

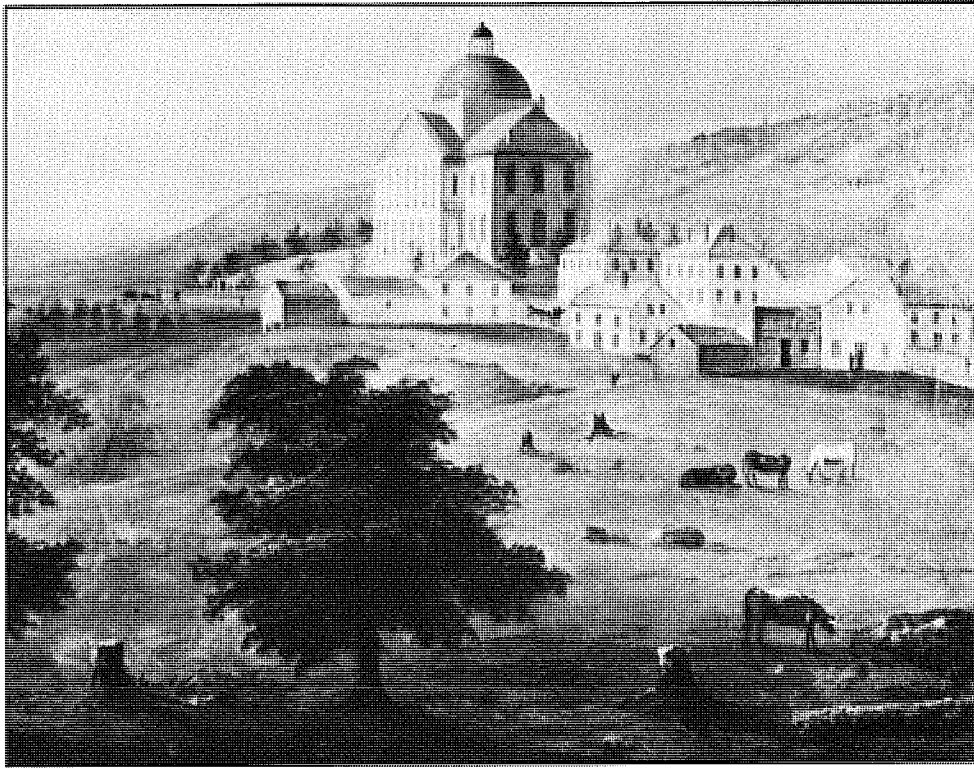
MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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THE STATE HOUSE
AND
THE BLAINE HOUSE



A REPORT TO THE
STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
OF THE
110th MAINE LEGISLATURE

BY THE
MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

1981

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Cover and Title Page: Painting by Charles Codman, 1836, showing the State House with the Blaine House to its immediate right. *Collection of the State of Maine.*

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MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
55 Capitol Street
Augusta, Maine 04333

To: Senator David R. Ault, Chairman
Representative Judy C. Kany, House Chairman
Members of the State Government Committee

As directed by L.D. 777, An Act to Encourage Historic Preservation at the State House and Blaine House, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission is submitting for your review the following study on the preservation and enhancement of the historic and aesthetic integrity of the State House and the Blaine House.

One hundred and fifty years ago, both the State House and the Blaine House were under construction at State and Capitol Streets in Augusta. During the last century and a half these two buildings have been the scene of many historic events and have undergone many changes to their design and fabric. It is this dual nature of the history and architecture of the State House and the Blaine House which this study seeks to explore.

In assessing ways to retain and improve the historic and architectural character of the State House and the Blaine House, the Commission has arrived at a series of recommendations which we view as realistic and attainable goals for the State. While long range physical improvements inevitably constitute the highest budget items, all of our other suggestions can be implemented for relatively small amounts of money, the investment of which will have far reaching effects in enhancing the appreciation of the State House and the Blaine House by residents and tourists alike.

In this fiscally constrained era, it is certain to be asked why should the State spend money for the State House and the Blaine House. The answer lies at the heart of the difficult period in which we find ourselves. It is precisely in times such as these that we gain the strength and confidence we need from the enduring qualities of the form of government and way of life which the two buildings so eloquently symbolize to the people of Maine.

Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.
Director

January 15, 1981

THE STATE HOUSE

INTRODUCTION

The State House in Augusta is the single most public structure in Maine. It serves two distinct but inter-related functions. First, the building is the center of state government. Within its walls the day to day business of the legislative and executive branches of government is carried out. Hence, there is a clear need for functional space in which to conduct the affairs of state.

Secondly, the State House stands as a singular and tangible symbol of the achievements of our past, the vitality of our present, and the aspirations of our future. In its symbolic role, the architecture, both exterior and interior, eloquently reflects the purpose for which the building was designed. From the day of its opening in 1832 through subsequent structural and cosmetic changes, the State House has been a "living museum" whose function might be termed "the manufacture of history". The state of the State House as both the working heart of government and as a symbol is the subject of this part of the report.

BRIEF HISTORY

Any understanding of the State House must take into account the history of its physical development. When Maine separated from Massachusetts and became a state in 1820, Portland was selected as the temporary capitol. A modest two story State House (since destroyed) was erected at Congress and Myrtle Streets to accommodate the government. Though Portland was the largest and most prosperous of Maine's municipalities, there were many who felt that the permanent capitol should be located in a more geographically central as well as a more easily defended place. Within the year Portland was joined by Brunswick, Hallowell, Waterville, Belfast, Wiscasset, and Augusta as leading contenders for capitol status. After careful consideration the Legislature chose the Kennebec River community of Augusta, and Governor Enoch Lincoln signed the bill into law on February 24, 1827.

Appropriately, General William King, the champion of statehood and Maine's first chief executive, was chosen as commissioner of public buildings in 1828. King turned for assistance to the great New England architect Charles Bulfinch, who was then at work on the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. Largely through King's influence, Bulfinch responded in 1829 with a set of drawings for the new Maine State House. These survive today in the collection of the Maine State Library. Concerning this last major work of his career, the architect wrote:

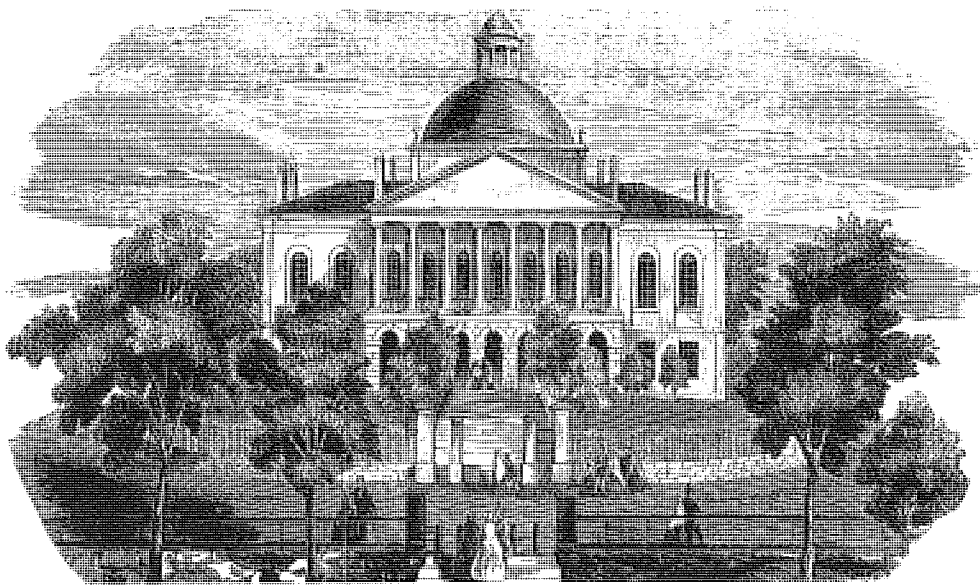
I have endeavored, while preserving the general outline of the Boston State House, to prevent its being a servile copy; and have aimed at giving it an air of simplicity, which, while I hope it will appear reconcilable to good taste, will render it easy to execute in your own material.

Fittingly, the "material" was granite from nearby Hallowell, and Bulfinch's design was a striking transformation of his brick Federal Style Massachusetts capitol of thirty years before into a bold statement of the Greek Revival.

Under the keen eyes of William King, construction of the State House began at "Weston Hill" in Augusta on July 4, 1829. Subsequent commissioners William Clark and Reuel Williams saw it to completion during January of 1832. Through delays and changes in plan, the original cost estimate of \$80,000 rose to the then unheard of figure of \$145,000. In terms of advanced design and careful workmanship, Maine now boasted having one of the most beautiful and modern capitol buildings in the nation.

Though the town of Augusta had become the capitol city, its citizens could not yet rest secure. For the next eight decades Portland made repeated but unsuccessful attempts to recapture the honor. Indeed, Portland's city government buildings were always designed with a thought to housing the entire state government should that possibility arise.

Well into the 20th century, nearly all government offices, including the Museum, the Library, and all of the departments, were housed in the State House itself. As state government grew in scope and size, changes in the building became necessary. The first of these changes was a remodel-



The State House from an engraving in the November 19, 1853,
issue of Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion
Collection of Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.



The State House, ca. 1920
Collection of Maine Historical Society

ing of the interior made at a cost of several thousand dollars in 1857. Need for space increased thereafter, and while two expansion plans were considered, they were not funded. In 1889, after another attempt to move state government back to Portland, approval to enlarge the building was granted. Between 1890 and 1891, Boston architect John Calvin Spofford's design for a three story rear wing was carried out. The addition provided an area for the State Library as well as badly needed office space. The wing was constructed of matching granite, and its restrained Neo-Greek Revival lines were designed to harmonize with Bulfinch's original concept. The last attempt to dislodge the capitol from Augusta failed in 1907, but the debate made the inadequacy of State House interior working space painfully apparent. This time another Boston architect, G. Henri Desmond, was selected to undertake the final expansion.

Desmond's plans radically altered both the outside and inside of the State House. Using matching granite, Desmond more than doubled the length of the building by adding large wings to the north and south sides. To compensate for this horizontal expansion, he replaced the low saucer dome with one of copper-covered steel which rises 185 feet. Atop this was placed a gold-covered figure representing Wisdom, executed by the Gardiner sculptor W. Clark Noble. Constructed between 1909 and 1910 at a cost of \$350,000, these changes mark the final architectural evolution of the Maine State House. The only Bulfinch features to survive the Desmond expansion are the impressive portico and front wall behind and adjacent to it. In all, any contemporary consideration of the Capitol must recognize it as a fine public building reflecting the interior and exterior esthetics of 1910. Virtually no permanent physical changes have occurred since that date.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following observations and recommendations fall into two major categories, Interpretation and Physical Improvements:

Interpretation

The most obvious problem to confront today's visitor to the State House is the lack of available information and direction. The first time visitor is left to wander the corridors on his or her own, being compelled to seek information from the nearest office or passerby. This is a serious public relations problem, but one which can be confronted and solved.

One step toward dealing with this problem has already been taken. The Maine Historic Preservation Commission is currently publishing a guide book to the State House, using funds from this study order matched with Federal funds. This is the first guide book of its kind since *Maine's Capitol*, which was compiled by the Federal Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration and sponsored by the State Department of Education in 1939. That guide book has been out of print for forty years and contains long outdated information. The new guide book will explore the history of the State House and will allow visitors to take a meaningful tour of the premises. We recommend that the Legislature appropriate biennially to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission the funds necessary to continue the new guide book in print as a courtesy to the public. Further, we recommend that the Legislature make an additional appropriation to the Commission to prepare and publish a detailed book length history of the State House. Such a book, comparable in scope to Dr. H. Draper Hunt's *The Blaine House: Home of Maine Governors* (published in 1974 by the New Hampshire Publishing Company and the Maine Historical Society with funds provided by the Maine Legislature and the Governor's Office), would fill a need. It is rather astonishing that no book about the Maine State House has been written during the last century and a half. Such a void in our political and cultural history clearly needs filling. Traditionally, school field trips to Augusta have required written reports about the Capitol building. While the leaflet *Maine: The Pine Tree State* is useful and available, it does little more than whet the

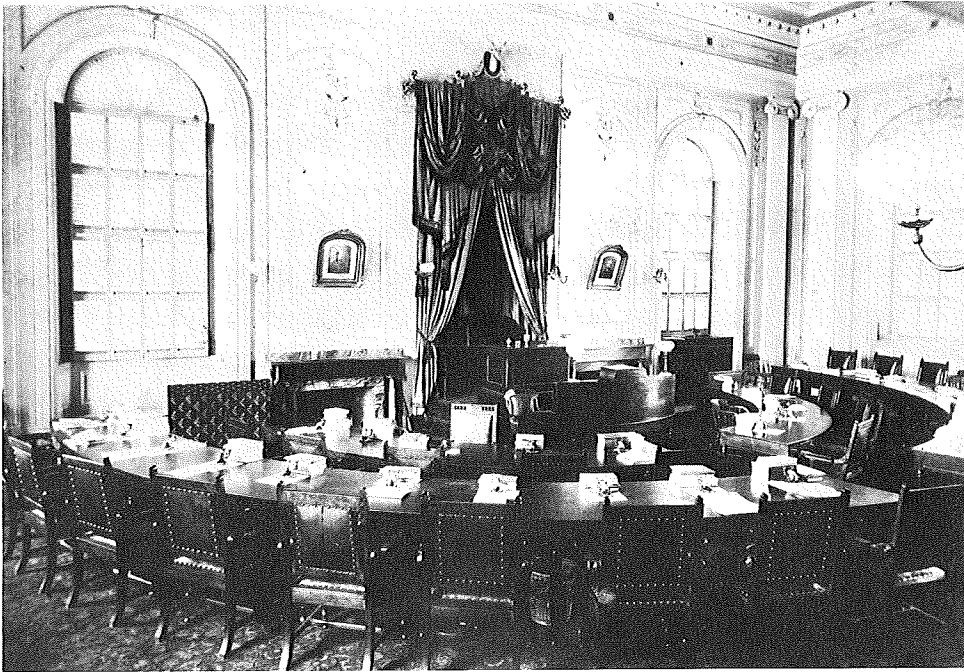
appetite of older students. At present there is no coherent reference source for meaningful information about the State House. The proposed book would serve as an enduring piece of research for future generations of Mainers young and old.

Presently the Bureau of Public Improvements, which is charged with the maintenance of the State House, provides one full time guide, primarily for school and other organized group visits. Given the number of visitors to the building, this is insufficient, and the expansion of the guide service is recommended. Toward this end several approaches are possible. First, the Bureau of Public Improvements guide could be made responsible for co-ordinating a volunteer program for guides during the off-season (September-May). Such non-paid guide programs have been successful in other parts of Maine, especially the current docent programs at Greater Portland Landmarks and the Portland Museum of Art. Still, the need for at least one trained professional at the core of any project is crucial for effective administration and accurate transmission of information.

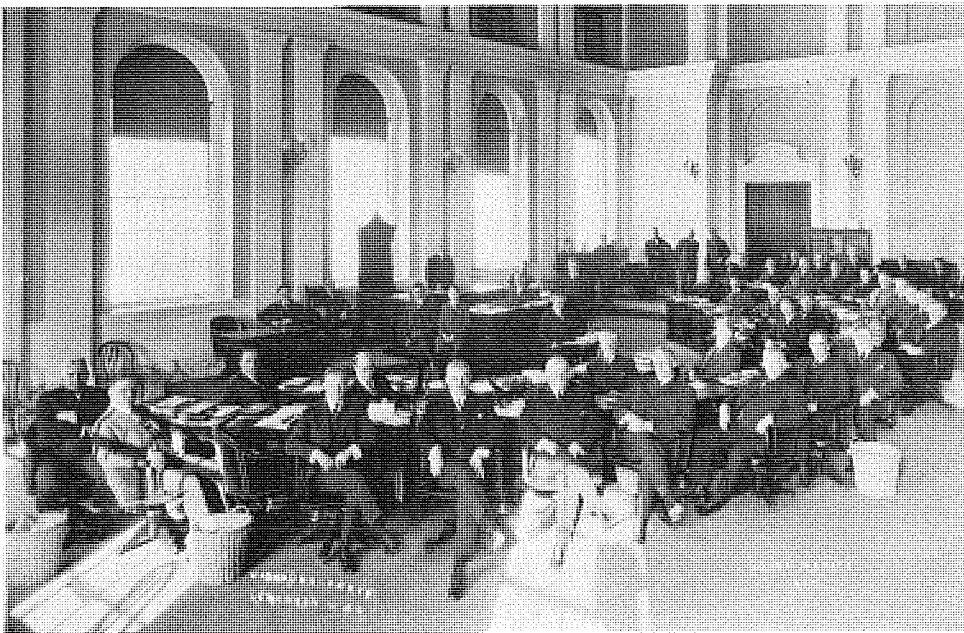
Secondly, consideration should be given to full-time paid student guides during the busy season (June-August). Participants in such a program could be selected on the basis of scholastic standing, public speaking ability, and interest in history. Both volunteer and paid guides would present the Capitol building and Maine in the best light. They could be trained to provide both specific information about the State House and general information about Maine.

We also recommend that the Bureau of Public Improvements install courtesy telephones to provide information relating to the State House and the Capitol complex. Further, while the Bureau has done a commendable job of posting Capitol complex maps at strategic points in the building, we recommend that the additional posting of State House floor plans should be made at all entrances and next to the elevators on each floor. Such floor plans would assist the visiting public and facilitate pedestrian traffic within the building.

Of the several entrances to the State House, it is the south wing door, opening on the former State Museum space, that introduces most visitors to the building. This is due to its proximity to parking areas and to the



The old Senate Chamber, ca 1870
Collection of Edith L. Hary



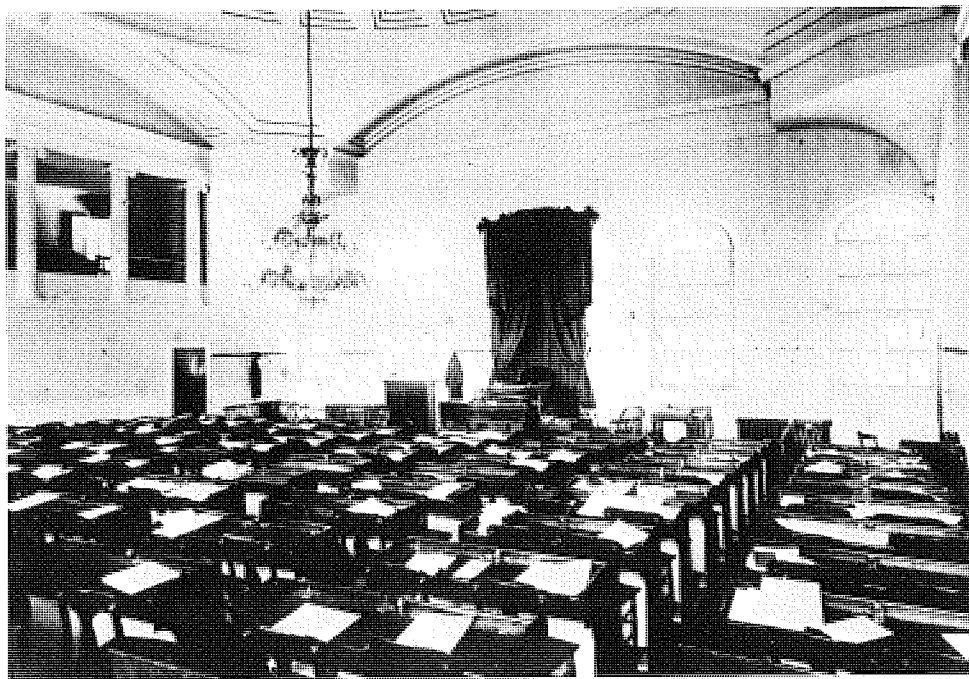
The new Senate Chamber, 1917
Collection of Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.

Cultural Building. Presently, the visitor who enters here is confronted by a curiously unexplained room which resembles little more than a drab bus station waiting area. Once a high point of trips to Augusta, this area served as the State Museum from 1910 to 1971. Currently, the space contains four fine nature dioramas by the late artist and naturalist Klir A. Beck, which we recommend should be retained in place. On the right side of this room is a large case once housing the trout pond exhibition and now used for rotating displays of Maine crafts and products. On the left side, half of the space has been temporarily partitioned off for legislative committee offices. Down the corridor from this area toward the center of the Capitol are additional glass cases which are also used for the display of crafts and products.

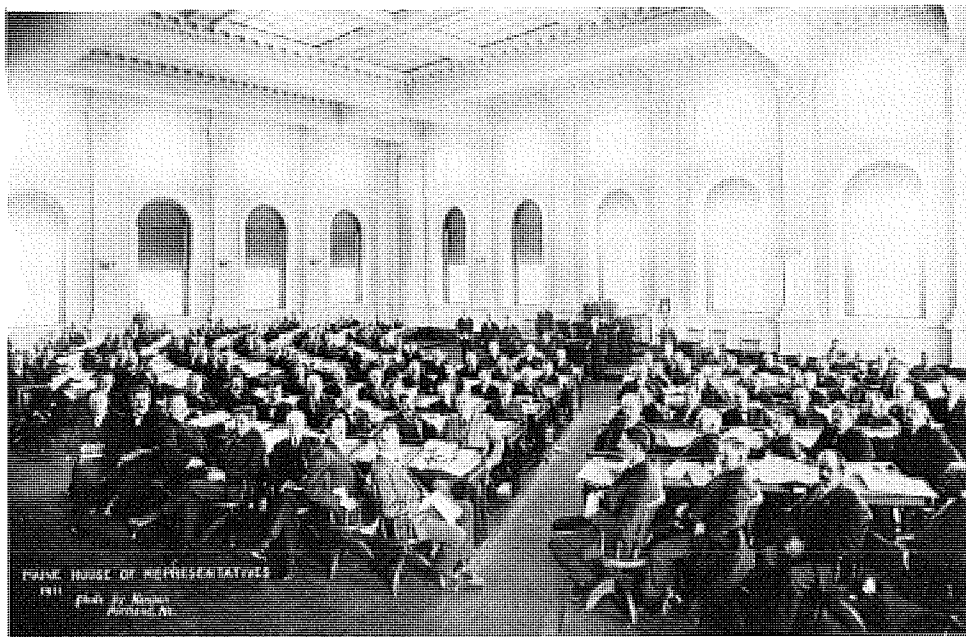
The creative reuse of the former State Museum space as a staging ground for State House tours and as an area for public interpretation could take several or all of the following forms. Much would depend, however, on how much space could be employed. Serious consideration should be given to the removal of the temporary legislative committee offices as soon as the Attorney General's staff is moved to new offices in the State Office Building. The removal of these offices together with the former trout pond display case would be relatively simple, since they are not structural parts of the building.

Should these removals occur, the opening up of the former State Museum area would be complete, thus making available a functional starting point for visitors. Beginning from a position of strength, the Beck wildlife dioramas offer a graphic and exciting introduction to the State. In another part of the room, an area could be found for the two plaques associated with Governor Percival Baxter which are now located near the corridor entrance. These plaques, combined with the Governor's bust, presently in the Hall of Flags, and his portrait could comprise an impressive memorial to him. The present location of the Baxter bust competes inappropriately with the design of the Hall of Flags, and its relocation should be considered in any event.

The proposed Baxter grouping could be one segment of a revitalized former State Museum area. Interpretive wall panels together with selected portraits, landscapes, historical objects, or large format photographs



The old House Chamber, ca. 1870
Collection of Edith L. Hary



The new House Chamber, 1911
Collection of Edwin L. Pert

could serve to orient the visitor. Changing or permanent exhibits could take several approaches. Subjects might include the historical development of the State House, the present day functions of the building, important moments in Maine political history, short biographical sketches of leading public servants, or such basic civics lessons as "How a Bill Becomes Law". A reconstruction of the Old State Museum itself could be an exciting introductory display. The effective use of the area, no matter what approach is chosen, should be carefully considered with an eye toward interesting and educating the visitor. Here is the gateway to the State House where the public's first impressions are formed. To a lesser extent, the entrance to the State Office Building tunnel plays a similar role. Installation of a smaller set of interpretive or informational panels in this area would be useful.

In conjunction with improving the former State Museum area, we recommend that the tour guide's desk be moved to this area. At present the desk is located down the corridor underneath a staircase. Its relocation would result in greater public awareness of this service, especially if it were to be expanded.

Once the visitor passes through the former State Museum area, he or she is confronted by a variety of rooms. Offices and major work areas including the Senate, House, and Executive Chambers are attractive and well cared for. Also worthy of commendation are the State Law Library and exhibition area adjacent to the Governor's Office. The latter, administered cooperatively by the Governor's Office and the Maine State Commission on the Arts and Humanities, provides the visitor with changing examples of the best of Maine contemporary art. In its present location, it does nothing to detract from the 1910 flavor of the State House interior. Indeed, it provides a great deal of meaningful pleasure.

A major concern of this study focuses on the state of public spaces and what can be done to enhance them. Included in the grouping are the Hall of Flags, the Rotunda and major corridors. The Hall of Flags was designed as the centerpiece of the building with the front door opening on this tile and colonnaded room. The space is primarily ceremonial rather than functional, although consideration should be given to its use for concerts and other performing arts events. The military banners and cases, ar-

ranged by Monmouth artist Harry Cochrane, have long been a fixture of State House visits. Flanked by portraits of major political personalities, this is basically a handsome room. One obvious problem is the current central positioning of the Baxter bust and its circular brass guard rail. As a work of art, it is the wrong scale for the size of the room and competes nervously with the rest of the furnishings. As previously stated, we recommend that this be moved to the former State Museum area as part of interpretive displays there.

We encourage continuing the tradition of collecting portraits of governors and other important public servants for the State House. In addition, we recommend the acquisition of appropriate landscape, maritime and historical paintings of Maine to be hung in public areas. Further, much of the furniture in public areas has been brought into use with little thought to its appropriateness in relation to the style of the building. We recommend that such pieces be replaced by original furniture now owned by the State and in storage or by reproduction pieces which could be made by Maine craftsmen. We recommend that an appropriation of not less than \$5,000 per biennium be made to the Maine State Museum for the purposes of furnishing the State House with works of art and appropriate furniture. This would insure the development of a permanent collection to enhance the building's character.

Physical Improvements

Throughout the lower corridors and in the Hall of Flags itself, the visitor is struck by the depressing color scheme. The elimination of institutional green and yellow from the color vocabulary is essential. Already the Bureau of Public Improvements has begun a successful program to improve upon the existing colors. A look at the newly painted dome interior and upper halls shows how well the intrinsic beauty of the architecture emerges with better chosen colors.

Lighting in public areas presents a two-fold problem. Except where the elegant 1910 fixtures have been retained in the Hall of Flags and House and Senate Chambers, light sources throughout the State House reflect a

hodge-podge of poor taste from various decades of this century. Worse, they often fail to accomplish the task for which they were intended. Direct and indirect lighting should be effectively employed to heighten the architectural quality of key areas and to show the works of art that line the walls to their best advantage. We recommend that a lighting study be conducted to consider the use of original and reproduction period fixtures as well as contemporary methods throughout the building.

As has been noted, the Bureau of Public Improvements is responsible for the maintenance of the State House. Its director, Leighton Cooney, has provided this study with the following list of major physical improvements needed for the State House:

1. Climate Control System **\$1.3 Million**

A complete climate control system will replace numerous individual air conditioners with a central system and will add climate control to the remainder of the State House. While occupant comfort and climate control for equipment has a real value, this recommendation is especially important because it will make the Capitol usable for the display of paintings, furnishings, and other art and historical items that could be placed in the building if the temperature and humidity could be accurately controlled.

2. Rebuild Elevators **\$ 160,000.00**

3. Complete Replacement of Windows with Thermopane **\$ 225,000.00**

4. Floor Tile and Masonry Repair **\$ 50,000.00**

5. General Interior Restoration **\$ 500,000.00**

This project will include lighting restoration, furnishings restoration, and related projects that will enhance the interior public areas of the State House.

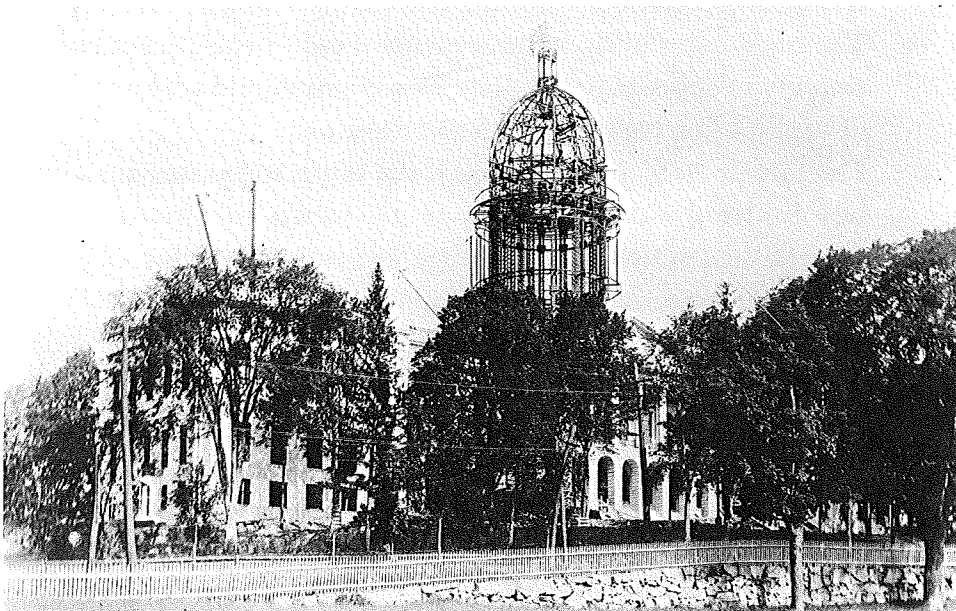
6. Grounds **\$ 200,000.00**

Substantial work around the State House will be accomplished, including such items as the improvement of landscaping and the replacement of the lightposts originally installed in front of the building and replaced after the 1910 renovation of the front steps.

TOTAL	\$2,435,000.00
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The items on this list are important considerations which should be addressed in the long run. Because of the nature of their cost, it is clear that they could only be funded by a Part II appropriation in the Bureau of Public Improvements budget or by a bond issue.

To insure that all future changes are in keeping with the historic and architectural character of the State House, we make a final recommendation that there be inserted into the Bureau of Public Improvements' enabling legislation, a clause stipulating that the Director will consult with the Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission on all major alterations to the building.



The State House under reconstruction in 1910
Collection of Berdan's Antiques, Hallowell

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **INTERPRETATION.** Lack of information and direction is a serious public relations problem. Interpretation of the building's history and function is necessary. Recommendations are as follows:
 - A. Funds should be appropriated biennially to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to keep the State House guide book in print.
 - B. Funds should be appropriated to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to publish a definitive history of the State House.
 - C. The guide service within the State House should be expanded through a program of volunteer and paid personnel.
 - D. The Bureau of Public Improvements should install informational courtesy telephones in the State House and should post floor plans of the building near entrances and elevators.
 - E. The former State Museum area at the south wing entrance should be considered as the focal point of orientation for visitors.
 - F. Within the former State Museum area, consideration should be given to interpretive and informational displays.
 - G. On the wall opposite the elevators near the State Office Building tunnel, an interpretive or informational display on a scale smaller than in the former State Museum area should also be considered.
 - H. An appropriation of \$5,000 per biennium should be provided to the Maine State Museum for the purpose of beginning a program for the acquisition of art works and furnishings appropriate to the public areas of the State House.
2. **PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS:** Physical problems, both major and minor, need to be addressed in the State House. Recommendations are as follows:
 - A. The color scheme, on lines begun recently by the Bureau of Public Improvements, should be continued throughout the State House.
 - B. A lighting study should be conducted to consider the use of original and reproduction period fixtures as well as contemporary methods throughout the building.

- C. Through a Part II appropriation or a bond issue, approximately \$2.5 million should be made available to the Bureau of Public Improvements for interior and exterior renovations and improvements to the State House.
- D. There should be inserted into the Bureau of Public Improvements enabling legislation a clause that the Director will consult with the Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission on all major physical changes in the State House.

THE BLAINE HOUSE

INTRODUCTION

The Blaine House in Augusta has long been one of the most notable residences in Maine. Since 1919 it has served as the official home of the state's chief executive, and as a symbol of government, it is second only to the State House. The house has been a National Historic Landmark since 1964, but, as the home of the statesman James Gillespie Blaine (1830-1893), it has been a venerated political shrine for a much longer time. At once the social showcase of Maine, a working office, and a family living quarters, the structure reflects the pride of the state in its past, present, and future. The Blaine House is a true "state treasure" whose condition as both a functional and symbolic building is the focus of this part of the report.

BRIEF HISTORY

Any understanding of the Blaine House must take into account the history of its physical development. Fortunately, one can turn to H. Draper Hunt's fine book *The Blaine House: Home of Maine's Governors*, which was published in 1974 by the New Hampshire Publishing Company and the Maine Historical Society with funds provided by the Maine Legislature and the Governor's Office.

Construction of the house began while the State House was being erected across the street. On August 24, 1830 the Augusta merchant James Child sold a parcel of land at the corner of State and Capitol Streets to Captain James Hall of Bath. Hall, a retired master mariner, completed building his home in 1833, a year after the Bulfinch Capitol was finished. In every sense, the two structures were born and brought up together. In its original form, Hall's house was a square, hipped roof structure with a handsome colonnaded porch. At some point Captain Hall added an ell to his retirement home.

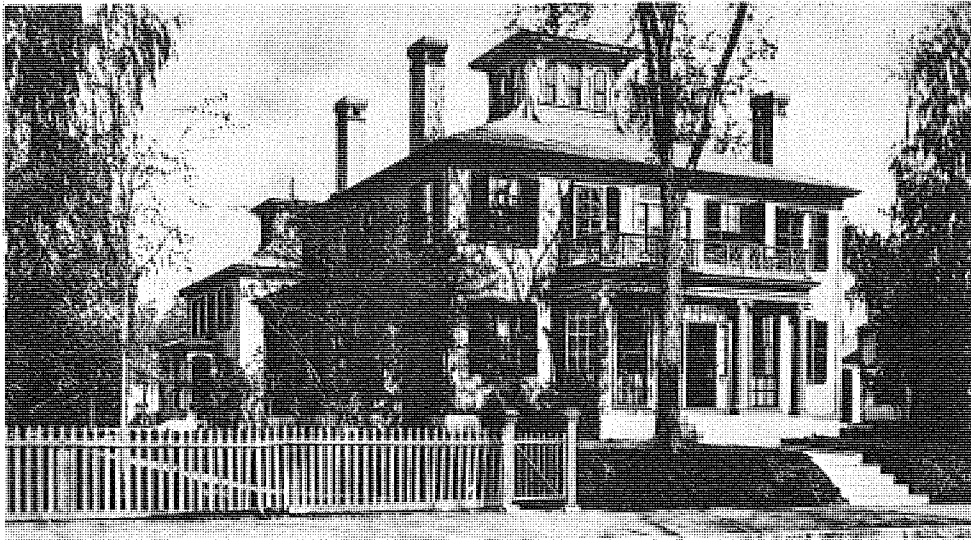
After Hall's death, his sons conveyed the property to their mother, Frances Ann Hall. She remained there until February 22, 1850, when she

sold the house to Greenwood Child, a son of the original land owner. A prosperous local merchant, Child resided there until his death in 1855. On November 20, 1862, J. Rufus Child conveyed house and land to James G. Blaine for the sum of five thousand dollars. At that point the building entered the mainstream of state and national history.

Congressman Blaine presented the deed to his wife, Harriet Stanwood Blaine, as a birthday present, and the family of five moved in. As the politician's family and career grew, so did the shape and size of the house. The Blaine addition, a smaller replica of the old "Hall House", was erected at the end of the ell. It featured a porch and entrance which led to the "Plumed Knight's" study and much prized billiard room. Other changes included the addition of cupolas, the changing of porch styles, and the lowering of chimneys. By 1872 the interior and exterior architecture bore little resemblance to Captain Hall's late Federal period mansion. A visitor to the Blaine House wrote:

There was an air of *use* about the apartments which did not belie the fact. Home, office and headquarters were all under the same hospitable roof. The requirements of a family of eight persons, visiting friends, social callers, and a constant stream of political pilgrims left no room for that apartment of sacred seclusion which is so near to the heart of the New England housewife. The entire house and its appointments seemed dedicated to use and comfort. In nothing was there any aim at ostentation.

The family also had a cottage at Bar Harbor and a mansion in Washington, D.C., but the house in Augusta was always "home". Here Blaine mapped his political strategy, relaxed on the lawn, entertained, and in 1879 was the target of an aborted assassination attempt. Blaine's years of residency in Augusta were ones of tumult. When he bought the property, he had just won election to Congress after having been editor of the *Kennebec Journal* and having served in the Maine Legislature and as Chairman of the Republican State Committee. He would subsequently rise to become Speaker of the House, United States Senator, Republican presidential candidate, and Secretary of State under Presidents Garfield and Harrison. A statesman of rare ability, James G. Blaine was by all odds the most prominent Maine political figure of the 19th century.



The Blaine House, ca. 1905
Collection of Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.



The Blaine House, ca. 1920
Collection of Maine Historical Society

After Blaine's death in 1893, his wife Harriet continued to live in the Augusta house. She died in 1903, leaving shares of the property to several members of the family. For a time, apartments were rented to young politicians. By 1917 Walker Blaine Beale, the Senator's grandson, had obtained five of the eight shares of the house. Having joined the army, Beale offered his family home as a headquarters for the Maine Red Cross war effort. Upon his death in battle the following year, his shares as well as those of his father came to his mother, Harriet Blaine Beale.

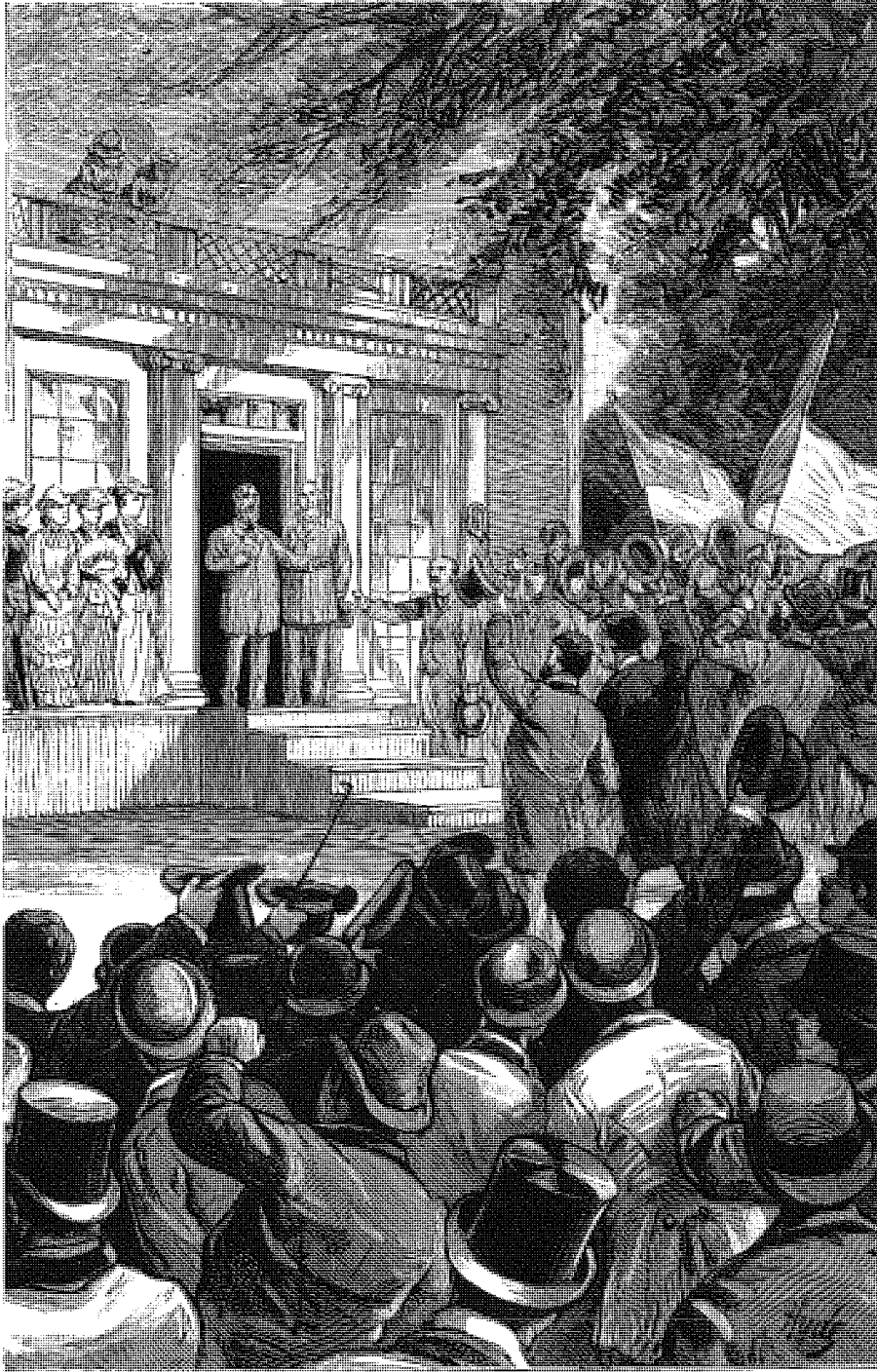
In 1915 the Maine Legislature had required the governor to have an official residence in Augusta. The Legislature had considered buying the Blaine House for such a purpose. Mrs. Beale, however, chose to present the property to the State of Maine in the name of her son, Walker Blaine Beale, and as a memorial to her father. The deed was received on March 11, 1919. Contiguous property was purchased and a neighboring building torn down in order to improve the grounds. The noted Portland architect John Calvin Stevens was engaged to design major interior and exterior alterations. A new wing was added to the rear for service functions, the "Sun Room" replaced the old veranda, and the house was modernized in keeping with its historic character. Over the years, subsequent administrations have made interior changes, particularly in the work and living areas. The exterior has been little altered since the family of Governor Carl Milliken first resided there in 1920.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following observations and recommendations fall into two categories, Interpretation and Physical Improvements:

Interpretation

In contrast to the State House, the Blaine House affords a more controlled situation for interpretation. It is open to the public at specific hours, and it is staffed by persons well trained in explaining its history and functions. As an historic residence, the house speaks for itself, and the use of interpretive displays, as suggested for the State House, would be inappropriate. It has also been the focus of a thorough and readable



James G. Blaine addressing delegates to the Republican
National Convention, at his residence in Augusta
(Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, June 21, 1884)
Collection of Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.

book-length study. However, we do recommend that an interpretive guide book be published and that funds be allocated to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for that purpose. In addition, a biennial appropriation should be provided to keep such a guide book in print for future visitors.

Seventeen governors and their families have lived in the Blaine House since 1920. Their various tastes and life-styles are reflected in the interior.

In its public areas, the house presents itself well as the state's official residence. The one obvious concern is for appropriate paintings and furniture in the public rooms. Since 1920 the one unchanged room has been the Victorian study of James G. Blaine. Still boasting original woodwork, furnishings, and memorabilia, it is itself a "state treasure" and should always remain so. Adjacent to the study, Governor Joseph E. Brennan has carried out an important interior restoration project. The historic Billiard Room, one of the most frequently praised interiors during Blaine's residency, has been authentically returned to its former elegance.

While no additional changes are recommended for other rooms at this time, a need for long term consistency in furnishing the public rooms is clear. The handsome and much commented-upon 19th century Maine landscapes and marine paintings now seen throughout the first floor are loan objects from such collecting institutions as the Maine Historical Society and the Portland Museum of Art. Given the temporary nature of such loans, the Blaine House needs a permanent art collection which will accurately portray the state's history and resources to the visiting public. In view of the age and style of the house, this collection should be assembled from works painted before 1920. We recommend that an appropriation of not less than \$5,000 per biennium be made to the Maine State Museum to purchase appropriate paintings as well as furniture for the Blaine House. We further recommend that the State Museum continue to be actively in search of Blaine family objects as well as other objects relating to the history of the house which might be acquired through gift or purchase.

Physical Improvements

Because of conditions set forth in Harriet Blaine Beale's gift and because of its status as a National Historic Landmark, any major exterior changes to the Blaine House are neither proper nor possible. The Bureau of Public Improvements has consistently provided the property with first rate and well considered care. However, like the State House, the age of the structure demands an upgrading of its physical plant over the long run. Bureau of Public Improvements Director Leighton Cooney has provided this study with the following list of major physical improvements needed for the Blaine House:

1. Climate Control System	\$200,000.00
The same reasoning used for the State House applies to the Blaine House.	
2. General Interior Restoration	\$100,000.00
3. Grounds	\$100,000.00
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TOTAL	\$400,000.00

The items on this list are important long term considerations. Again, because of the nature of their cost, it is clear that they could only be funded by a Part II appropriation to the Bureau of Public Improvements budget or by a bond issue.

To insure that all future changes are in keeping with the historic and architectural character of the Blaine House, we make a final recommendation that there be inserted into the Bureau of Public Improvements' enabling legislation a clause stipulating that the Director will consult with the Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission on all major alterations to the building.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **INTERPRETATION:** In contrast to the State House, the Blaine House affords a more controlled situation for interpretation. Members of the Blaine House staff provide tours of the mansion, and a formal history of the house has been published.
 - A. Funds should be appropriated to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to publish a Blaine House guide book.
 - B. Funds should be appropriated biennially to keep the Blaine House guide book in print.
 - C. An appropriation of \$5,000 per biennium should be provided to the Maine State Museum for the purpose of beginning a program for acquisition of art works and furnishings appropriate to the public rooms of the Blaine House.
2. **PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS.** Recommendations are as follows:
 - A. Through a Part II appropriation or a bond issue, approximately \$400,000 should be made available to the Bureau of Public Improvements for interior and exterior renovations and improvements to the Blaine House.
 - B. There should be inserted into the Bureau of Public Improvements' enabling legislation a clause that the Director will consult the Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission on all major physical changes to the Blaine House.



The James G. Blaine Study
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