

IOWA WAR MEMORIAL AND ARCHIVES BUILDING, TENTATIVE PLAN
PROPOSED

Located on Capital Grounds adjacent to and a part of the State Historical, Memorial
and Art Building

ANNALS OF IOWA

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

WAR MEMORIAL AND ARCHIVES BUILDING

A second world war and total war became a reality by act of Congress in December 1941, and immediately thereafter the State of Iowa inaugurated a definite program for the preservation of whatever could be obtained or made known of the contribution of Iowa people or Iowa industry and production to the winning of the war.

The scope of the work thus entered upon, under the auspices of the State Department of History and Archives, included not only what was being done in military and naval lines but on the home front, since it was evident this was to be not only a world war but a total war. That work of war record collecting has proceeded with unflagging zeal, and increasing intensity, with the result that the present war at least as to Iowa, will be better documented than any other in all history.

Iowa has received national recognition for having commenced early with a clear program directed to a worthy object.

This work of collecting materials related to the present war program, is right in line with the delayed efforts as to previous wars, and complies with a duty imposed on the state and the department at the founding of the latter more than a half century ago. That duty could not have been honorably by-passed. But it has not been easy to divert to this special task energies otherwise committed, and to take on the larger emergency duties without funds ear-marked for the purpose or even elbow-room for the physical necessities of the job.

That which is now proposed is simply continuation and completion of the program long ago planned for preservation of the history of the state—that is, the archives and

records and all possible material information—for which the department was established and long has been maintained. Repeatedly those having the duty of safeguarding the interests of the state have called attention to the growing and expanding needs of a great commonwealth in this respect. It was written into the law that space on the plat of the capital grounds was reserved for this purpose. The biennial report of the department, placed in the hands of members of the Fifty-first General Assembly before the opening of the present session, presented a specific and detailed program to meet these requirements.

The inauguration of this program has been assured by introduction of House File No. 356, by Representatives A. H. Avery of Clay county, Charles S. Van Eaton of Woodbury county and A. G. Redman of Sac county, thus placing it squarely before the general assembly.

This bill provides, in brief, for a Memorial Building commission, an ex-officio body serving without pay, to begin soon the making of a thorough investigation and survey of the needs of Iowa and a study of what is being done at the national capital and in other state capitals, and to plan for a building to be constructed after the war at a cost not exceeding \$900,000.00, the purpose of which is indicated in the following section of the printed bill:

Sec. 6. The design for the said war memorial and archives building shall conform to the general style and appearance of the State Historical, Memorial and Art building, and be located adjacent thereto as designated on the official plat of the capital grounds; and shall be, in general, for the following major uses, namely:

(a) An ample and appropriate war memorial hall or halls, in which to preserve and to make available to the public, the records of Iowa and Iowans in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, the World War I, and the World War II, and to make such records and all materials relating thereto of greatest possible use to all the people.

(b) A modern hall of archives in which to preserve, free from all ordinary hazards, the official state records and all historical or legal manuscripts and related material, and by classifying and cataloguing, make same available at all times, for the use of officials, courts, and historians—all under state control and regulation.

(c) A state museum of history, science, natural history, the arts and industries of the people of Iowa, consolidated and arranged for the convenience of study groups as a part of the state educational system, and for the use of state libraries, if needed, and such other related purposes as may be deemed advisable.

When such building is completed, according to the plans herein provided, the memorial building commission shall turn the same over to the trustees of the state department of history and archives, the same to be under their exclusive control thereafter.

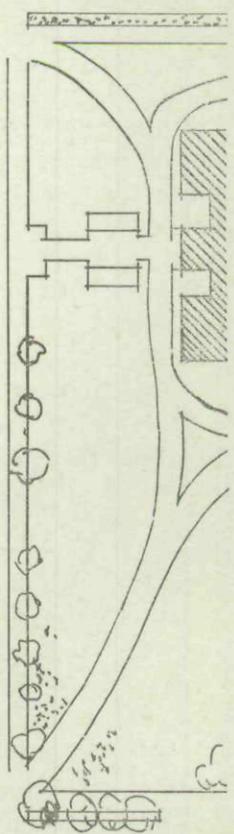
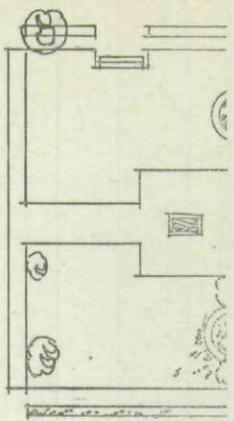
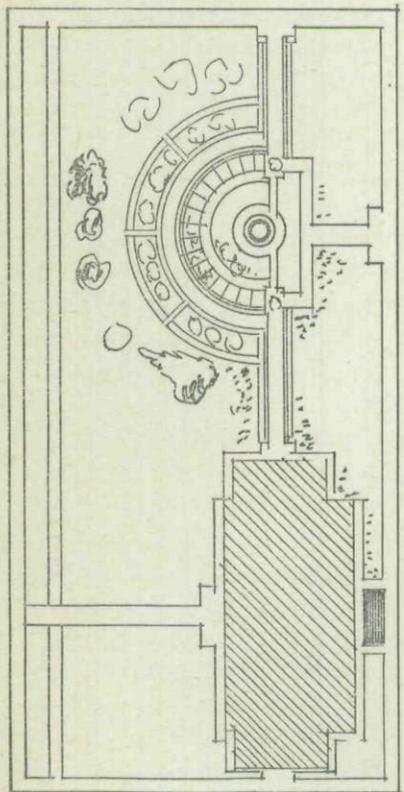
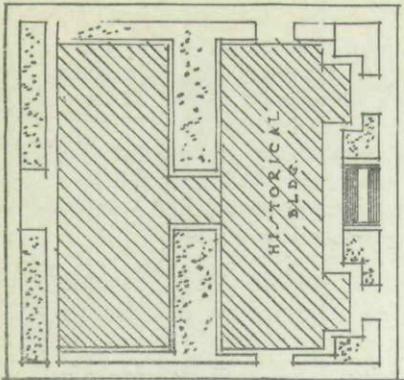
History is the story of the happenings of yesterday and of today carried over into the long tomorrow to light the pathway of humanity.

Iowa has long had enviable repute for serious effort to collect and preserve historical material. The march of time indicates that this is an appropriate year to take the initiative for a suitable war memorial and modern archives building that will harmonize with the lofty sentiments of all the people and serve to honor in some measure the Iowa sons and daughters who are engaged in the battle for liberty. Such memorial would provide a center from which would radiate to all parts of the state the lessons of war in the cause of peace. It would relieve the heart strain upon mothers and wives and children who would find comfort in a shrine dedicated to the sacrifices of their dear ones; not a shaft of cold stone or a bronze symbol of victory, but something that will serve to link together all parts of the story of war and peace.

The proposal is for extensive and thoughtful study of building plans, in the immediate years before it will be possible to actually engage in construction, with the following among other things in view:

A home for the official and unofficial material of every kind touching the record of Iowa and of Iowa people in World War II and all previous wars, concentrated in one place at the state capital, for all legal, administrative, historic and sentimental uses, safeguarded from all hazards and perpetually under control of the state.

A suitable place for the work of the commission on veterans' affairs contemplated in the report of the Iowa postwar rehabilitation commission, to secure efficiency



AREA FOR THE STATE WAR MEMORIAL AND ARCHIVES BUILDING

Part of Official Plat Embodied into Law by the Thirty-fifth General Assembly showing Location Adjacent to the State Historical Building

in the administration of everything pertaining to pensions, benefits, claims and similar matters.

A repository and clearing house for the records of war agencies, draft and ration and similar boards in Iowa, already directed by the war department to be sent to the state capital, for which no place is now available.

Fulfillment of the idea of the Iowa department G. A. R. over thirty years ago for "A Grand Army Corridor," or something similar, for the preservation of all Iowa war records—the same thought frequently and more recently expressed.

Doing substantially that which was embraced in the official plat of the capital grounds twenty-five years ago when the law designated location for precisely the kind of building now proposed, as a necessary addition to the plant of the state for the transaction of public business with special emphasis on historical, legal and educational service.

The state would more fully satisfy the desires of many thousand people of Iowa, young and old, from every county of the state, who visit the state historical building, for study, for information and for understanding of the history of Iowa and of Iowa people. In this way only can Iowa maintain its well earned reputation for leadership in these vital matters.

SUPREME COURT SERIES ENDS

With the group of biographical sketches and portraits of Iowa Supreme Court Justices appearing in this number of *THE ANNALS* the series continuing through this volume is at an end. All individual justices serving for either long or short periods upon the court have been presented. The whole group shown from the July 1944 issue to the present constitute a noteworthy aggregation of prominent and able Iowa attorneys who attained sufficient standing in their profession to be elected to serve upon the highest court of the Hawkeye state.

The editor of *THE ANNALS* is gratified to be able to include this important chapter in the history of Iowa to its

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