome oaken balustrade, is forty-four feet in diameter. The building is constructed as nearly as possible of Arizona material. The foundation is made of malpai, the walls of the first story of granite, and the rest of the walls of tufa. The structure is as nearly fire-proof as it was possible to make it. The floor of the basement is of cement, and though the other floors are of lumber they are laid upon cement and are as unflammable as the cement. The corridors are paved with ornamental tiling, altogether 9,000 square feet. The bases or "wash boards," as they are sometimes called, of the walls in the corridors are marble. No woodwork is visible in the corridors except the doors and balustrades. The ceilings are extremely rich and ornamental,

particularly those of the upper stories. There are numberless toilet rooms and drinking fountains of handsome design. The Otis Elevator company is engaged in putting in a \$6,000 elevator. It is already in working order and nothing remains to complete it except the putting on of the protecting grill work. That will be finished in three days. Two handsome circular iron stairways on either rear side of the rotunda, lead to the upper floors. The building is heated by steam. The system has been tested and found to be in good working order.

The disposition of the various departments has not yet been completed. The governor's chambers will occupy three rooms in the second story on the north side of the east front. The secretary's quarters will comprise the rooms on the south side and include a large vault. Opposite the executive chambers are the three rooms of the auditor, the board of control and the board of equalization. The office of the territorial treasurer, if one should be desired in the building, will be adjoining the executive chambers on the south, and the attorney-general should he desire a more formal official residence can have a room immediately south of the secretary's chambers.

A large room on this floor occupying the southwest corner and embracing practically all the space bounded by the corridor, the rotunda and the outer walls, has been set aside for the territorial library. This is much the largest and rather the handsomest in the building.

The legislative rooms are in the ends of the third floor. They are both of the same size and are about as large as that part of either of the old chambers in the city hall inside the railing. These chambers are surrounded on three sides by galleries. Each chamber is well provided with committee rooms. The present location of the legislative halls is in a sense temporary, for if the building should ever be finished according to the complete plans of the architect, they will be

moved in a large circular annex on the west side. There is a small room occupying the middle of the east front of the third story. It was designed for a supreme court room and is conveniently surrounded by chambers intended for the justices and the clerk. These judiciary quarters will not be immediately occupied, since the lease of quarters in the court house will not expire until April 1 of next year.

The building is not yet quite complete, though all the work under the original contract has been finished. There is a little painting and a great deal of cleaning up to be done. The balustrades will have to be put on the iron stairways and lighting appliances will have to be put in. No contract has been made for these yet. All of this work will not take up a great deal of time, so that the commission expects to have the building ready for occupancy by September 1.

No public structure was ever undertaken and carried through under more auspicious circumstances. The commission consisting of Messrs. E. B. Gage, Walter Talbot and Frank H. Parker, have been energetic and careful of the territory's interests. Mr. Parker, as secretary, has devoted himself almost exclusively to this object during the last eighteen months. Contractor Lovell never permitted the work to drag and was greatly aided by Joseph Fifield, superintendent of construction, representing the commission. It is a somewhat remarkable circumstance that as long as six months ago the contractor predicted the end of his work and missed it by less than two weeks.

Beautiful as the building is, it will appear much more so when the surrounding grounds are graded and laid out. Mr. Smith, the gardener, submitted two elaborate plans to the commission yesterday, and one of them was adopted. The work will not be begun until late in the season. The building will, of course, have to be dedicated. Secretary Parker said yesterday that no time for that important ceremony has yet been

suggested, but that it would probably not take place before the session of the next legislature.

-----Arizona Republican (Phoenix) August 5, 1900, 1:3,4

The Capitol Commission received the new Capitol building again yesterday. The elevator is completed, the painting is done, the Mme de Vaunte is right side up and her bustle pointing westward, and everything is neat, tasty and serene. A new house has been built on the west roof which resembles a North Carolina chicken coop. That was also turned over, and the probabilities are that that shebang will get another turning over when the next wind storm comes along. Well, we are all happy now. The building is the property of the territory, Madama-selle, chicken coop and all, so here is to the new building. Long may it stand an honor to Arizona and her citizens.

-----Arizona Gazette (Phoenix) August 17, 1900, 8:3

MOVING DAY.--The work of moving the office of the territorial secretary into the new capitol building was begun yesterday. All the other offices will be moved within a month.

-----Arizona Republican (Phoenix) September 5, 1900, 5:2

ORDER OUT OF CHAOS.--The entire equipment of the office of the territorial secretary is now located in the new quarters at the capitol. Work on furnishing the other offices has not commenced. Secretary Akers has commenced the work of arranging systematically the papers which have accumulated in his office for the past thirty-six years, or ever since Arizona became a territory. There has never been any method used in caring for the records and there are many bushels of documents waiting to be stored away in alphabetical order.

-----Arizona Republican (Phoenix) September 6, 1900, 5:2

MOVING BOOKS.--Several express wagons were engaged yesterday to move the books of the territorial library from the city hall to the new capitol building. In this way many of the books found their way into human hands for the first time in many years.

----Arizona Gazette (Phoenix) September 8, 1900, 8:2

BUFFET AT CAPITOL.--Lawmakers in the next Arizona legislature will not of necessity have to carry lunch baskets to the capitol building, nor will they find the canteen an essential to a sojourn at the territorial building. A source of great anxiety to the prospective members of the next council and assembly has been the distance of the capitol from places wherein the inner man can receive the attention due his requirements. This question has been solved by the board of control and it has been decided to permit the establishment in the basement of the building of a cafe where all the necessities and luxuries may be obtained. No arrangements have been completed but the privilege will be let soon and in ample time for service during the session.

----Arizona Republican (Phoenix) September 9, 1900, 5:3

NEEDS NEW BOOKS.--The territorial library is in a transitory state at the present time, but within a few days will be settled in its new quarters at the capitol. It will be located in the room in the southeast corner of the second floor. The room is excellently lighted and in fact fitted ideally for the library. Secretary Akers is planning to put the library in a better condition. He will have the books catalogued in a manner that will greatly diminish the time required in keeping them in order. He is also planning to secure an appropriation for additions of many volumes which are needed to complete sets, and will ask the next legislature to provide about \$1,000 or

\$1,200 for that purpose. He says that nothing has been appropriated for the library since the 17th assembly, (1893), and that several volumes are badly needed. There is some opposition toward the expenditure of any money on the territorial library, lawyers in other parts of the territory claiming that Phoenix attorneys get all the benefits from it, but it is probable that they do not consider its value to the supreme court, and the attorneys in that tribunal.

The governor will not move to the capitol for several weeks. When he leaves the city hall....

----Arizona Republican (Phoenix) September 13, 1900, 4:3

NEW HOME.--Secretary Akers is pleasantly located in the new capitol and taking official life easily in the big stone structure. Charley Akers is a good official and a pleasant man in every walk of life and the people of Arizona appreciate his many sterling qualities.

----Arizona Gazette (Phoenix) September 8, 1900, 8:1

Secretary Akers yesterday raised the flag over the new capitol.... The Gazette is pleased to see the flag of our country waving in the breeze over Arizona's beautiful capitol.

----Arizona Gazette (Phoenix) September 16, 1900, 8:2

The capitol janitor, Capt. Stark, keeps the big building as neat as wax. The commission honored itself by the appointment of this gallant old soldier and we hope he will be retained.

----Arizona Gazette (Phoenix) September 18, 1900, 8:2

The governor moved into the new capitol building yesterday.

----Arizona Gazette (Phoenix) October 23, 1900 8:1

Yesterday the executive offices were moved out to the new capitol

building.

----Arizona Gazette (Phoenix) October 23, 1900, 8:1

The big city hall looks lonesome since the secretary and governor moved out. The council will probably fix up the building now and use it for city purposes.

----Arizona Gazette (Phoenix) October 23, 1900, 8:2

All the territorial officers are now located in the new capitol building, and there is an abundance of room for all of our state officers when Mark Smith secures Arizona's admission.

----Arizona Gazette (Phoenix) November 21, 1900, 8:2

The only kick the territorial officials find with the new capitol is that it is too far from the boarding house.

----Arizona Gazette (Phoenix) November 22, 1900, 8:1

The governor's quarters in the new capitol building are the handsomest in Arizona.

Arizona Gazette (Phoenix) November 29, 1900, 8:1

Governor Murphy very properly says there will be no restaurant in the new capitol building. We are glad to know this, as it is not a suitable place for such things and Phoenix has an abundance of first class restaurants.

----Arizona Gazette (Phoenix) November 29, 1900, 8:2

The new Capitol building of Arizona is now in out of the wet. That institution was packed around for many years.

----Arizona Gazette (Phoenix) November 30, 1900, 8:1

FINE CAPITOL.--Both houses of the legislature are now ready for

occupancy, and the twenty-first legislature of Arizona will step into the neatest, prettiest and most convenient little capitol in the United States, Monday. Many states have larger and more elaborate capitols, but for its size, the Arizona capitol stands alone. It is a credit to the commissioners and the territory of Arizona, and the Gazette believes that one of Arizona's best and most trustworthy legislatures will convene within its halls Monday.

----Arizona Gazette (Phoenix) January 19, 1901, 8:3

.....Tomorrow the legislature of Arizona, the twenty-first legislature, will meet in a beautiful new building which belongs to the territory; every convenience that the most fastidious could ask for, fine hotels and restaurants to accommodate their every want. What a contrast from that log cabin under the Prescott hillsides with the townsite for a bed room, to the handsome, elegant state capitol building located in a modern city with every improvement, first class hotels, restaurants and lodging houses, electric cars, etc.

----Arizona Gazette (Phoenix) January 20, 1901, 5:3

THE DAY WE DEDICATED.

In commemoration of the admission of Arizona as a territory, an event that occurred February 24, 1863, away back in the stormy period of our nation's history, Arizona's new and elegant capitol building was yesterday dedicated....

The parade left the city at 1:30 promptly for the capitol. It was composed of the Pioneer and Indian school bands, the governor and his staff, territorial and county officials in carriages, Companies C, D and E of Arizona militia, the Normal school cadets and Indian school cadets, followed by a long line of private carriages. On arrival at

the capitol the governor as chairman of the occasion began the literary exercises....

-----Arizona Gazette (Phoenix) February 26, 1901, 1:-

GRAND SINGER.--The reception at the capitol Monday evening was a termination of the memorable days entertainment. The elegant apartments of Governor Murphy and Secretary Akers were nicely decorated for the occasion, and everyone was cared for. The feature of the entire occasion however, was the singing of Mrs. Frank Cox. Mrs. Cox is a magnificent woman, tall and exceptionally graceful and comely with a voice that has few if any equals in the west. The lady was indeed the star of the dedication ceremonies, her singing was exquisite and elicited unbounded praise from the large audience, who listened with rapture to her melody.

-----Arizona Gazette (Phoenix) February 27, 1901, 8:4