

CAPITOL SITE
COMMISSIONERS REPORT
TO THE GOVERNOR OF
ARIZONA.

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REPORT

OF THE

Capitol Site Commissioners

TO THE

GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA.

1891.



ARIZONA ENTERPRISE JOB ROOMS.

1891.

Arizona (Terr.) Capitol Site Commission,
1887-1891

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SECRETARY'S REPORT.

PHOENIX, ARIZ., Jan. 18, 1891.

TO HON. N. O. MURPHY, Acting Governor of Arizona Territory.

SIR:—In accordance with an act of the Fifteenth Legislature, entitled "An Act to obtain a capitol site and to provide for its improvement," wherein the undersigned was made a member of said commission and subsequently elected secretary of the commission by my two associates, I beg leave to submit the following partial report.

The commission consisting of S. M. Franklin, T. D. Hammond and C. W. Johnstone met and organized on the 19th day of April, 1889, by the election of T. D. Hammond as president and C. W. Johnstone secretary. Acting under the law governing the commission, on April 21, 1889, the board inserted an advertisement in the three daily papers of Phœnix inviting offers of land to be chosen as a site for the capitol of Arizona and in response to our advertisement received five propositions all coming within the conditions imposed by the Legislature. After a careful consideration of the different propositions the commission by a unanimous vote selected the ten acres offered by M. E. Collins and M. H. Sherman situated one quarter of a mile west of the city of Phœnix, the deed of which is now in the possession of the secretary. After the grounds had been selected and

the title to the same perfected and proper transfers made to the territory, the board, on January 2, 1890, employed C. H. Smith, a landscape gardener, to take charge of and improve said grounds, at a fixed salary of eighty dollars per month. For a term of three months after the expiration of this period a reduction of his wages was contemplated. The bills allowed and paid up to and including March 10, 1890, are as follows: T. D. Hammond, \$70 00 for attendance upon 14 meetings. C. W. Johnstone, \$70 for attendance upon 14 meetings. S. M. Franklin, \$50 for attendance upon 10 meetings. S. M. Franklin, \$80 mileage from Tucson to Phoenix to attend said meetings. Arizona Gazette Company, for printing, etc., \$36.25. N. A. Morford, \$10 for advertising. C. F. Ainsworth, \$75 as attorney's fees for examining titles to the site. Making a total up to and including March 10, 1890, of \$390.25.

The grounds selected are among the most choice in Salt River Valley, the drainage being perfect, the soil suitable to the growth of everything known to our climate and an entire absence of mud during rainy weather. In fact all the surrounding conditions are such as to make the site selected by the commission one of the very best and a source of wealth and pride to the people of the Territory. A great variety of choice trees, shrubs, roses, plants, etc., were set out and to-day demonstrate by their marvellous growth the wisdom of the commission in their selection of this site. The company donating the land agreed that in the event of this tract being chosen as the capitol site that they would immediately construct a street railway to the grounds, all of which has been done, which adds greatly to the convenience and desirability of the premises. The appropriation

for the improvement of the capitol site being somewhat limited, thus in a measure cramping the commission in their efforts to improve and beautify it as they would otherwise wish, but the thrifty condition of the trees and plants and the neat appearance of the premises denote that nothing has been left undone to make the grounds what the Legislature intended they should be, a matter of pride to the taxpayers and citizens. And we ask of the Sixteenth Legislature of Arizona that they make a careful investigation of the transactions of said commission and invite their attention to the capitol site.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

C. W. JOHNSTONE,

Secretary of the Capitol Site Commission of the
Territory of Arizona.

TO THE GOVERNOR:—

In submitting my report as Secretary of the Capitol Site Commissioners of Arizona, I beg your indulgence to explain the reasons of the incompleteness of my report.

In the bill that became a law, creating the Capitol Commission, my name with that of my associates was embodied in the law as Commissioner, and after passing both houses and receiving the signature of the Governor, I was also appointed and commissioned by Governor Zulick as such commissioner to cover up any defects that might exist as to the legality of my appointment by a legislative enactment. I entered upon and performed my duties as such Commissioner up to date, but I was hampered in such performance by the private secretary of Governor Wolfley who,

after instructions from Mr. Wolfley, refused to meet with or treat with me as such Commissioner. But having no knowledge of the reasons, I performed to the best of my ability the duties assigned to me as such Commissioner.

I have in my possession all the true records of the Commission, including the deeds to the Capitol ground, and while never being notified of my removal or that others had been appointed in my place by Mr. Wolfley, yet I learned that such was the case, and as I was appointed and confirmed by the council in strict accordance with law, I am still and shall continue to perform my duties under my oath of office till my successor shall have been appointed and confirmed.

Respectfully,

C. W. JOHNSTONE,

Secretary.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS.

PHOENIX, February 9, 1891.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA.

SIR:—While there does not appear to be any provision in the law (Act 46 of the Fifteenth Legislative Assembly, approved March 21, A. D. 1889, entitled "An Act to obtain a capitol site and provide for its improvement,") requiring the Capitol Site Commissioners named therein, or their successors in office, to make reports of their proceedings; yet in deference to custom, we, the subscribers who constitute the Board of "Capitol Site Commissioners of Arizona," respectfully submit for your information the following report of our

proceedings and transactions covering the period commencing April 9, 1890, and ending January 12, 1891.

On said first mentioned date the Governor of the Territory appointed and commissioned George F. Coates, C. F. Ainsworth and T. D. Hammond, who duly qualified by filing bonds according to law, and thereafter, on the 14th day of April, 1890, duly organized said Board by electing C. F. Ainsworth, President, and George F. Coates, Secretary,

The Board remained as thus constituted until George F. Coates, being appointed commissioner to the World's Columbian Exposition, resigned; whereupon and upon the 16th day of June, A. D., 1890, the Governor of the Territory appointed Walter Talbot to fill the vacancy.

The Secretary of the former Board, Mr. C. W. Johnstone, having refused to surrender to his successor the records, title deeds, books and belongings of the office of the Capitol Commissioners, we can only state some general facts relating to the acts and proceedings of said former Board.

A capitol site was secured by donation, comprising ten (10) acres of land adjacent to the western boundary of the corporate limits of the city of Phoenix, with a street one hundred (100) feet in width entirely surrounding said ten-acre tract. This land has been improved by the laying out of necessary drives and walks; which drives and walks, as well as the tract generally, have been ornamented by planting native and foreign trees, shrubs and flowering shrubs, and it now presents, notwithstanding it has had only the advantage of one season's growth, a beautiful park-like appearance. In the centre of the grounds a space about three

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hundred feet square is left unimproved for the Capitol building.

With the exception of a few shrubs and plants destroyed by rabbits and insects, the growth of all trees, etc., placed on this ground has been entirely satisfactory, in fact almost marvellous, giving promise of a beautiful park in the very near future.

The insufficiency of funds previous to the collection of the tax levy for 1890, prohibited making improvements that would otherwise have been done, especially upon the wide avenue surrounding the grounds.

The Following is a Statement of Receipts and Dis-
bursements by the Capitol Commissioners
from the Organization of the Board
to January 12, 1891.

Amount derived from the tax levy of one-eighth of one mill on each dollar of the taxable property of the Territory, and placed to the credit of the "Capitol fund," to date has been		\$4,270 00
DISBURSEMENTS:		
1890	Services of Capitol Commissioners to date	270
Jan'y.	Attorney fees, examination of title	75
	Arizona Gazette Co., printing,	35 25
		380 25
Feb'y.	Labor	87
	Team labor, ploughing, etc	75 75
	Salary Superintendent, $\frac{2}{3}$ month	53 30
	Salt River Valley Canal, irrigating water,	45
		261 05
March.	Labor on grounds	213 85
	Team labor	102 50
	Lumber	5 52
	Trees	9 78
	Surveying	2 50
	Salary of Sup't	80
		414 15
Amount carried forward		\$1,055 45

	Amount brought forward		\$1,055 45
April.	Trees	71 65	
	Freight on bill trees from Cala	58 10	
	Labor	48 25	
	Salary Sup't	80	
			258 00
May	Advertising	10	
	Labor	14	
	Salary Superintendent	80	
			104 00
June.	Trees	21	
	Labor	9	
	Lumber	28 38	
	Tools	19 65	
	Salary Superintendent	80	
			158 03
July.	Labor \$5.00, Lumber \$6.00,	11	
Aug.	Poison	1 55	
	Salary Superintendent	160	
			172 55
Sept.	Wire screen to protect trees	32 60	
	Labor	2 50	
	Irrigating water to May 15, 1891	15 00	
	Salary Superintendent	80	
			130 10
Nov.	Trees \$6, lumber \$18.08, labor \$10	34 08	
	Salary Superintendent 2 months	160	
			194 08
Dec.	Trees, shrubs and freight	60 86	
	Team labor	18	
	Wire screen	5 60	
	Salary Superintendent	80	
			164 46
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Jan'y	Lumber, and wrapping for trees	4 80	
	Wheel barrow and shovel	11	
	Superintendent's salary	80	
	For services of Commissioners to date	260	
	Note to Valley Bank for bill of trees		
	April, 1890	420 61	
			766 41
	Total disbursements to date		\$3,013 08

All of which is respectfully submitted.

C F. AINSWORTH, President.

WALTER TALBOT, Secretary.

T. D. HAMMOND, Commissioner.



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