

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

Report of Commission

ON THE

Enlargement of the State House

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF MAINE

1911

To the Senate and House of Representatives.

GENTLEMEN:

The Legislature of 1909 passed the following act:

LEGISLATIVE ACT.

CHAPTER 156.

“RESOLVE in favor of the enlargement of the State House, or the erection of a suitable State Office Building adjacent thereto.”

Resolved, that the governor of the state, and four members to be appointed by him, two of whom shall be members of each of the two leading political parties, are hereby constituted a commission, and are directed to take immediate steps to obtain plans and specifications for such an enlargement and alteration of the present State House, or in their discretion, for such an alteration of the present State House and such an office building adjacent to and communicating therewith, as will provide ample, convenient and fireproof apartments for the state library, and the various departments of the state government and the records and documents thereof, and for the use and accommodation of the legislature and its committees; and shall thereupon proceed to contract for, prosecute and superintend the construction and completion of such enlargement and alterations, or of said alterations and office building; and that the sum of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars for the year nineteen hundred and nine, and one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars for the year nineteen hundred and ten, be and hereby is appropriated for the purpose of this resolve, to be expended under the direction of said commission, and for the reasonable expenses of said commission, to be fixed and determined by the governor and council, and audited by the state auditor.

Provided, that the commission shall not proceed to make any expenditure, or contract therefor, until they shall have first obtained a contract or contracts from responsible parties to complete the work for a sum not exceeding the amount specified in this resolve, which contract shall be secured by a bond to be approved by a majority of said commission.

Provided, further, that any balance of the above appropriation remaining unexpended at the end of the year for which it was appropriated shall not lapse, but may be expended during the succeeding year.

Approved March 16, 1909.

This act became a law at midnight of July first, 1909.

By authority thereof the Governor associated with himself as such Commissioners, Don A. H. Powers of Houlton, Frank D. True of Portland, Charles W. Mullen of Bangor, and Charles S. Hichborn of Augusta.

The Commissioners met at the Governor's room at the State House on July 13th and organized by the choice of Charles S. Hichborn as chairman. At a subsequent meeting Royal H. Bodwell of Augusta was chosen secretary.

For the purpose of securing valuable assistance the Commissioners immediately issued the following

INVITATION TO ARCHITECTS.

"The Commission on Enlargement of the State House invite architects to submit sketches for a proposed addition to the State House in Augusta under the bill passed by the last Legislature.

No sketch will be considered unless accompanied by assurance satisfactory to the Commission that the work can be completed, in every detail, within the appropriation. The Commission will be in session at the State House on Tuesday, Aug. 3, next at 10 o'clock to receive sketches.

For particulars address C. S. Hichborn, Chairman.
Augusta, Me., July 15, 1909."

This invitation was inserted in every daily paper published in Maine and in two published in Boston. The meeting therein indicated was attended by several architects who presented meritorious sketches and offered many valuable suggestions.

ARCHITECT.

Mr. G. Henri Desmond of Boston became the unanimous choice of the Commission as architect and he was conditionally employed to prepare plans. It was provided in the contract that he should prepare and present plans to the Commission, for inspection. If, upon examination, it appeared likely that figures could be obtained for doing the work according to his plans within the appropriation, then he was to be permanently employed; otherwise his plans were to be abandoned and he eliminated from further consideration, he to bear the expense of preparing such plans, in case of such rejection.

Upon careful investigation of his plans as finally submitted, the Commission was of the opinion that the work could be safely undertaken, and he was employed as architect. The result has fully justified the conclusion of the Commission.

Upon acceptance of the plans the following notice was inserted and published, according to law, in every daily paper published in Maine and in two published in Boston.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

“The Commission on enlargement and alteration of the State House at Augusta, Maine, invites proposals for doing the work in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by G. Henri Desmond, architect, of Boston, and approved by the Commission.

Separate bids are desired for electric wiring, heating and ventilating, plumbing, and elevators; all the balance of the work

will be covered in the general contract for which, also, bids are desired, except that separate bids are invited for the granite work, which may be let separately or may be incorporated into the bid of the general contractor, as the Commission may determine.

Plans and specifications may be procured of the architect 15 Beacon Street, Boston.

Bids must be addressed to the chairman of the commission and filed with him, in sealed envelopes, properly and plainly marked as to contents not later than 10 o'clock A. M. Thursday, October 28, 1909, at which time the bids will be opened at the office of the commission at the State House in the presence of such bidders as may care to be present.

The commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids in whole or in part, and bidders will be expected to accompany their bids with such samples as may be required as shown by the specifications or suggested by the architect or the commission."

Charles S. Hichborn, Chairman.

Augusta, Maine, Sept. 27, 1909.

The response was most gratifying. In all 48 bidders appeared, some for all and some for portions of the work.

CONTRACT.

The figures of the George A. Fuller Company of Boston, who bid for the entire work, were the lowest, and this company was awarded the contract.

Sufficient funds, it was thought, were reserved in making the original contract, to provide against unforeseen contingencies which seemed likely to arise, and to enable the Commissioners to make such additions as they might find desirable, provided the appropriation would permit.

The great depth necessary to go to secure a foundation, the expense which was thereby incurred, and the large amount of

ledge encountered, early demonstrated the wisdom of this action. No addition or alteration has been made, involving the expenditure of a single dollar, without a written order therefor. So that the Commissioners knew at all times, the exact amount for which the state was obligated.

The contract was signed on the sixth day of November 1909.

It called for the certification by the Commission of 90 per cent. of labor and materials, not later than the 20th day of every month, and payment thereof not later than the 30th; final payment to be made 61 days after completion of the contract. The contractors gave bond for the faithful performance of their contract, in the sum of \$60,000.

Work began on the 10th day of November 1909.

A great problem presented itself. It involved the practical demolition of the old main building, save its front and rear walls, the grading of the entire grounds and such substantial alterations as to amount to a very considerable rebuilding of the West wing.

With all this to be done, the time was very limited and the amount of the appropriation small, from the standpoint of such work in general.

That the problem has been solved—the work done within the time and within the appropriation—is cause for genuine satisfaction to all concerned and will, we doubt not, be fully appreciated by the people of the State.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

The old main building, whose exterior, with its noble Bulfinch front, was of granite, was, in its interior, of wooden construction, save as to the floor of the old Rotunda, so called, and the floor of the Department of State with the ceilings over it. The specifications for the new building called for fire-proof construction, of steel, concrete and hollow tile. Everything therefore, save the bare walls and the small portion alluded to, was destroyed. The old wooden floors, partitions and roof, were in a bad condition,—a menace to life in some cases, and a fire trap of the most pronounced type.

The old building was 146 feet in length, the new one is 300 feet.

Beginning at the North and South ends the old main building was extended 12 feet North and South and cross-wings built, each measuring 65 feet on the front with a depth of 75 feet.

The cutting down of the grade brought the old, and enabled us to build the new, building, entirely out of ground, so that there are now four full stories, all light, all desirable in every way. The building has been carefully planned and built for express purposes and to meet express needs. Of necessity, these needs had to be considered and rooms built and assigned in accordance therewith. We believe a careful study will reveal the wisdom of these arrangements.

The great Museum, occupying the entire first floor of the new South wing, will, we trust, offer an attractive opportunity for a display of the natural resources of the State. On this same

floor also are the Fish and Game, Pensions, Highway Department, Traveling Library, Secondary Library Stack Room, Labor and Board of Health rooms.

The old Rotunda, so called, has been so transformed as to become a room of great dignity. Its eight great Doric columns suggest that it might be appropriately called Doric Hall, and we respectfully recommend that it be so designated, in the future, the rotunda being, properly, the room above it, whence a view is had up into the great new dome, which rises to a height of 185 feet from the lower or first floor.

The new State Department at the South end of the second floor is much larger than the old one, and is a room of great beauty. Two private rooms adjoin it.

The Library, at the North end of this floor, with reference room and Librarian's room adjoining, offers, in entirety, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the space provided in the old quarters. The main room is, of course, designed, when properly stacked, to be two stacks high, as before. The old stacks which are now in use are only sufficient to cover the floor one stack in height. A proper stacking, and due regard to what properly belongs in such a Library, will provide all the room needed for generations to come.

The new House of Representatives occupying the North wing and the third and fourth stories in height, is about 70 per cent. larger than the old one and with its spacious gallery provides a place for the holding of large meetings which will be keenly appreciated.

Lighted from three sides and from the ceiling, warmed and ventilated in the most approved manner, beautiful in design and artistic in treatment, it is thought to have no superior in its line, in New England.

The new Senate at the South end of this floor is about 60 per cent. larger than the old one and is, perhaps equally as attractive as the House.

The Executive Department, occupying the East half of this wing on this floor, finished throughout in mahogany, has no superior in any State House in the East.

Just here are also the rooms of the Attorney General and of the President and Secretary of the Senate and the Senate Retiring and Locker Rooms. The House Retiring Room and the Locker Rooms are on this floor adjoining the House, as are, also, the rooms of the Speaker and the clerk. The rooms of the Insurance Department are unchanged save as to the making of a case room. On the next floor are the three rooms of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Assessors room, the Committee on Taxation, and in the West wing the Railroad Commission and the Bank Commissioners, the Press Rooms and the Barber Shop, and, in place of the old Judiciary Room, a G. A. R. Memorial Hall.

The old Library has been divided into three rooms, making excellent quarters for the Legal Affairs, the Judiciary, and Financial Affairs.

Two elevators of the plunger type have been installed, and two flights of marble stairs extend from lower to upper floors.

In setting the cylinders for the plunger shafts it was necessary to bore about 60 feet in solid ledge.

The building is lighted with electricity, some 14,000 feet of iron conduit being used to carry the wires, which are all concealed in the floors and walls.

A new and increased service has been provided so that power now comes by direct special wire from power house to the transformers in the State House. These transformers are in a vault under the North entrance of the West wing. Gas has been provided in lower central corridor and on either side of each new elevator on every floor, so as to light the exits in case of an interruption of electric current,—the likelihood of which has been reduced to a minimum by the improved service to which we have referred.

All the corridor floors above the lower one are of white marble with colored marble base and border.

Toilet rooms for both sexes are provided on every floor. All have terrazzo floors and slate partitions.

Coat rooms are on the first and second floors near elevator; telephone booth and telegraph office on second floor, with telegraph office and Post Office, Document Room, Folders' Room and Official Reporters' Room on third (House and Senate) floor.

The Treasurer's rooms remain unchanged. The rooms adjoining have been reconstructed, to some extent, for, and assigned to, the State Auditor, for the wise purpose of keeping the Treasury and the Auditing Departments together, a convenience amounting to almost a necessity.

The corridors of the West wing have been painted to bring them into harmony with the new work.

The center of the building as well as the dome supports, rests on solid ledge. The East front of the North wing is also on ledge, while the balance of the foundation rests on hard pin-gravel. These foundation walls are five feet thick at base and from six to fourteen feet in depth, under-laid with a heavy body of concrete.

Much ledge was encountered which had to be removed at large expense.

HEATING AND VENTILATING.

Fresh warm air is carried to the Senate and House from the big fan on the lower floor of the West wing. The ducts had to be cut, for a great part, through solid rock, as did also, the channels for the sewer and water pipes. Vitiated air goes out through the roof through huge vent shafts. Corridors and offices are supplied with direct heat.

STEEL.

Hundreds of tons of steel were used in the construction, every piece of which is calculated to bear six times the strain that can possibly be put upon it.

WALLS.

The walls are of granite and brick, the inner course being hollow. They are three feet nine inches thick on the ends and three feet three inches on the sides.

GRANITE.

The granite came from the quarry of the H. L. Brown Company in Hallowell close by the spot from which the stone in the original building was taken

STATUE.

The figure of Wisdom which surmounts the dome is of copper covered with gold. It was designed by Mr. W. Clark Noble, the eminent sculptor, who was born within sight of the dome which his handiwork so beautifully crowns. It is a draped female figure. The right upstretched arm bears a pine bough in form of a torch. It is 12 feet in height, and about 15 feet to the torch.

DOME.

The Dome, above base, is of steel and concrete covered with copper.

ROOF.

The roof is of steel and concrete covered with felt and gravel.

FLOORS AND PARTITIONS.

All floors are of steel, hollow tile, and concrete, and all partitions are of hollow blocks.

The entire contract was carried out by the George A. Fuller Company, whose sub-contractors were as follows:

- H. Newton Marshall Co., Boston, Painting & Glazing.
- E. Van Norden Co., Boston, Sheet Metal and Roofing.
- Reed, Steward & Blunt, Skowhegan, Plumbing.
- L. W. Taylor & Co., Boston, Heating & Ventilating.
- McNulty Bros., New York & Chicago, Metal Lathing & Plastering.

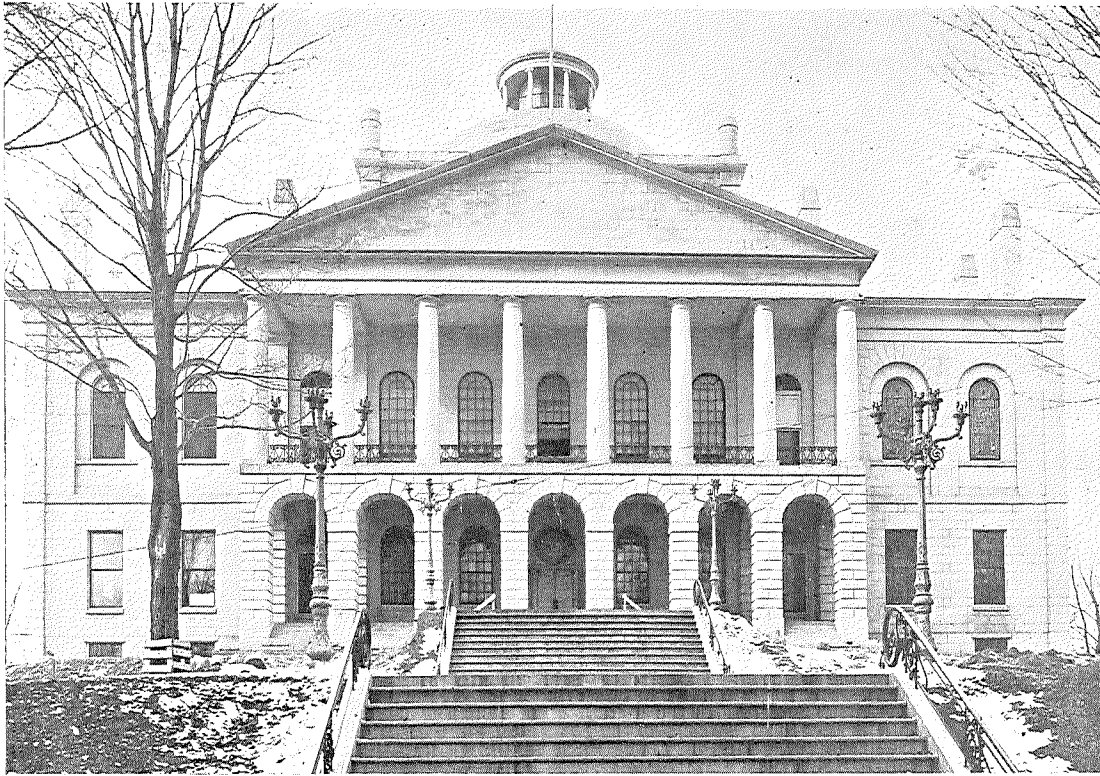
Bowker, Torrey Co., Boston, Marble & Mosaic.
 Boston Bridge Works, Boston, Steel.
 W. J. Grosvenor & Co., Boston, Concrete Floors & Walls.
 Hudson Structural Co., New York, Ornamental Iron.
 Otis Elevator Co., Boston, Elevators.
 Conant & Whiting, Boston, Electric Wiring.
 H. L. Brown Co., Hallowell, Granite.

The work was done under the personal charge of Mr. J. E. Fuller, with Mr. Sherman P. Troy as superintendent of construction.

FINANCIAL.

We submit an account of expenditures as follows:

Appropriation		\$350,000 00
Expenditures:		
Geo. A. Fuller Co.,—Contractor....	\$330,882 40	
G. Henri Desmond,—Architect	16,100 00	
Expenses:		
Advertising	\$393 84	
Stationery, etc.	11 80	
Commissioners' Expenses.	775 07	
Telephones, Telegrams &		
Expresses	149 62	
Steel Inspection	70 50	
Electrical Inspection	24 25	
Plan of Old State House..	73 70	
Binding plans for permanent file	15 00	
	—————	1,513 78
Ruel J. Noyes, Estimates	10 00	
J. H. Cogan & Co., Minor Contracts..	221 00	
Boston Mosaic Co., Marble Work	70 00	
Remington & Sherman, Vault Door...	75 00	
J. L. Mott Iron Works Iron lamp posts,		
No. entrance	200 00	
Reed, Steward & Blunt, Plumbing in		
Barber Shop	35 00	
Messalonskee Electric Co., Wiring for		
Exterior Lighting of Dome.....	415 00	
James A. Glass, Bronze Railings	163 00	
Merrill Bros., Seed and Phosphate ...	53 82	



THE OLD BUILDING

Front after upper terrace had been partially reduced; the central line of steps and the lamp-posts, show the old terrace line. Both banks of steps here shown were cut down to conform to the new grade.

(Photo by Mansur, Augusta.)



THE NEW STATE HOUSE

Taken from open lot east of State Street. The lot is so much lower than the State House, as shown by street wall, that distance from the street to the building itself cannot be shown.

(Photo by Mansur, Augusta.)

Geo. A. Fuller Co., Painting additional to Contract	150 00	
Geo. A. Fuller Co., Work in Dome ad- ditional to Contract	15 00	
Geo. A. Fuller Co., Replacing glass in Marquise	25 00	
	<hr/>	349,929 00
Balance Unexpended		<hr/> \$71 00

As a matter of Public Record, and to give a clearer understanding of what has been done as to the exterior, we append photographs of the old building and the new.

The lower part of the old building could not be seen from the street because of the fort-like terraces which surrounded it. In fact about half of the lower story was below ground, with wells about the windows, to assist in providing light and air. The Commissioners, therefore, decided to reduce the grade, so as to give another full story and have it above ground.

At the center it was lowered about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet and six new steps banked around the front entrance, giving, architecturally, a strength of setting which was lacking before. New granolithic walks were laid and the steps in the approach reduced in number to conform to the new grade. From the center line the ground was sloped in either direction, resulting in the easy roll which you now observe.

In thus reducing the grade the trees had to be removed, and so the forest which surrounded and hid the old State House passed away. It will be possible, now, to have a beautiful lawn, with flowers and low growing shrubs for decoration.

A general idea will be gained as to the work done from the following statement which shows some of the chief items of construction.

Excavation & Foundations:

8,000 cu. yds. Grading.
4,000 cu. yds. Excavation.
17,000 cu. ft. Granite Foundation.
400 yds. Gravel.

Masonry & Granite:

1,400,000 Common Brick.
4,000 bbls. Portland Cement.
1,600 yds. Sand.
1,547 bbls. Lime.
30,000 cu. ft. Cut Granite.

Fireproofing:

8,100 cu. ft. Reinforced Concrete in Dome.
7 tons Reinforcing rods.
37,000 cu. ft. Terra Cotta Floor Arches.
19,000 sq. ft. Fire-proof Partition Blocks.
3,500 sq. ft. Granolithic Floors & Walks.

Plastering:

40,000 sq. yds. Plaster.
1,840 bbls. Lime.
480 yds. Sand.
156 tons of Plaster.
25 tons Hard Mortar.
20 tons Keene Cement.

Miscellaneous Items:

600 tons Structural Steel.
6,000 sq. ft. Marble Tile Floors.
47,000 sq. ft. Finished Wood Floors.
44,000 lbs. Copper in the Roof.
14,000 ft. Iron Conduit for Electric Wires.

RECOMMENDATION.

The large open lot South of the State House and the great broad stretch lying between State Street and the river belong to the State. It seems to the Commission that a comprehensive plan should be adopted for converting this section into a Public Park, a fine setting for the new Capitol.

It would not be necessary to complete the work at once, but the plan should be worked out and adopted and the development made along definite lines.

IN GENERAL.

It would have been better, perhaps, in some minor respects, could we have had more time, but that was impossible, if it were to be ready for the next Legislature.

It has been a great work, attended with many perplexing problems. How well it has been performed an intelligent people will fairly judge.

We must, however, record our keen appreciation of the capacity and fidelity of the Architect and the Builders. From beginning to the end they have endeavored to give good service and accomplish the best possible results. We cannot but feel that the State is under obligations to them beyond what is discharged in dollars and cents.

No provision was made for the compensation of the Commissioners and hence both they and the Secretary have served without pay.

CONCLUSION.

Architect, Builder and Commissioners may be permitted to share in the general pride at what has been accomplished. No human work is perfect. This cannot be an exception to the universal rule. And yet, taken all in all, we feel that reasonable expectations have been fully realized.

We turn over to you a completed building ; beautiful, harmonious, convenient, ample ; built upon honor, built within the time and built within the appropriation ; a building that will stand while the ages roll, and be, we believe, a source of pride to all our people.

Respectfully submitted,

DON A. H. POWERS,
CHAS. W. MULLEN,
FRANK D. TRUE,
BERT M. FERNALD,
CHARLES S. HICHBORN.

Augusta, Maine, Dec. 30th, 1910.