

5-23-73

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: Sacramento	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 3 1973

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
California State Capitol

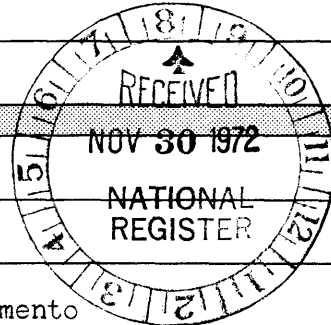
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
California's State Capitol

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Between 10th & 16th Streets, L and N Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Sacramento

STATE California	CODE 06	COUNTY: Sacramento	CODE 067
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#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of California

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Sacramento	STATE: California	CODE 06
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#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Sacramento	STATE: California	CODE 06
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#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Dept. of Parks & Recreation - National Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 8/15/72  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Department of Parks and Recreation

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1416 - 9th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Sacramento	STATE: California	CODE 06
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: California

COUNTY: Sacramento

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 3 1973

DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Since 1854 Sacramento has been the capitol of California. To begin with, Sacramento was a river town; one of the main gateways to the Mother Lode in the days of '49. Traffic up the river toward the mines made Sacramento. Its selection as capitol after only four years of statehood assured its success.

The capitol building stands in the heart of the city; a tall white structure crowned by an imposing dome, and surrounded by Capitol Park. It was begun in 1860 and finished in 1874. It has been modernized in part several times, the last being completed in 1954 when additional office space was attached to the rear of the structure.

Its original architect was Frederic Butler who designed the building in modified Renaissance style--sometimes called Federal or Republican. Undoubtedly Butler was influenced by the National Capitol, then in process of being modified from low flat dome to tall colonnaded style, like that of the Pantheon in Rome, St. Pauls in London, and St. Peters in Vatican City.

When first completed, the Capitol rose majestically from low terraces, its austere exterior relieved by statues poised on a balustraded railing. Later landscaping, the growth of numerous trees, and the removal of the statuary altered the appearance of the Capitol to a degree, but architecturally the massive dome, its facade and vast portions of the building remain the same as originally designed.

Construction of the Capitol was beset with numerous problems. It was evident from the first that the amount of money estimated for its construction was inadequate thus forcing special levies in property taxes, and intermittent periods of halt in construction.

Gradually, however, the building grew, the dome and porticos were completed and the interior was embellished according to decorative ideas of the period. In 1874 the Capitol was declared complete.

In 1906-08 a basement was completed and the roof was raised allowing office space in what had been the attic; the balustrade was removed and with it the statues; the building was rewired and repainted; fireplaces were removed and steam heating installed.

The Capitol faces west toward the Sacramento River. The old portion has four stories and a basement; the east wing (built in 1954) six stories and a basement garage. From the center rises the tall gold-capped dome, its base surrounded by a colonnade. The pinnacle is 319+ feet above ground level. The vertical lines of the buildings main mass offset the long horizontal lines. From the concrete base of the foundation to the bottom of the dome, the original capitol is built of hard-burned brick,

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7. Description

with a facing of granite on basement and ground floors. Between the gray granite of the lower floor and the gold of the dome the building is painted stark white. Columns and ornamentation are of iron.

A broad granite entablature between the first and second floors supports flat square pilasters ending in Corinthian capitols. Just below the ornamented cornice that surrounds the building, windows are set within the pilasters.

Dominating motifs of the south and north building sides are identical projecting porticos; these cornices are supported by five fluted columns with Corinthian capitols. Each has a balustraded balcony paved with black and white marble squares opening from the second story.

The principal accent in the west facade is a handsome portico supported by seven granite archways. It rises the full height of the building, surmounted by a pediment above the cornice. Its eight fluted columns, capped with Corinthian capitols are arranged with the center four widely spaced, flanked by closely spaced pairs.

The triangular pediment contains five allegorical figures designed in clay by Pietro Meyzara and cast in ground stone. The central figure is Minerva. On her right sits Education and Industry; on her left is Justice and Mining.

Set in the west foreground approaching the Capitol is a solid bronze seal of the State of California, 9 ft. 10 in. in diameter, and weighing 3,400 pounds.

The Capitol has six entrances--one on the west, two on the north and south and one on the east.

The interior of the building reflects the highest form of period decor. Foyer walls are of pinkish Utah sandstone, with white marble bases, inset with panels of beautifully veined Inyo County onyx, framed in California marble. The vaulted ceiling is finished in creamy plaster lined in white to simulate masonry joints. Squares of alternate black and white marble pave the floor.

The rotunda is the most striking architectural feature of the interior. It is 53.5 ft. in diameter, with the domed skylight 125 ft. above the floor. Its thick walls are of brick set in extremely hard mortar. Four groups of mural paintings decorate the lower walls. These were commissioned in 1913 by the State Legislature, and done by artist Arthur Mathews. The portraits are of events and phases in California history.

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COUNTY	
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7. Description

Another feature of the rotunda's lower floor is a statuary group in white Carrara marble depicting Columbus and Isabella. This was done by Larkin Goldsmith Meade (1825-1910) and presented to the State by Darius Ogdan Mills, pioneer Sacramento banker.

The rotunda balcony, circular in shape, contains twelve display areas showing historic flags borne by Californians at home and abroad. Around the walnut railing of the balcony are displayed ten flags which have at one time or another flown over California. These include the Spanish Empire flag (Sept. 28, 1542 to 1785); the flag of England (June 17 to July 23, 1579); the Spanish National Ensign (1785-1822); the flag of the American-Russian Fur Company (Sept. 10, 1812 to Dec. 12, 1841); the Buenos Aires flag (flown in Monterey on Dec. 15-16, 1818); the Mexican flag (April 11, 1822 to July 7, 1846); the Fremont flag (carried by Fremont on his western exploration trips); the Bear flag (June 14, to July 9, 1846); the Stars and Stripes (which was raised over Monterey at the outbreak of the Mexican War) and the present flag of the United States.

Besides the customary offices and corridors of the balance of the old part of the building, occupying the eastern half of the south wing of the main Capitol is the Senate Chamber, entered from the second floor corridor through two tall paneled and richly carved doors. The whole of the Senate Chamber is sumptuously furnished in traditional red and warm gray decor. Features of the room include gilded Corinthian columns, burgundy brocade draperies, a visitor's gallery, burgundy carpeting and desks of carved black walnut with red leather tops.

The Assembly Chamber, located off the opposite end of the second floor corridor, is identical in overall features except that the decor is done in the traditional "Assembly Green". In dimensions it is 78 ft. deep, 72 ft. wide, and 35 ft. high--somewhat larger in proportion than the Senate Chamber.

Entrance to the visitor's gallery are at the end of the third floor corridors. This corridor, running north and south, as does the fourth floor corridor, provides additional office and committee rooms.

The newer part of the building (or annex) is 6 stories in height. Completed in 1954, it contains the governor's office, a series of display cases which exhibit many of the individual counties' resources and industries, as well as a number of private offices for use of the legislators.

Capitol park, covering ten undivided city blocks in downtown Sacramento, serves as the site for the State Capitol. It is famed for its thousands of shrubs, trees, flowers and spacious lawns.

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7. Description

With more than 800 varieties of plants represented, Capitol park is acknowledged as one of the finest city parks in the country.

Building Measurements:

Height of building from street level to top elevation of ball on dome, 219.96 ft.

Height of building (not including dome), 78 ft.

N.S. dimensions of Capitol (including porticos), 312 ft.

E.W. dimensions of Capitol (including west portico and east entrance), 385 ft.

Ground area covered by old Capitol, 34,561 sq. ft.

Ground area covered by new wing, 57,193 sq. ft. -- Total: 91,754. sq. ft.

Condition: The old portion of the Capitol will require strengthening and a certain amount of repair. The new portion is architecturally sound, though will require additional office facilities within the near future.



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1860-1874

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

California's Capitol is without doubt one of the most significant structures in the State. It represents a modern, progressive government, firmly based on a tumultuous, fascinating history. It is a blending of the traditional with the modern and efficient, it is the seat of a dynamic and fast-moving society.

In it the California Legislature meets annually. It reflects somewhat the same relation to the State, as Washington, D.C. does to the Nation. It represents the life and industry of its people. For clarity, its history must go back beyond the time of its construction, to eras beyond the discovery of the land. It has its tie with aboriginal man in California, with the age of discovery by doughty sea farers and by foot weary explorers; it has its tie with the affairs of church and state, with Manifest Destiny, with the Gold Rush, transcontinental transport, war and peace, and the demand for better government. It is the cornerstone of California. As such, it is part of the main stream of America.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

California's State Capitol - State Dept. Finance. 1960

California's State Capitol - W.P.A. Writers Project. 1942

California - Secretary of State - Archives, State Capitol.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	38°	34'	40"	121°	29'	36"		
NE	38°	34'	35"	121°	29'	12"		
SE	38°	37'	27"	121°	29'	15"		
SW	38°	34'	33"	121°	29'	39"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 36.8 Acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Allen W. Welts, State Park Historian III

ORGANIZATION: Department of Parks and Recreation      DATE: 8/15/72

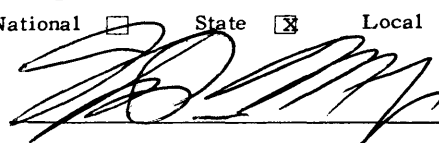
STREET AND NUMBER:  
1416 - 9th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Sacramento      STATE: California      CODE: 06

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National     State     Local

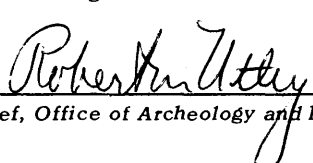
Name 

Title State Liaison Officer

Date NOV 8 1972

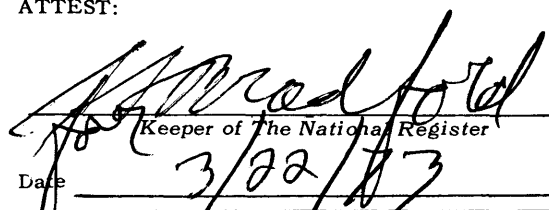
**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/3/73

ATTEST:

  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3/22/73

NW 10/631810/270630 NW 10/631230/4270100  
 SE 10/631740/4270100  
 SW 10/631160/4270590  
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS