

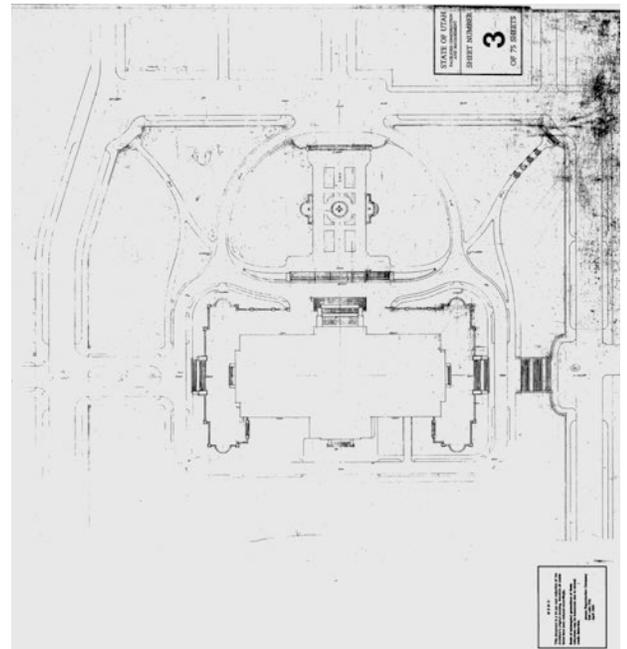
## THE GROUNDS

Because of the size and monumentality of the Capitol building, a careful balance needed to be created with the surrounding land, establishing a feeling of expansiveness and beauty. The grounds slope in each direction, elegantly creating a natural harmony between the geography of the site, landscaping and monuments located on the site. Plants were chosen to create color and interest throughout the seasons—evergreens, cherry trees, and lilacs provide contrast and interest. Perennial flowers—tulips, roses and freshly planted annuals enliven the site.

Originally, the Capitol site included a triangle of about nineteen and a half acres, but because of the peculiar boundary lines and irregular topography, it was necessary to purchase more land for the site. To insure placement of the building itself in a position that dominated and capitalized views from every direction, additional land on both the east and west was bought to leave room for suitable parking, landscaping and to make the site balanced.<sup>140</sup>

The Capitol grounds form the largest urban park in the state. The Capitol is surrounded by forty acres of lawns, paths, rows of trees, flower beds and shrubbery. Walking up the grand staircase to the south, one sees two large blue spruces at the beginning of the walk and a line of Kwanzan trees that frame the circular drive. Elm trees on either side of the front walkway are supposedly related to the American elm trees planted at Mt. Vernon. At the southeast corner, a “Date Garden” which depicts the calendar dates, changing each day, is a lively accent. Because of its dramatic site, from the front steps of the Capitol, it is possible to see the Wasatch and Oquirrh mountain ranges, both named by the Ute Indian tribes: Wasatch—mountains of many rivers—and, Oquirrh—shining mountains.

More than fifty-nine species of trees line the gardens and pathways of the Capitol grounds. The most common tree is the Norway maple. Other species include beech, pine, sycamore, birch, and cedar trees. Some have special significance to the State of Utah. The flowering Kwanzan cherry trees lining the entrance circular driveway were given to the state as a gift from the people of Japan. The beautiful pink and white blossoms each spring provided an inviting backdrop to the meetings of the Salt Lake Flower Garden Club which held its meetings in the lofty marble rotunda of the state Capitol.<sup>141</sup> Planted on each side of the walk near the statue of Chief Massasoit, Copper beech trees were planted to commemorate the bicentennial anniversary of the country. Fifty sycamore seedlings were taken in a voyage to the moon, the tree standing immediately west of the building was one of them. Each state capitol received one to plant on their capitol grounds.



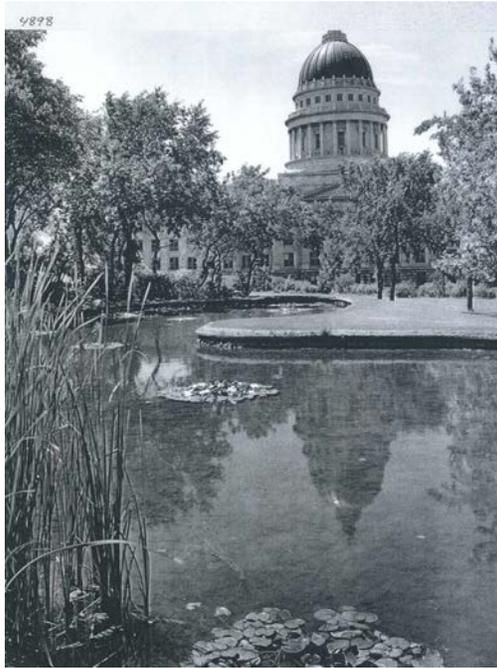
EARLY SITE PLAN BY KLETTING

FLOWERING CHERRY TREES



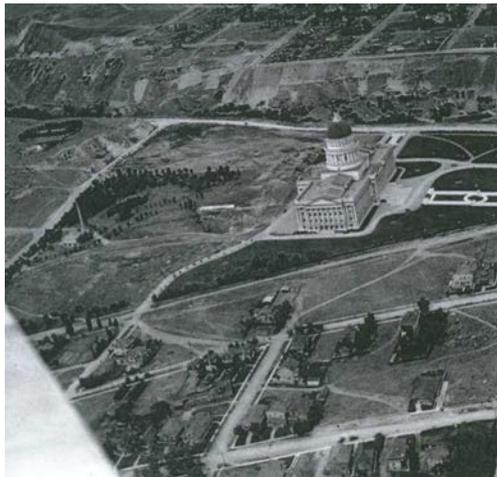
EARLY AERIAL VIEWS

LANDSCAPING OVER TIME



The garden just north of the building, the “Utah Garden,” is shaped like the state of Utah. Flowers and shrubs represent the various cities, lakes, mountains, and other geographical features of the state. Pathways through the garden represent important highways, freeways, or other paths through the state.

A state arboretum was installed at the back of the State Capitol in 1930 as part of the national George Washington Bi-Centennial tree program. A letter written by Secretary of State Milton H. Welling to Mrs. Robert W. Fisher, a Salt Lake City club worker involved in the local observance of the movement, acknowledged the fine work Utah had made in this effort. Specimens of Utah trees from all across the state had been planted in the arboretum during November, including fifteen native lodge pole pines and eleven native cedars. The Forest Service joined with the state in this effort and volunteered \$3,000-\$4,000 to gather and transplant the specimens.<sup>142</sup> Another volunteer who contributed greatly to the landscaping of the grounds was Mrs. E. O. Howard whose personal initiative was recognized for the beautification and adornment of City Creek Canyon.<sup>143</sup>



Over time, the grounds received spotty care and sometimes deteriorated from their original condition. Secretary of State Lamont F. Toronto surveyed the Capitol grounds and found the landscape lacking in 1960. Dandelions and unseeded ground bordered most areas and showed general laxness in care. He said, “We plan to reseed the brown spots as soon as possible. The problem of dandelions also is being attacked.” A spraying program the year before was discontinued because of winds that whipped the spray into bushes and nearby private property. Nevertheless, tulips bloomed in plazas between the Capitol and the parking areas and flowers and flowering trees showed the great potential the grounds still had for being a beautiful landscape.<sup>144</sup>



MEMORY GROVE

In line with the National Shade Tree Conference emphasis on planting trees, state and federal officials in 1965 joined other civic leaders interested in beautifying the Capitol grounds in planting a three foot blue spruce. Thirty people representing organizations interested in landscape improvement attended the ceremony, held at the same time as similar events throughout the state. Mrs. Seymour Wells, Salt Lake City program chair for the national conference, said that at the U.S. Capitol, Mr. and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson would be doing the same.<sup>145</sup>

The Boy Scouts of America “took over on Capitol Hill Saturday” proclaimed the Deseret News, “and the results of their work—unlike the lawmakers—was immediately recognized as they cleaned, mowed, weeded and

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trimmed the Capitol grounds.” Led by Secretary of State Clyde Miller, Rulon W. Doman and Ross J. Taylor, Scout executives “mustered” at 8 am, “armed with shovels, hoes, rakes, wheelbarrows, and clippers.”<sup>146</sup> Miller thanked the boys and asserted that this would “eliminate the need to hire men for work for which there was no money in the budget.” In the past welfare workers had done the work, but were not available in 1966. Therefore, the Scouts’ work was greatly appreciated by the state.<sup>147</sup>

Throughout the year, the Capitol grounds change character as different plants bloom and shift in hue and shape. Secretary of State Miller described the gardens in the fall of 1968, “We’re extremely happy with the grounds. They’re absolutely beautiful. With thousands of richly colored blossoms clustered around the building and thousands more accepting the lush green lawns and broad walkways, the Capitol grounds are becoming a garden of unexcelled beauty.” More than 40,000 individual plants then lined the gardens and walkways of the Capitol grounds-- more than 10,000 geraniums, 7,000 begonias. There were also six foot high calla lilies, multicolored marigolds, coleus, vinca and other bedding plants.<sup>148</sup>

Miller took a particular interest in the Capitol grounds and pushed through many landscaping improvement programs. During the fall of 1969, while considerable renovation of the capitol building itself was underway, workers converted numerous areas of the grounds to grass and ground cover. Fisher Squires, Capitol horticulturist, cleared the steep area directly north of the lower parking lot and planted pfitzera bushes to hinder run-off.

In 1999, the south side of the grounds was viciously attacked by a tornado. The first on record for hitting Salt Lake City, the tornado’s destructive winds uprooted or severely damaged most of the large trees lining the front property line. Fortunately the tornado did no injury to any persons on site or the building.

## MONUMENTS

Monuments surrounding governmental buildings express the *gravitas*, or importance of governmental work. Civic monuments became particularly in vogue in America between 1880 and 1915, a golden age of American public sculpture. A greater historical consciousness aroused by the Civil War, the Spanish American War and the four hundredth anniversary of Columbus’s inaugural voyage, compounded with dramatic social changes at the turn of the century, made concrete expressions of historical and traditional values seem valuable as community markers or points of reference.

When construction of the Capitol was nearing substantial completion, the 1915 legislature turned its attention to the grounds and appointed a commission to select a site for a monument recognizing the Mormon Battalion. The one hundred feet by sixty foot site they chose was located in the southeast corner of the grounds. Gilbert Riswold sculpted the Mormon Battalion monument in 1927. This bas relief sculpture emerged from the rough texture of the rock itself. On each side of the monument are different narratives—to the northwest the enlistment, to the southwest, the march, to the southeast, the arrival of the Pueblo Detachment in the Salt Lake Valley in 1847, and the discovery of Gold in Sutter’s Mill in California in 1848 to the northeast. The Mormon Battalion Monument commemorates the 500 men who traveled from Council Bluffs, Iowa with U.S. Government troops to fight in the Mexican conflict of 1846. By the time they reached Mexico, the conflict had in large measure been resolved so the men traveled to California and some helped start Sutter’s Mill (the site of the beginnings of the Gold Rush). Nevertheless, the money they earned provided critical funding for the settlement of Utah territory.



MASSASOIT (PLASTER) IN THE ROTUNDA

Cyrus Dallin proposed a sculpture of Chief Washakie for the capitol. His original plaster figure was displayed in the Capitol rotunda with a sign soliciting donations for a bronze to be sited on the grounds.<sup>149</sup> Dallin broke up the plaster model, presumably over the reluctance of the Capitol Commission to fund the bronze. He replaced it with the original plaster of his well-known Massasoit. The bronze of Massasoit, chief of the Wampanogas greeting the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock, was first erected at Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1921. In 1927 the Utah-based Nicholas Morgan Sr. Foundation funded a bronze of the statue. It was placed in the gardens in front of the Capitol on a granite boulder on 8 January 1959.<sup>150</sup> The base sits in the center of a circular, textured concrete base with concrete boxes on either side to relate the heroic size of the statue to its outdoor surroundings.<sup>151</sup>

Cyrus Edwin Dallin, perhaps Utah's most well known sculptor, lived until 1944. He received national acclaim for his sculptures which were on display in numerous public buildings in both Utah and the east coast. Born in Springville, Utah, Dallin showed extraordinary talent early on. Educated in Springville, Boston and in Europe, Dallin won numerous honors for his work including the gold medal of the American Art Association, honorable mention at the Paris Salon, and a first class medal at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, 1893 among others.<sup>152</sup> Although the work of a nationally known figure, the Massasoit sculpture was controversial in Utah because he did not represent a local tribe and a debate occasionally surfaced about its suitability for such prominence in the front of the State Capitol.<sup>153</sup>



LIBERTY BELL REPLICA

Inside the Capitol at the top of the stairs leading to the Third Floor is a replica of the Liberty Bell of Philadelphia fame. In 1950 each state was given one by America's smelting and mining industry. Cast in France, each bell was made with the same measurements as the original Liberty Bell. Utah's is the ninth cast.

Avard Fairbanks sculpted the aforementioned statue of Daniel C. Jackling, which stands on the south side of the rotunda.<sup>154</sup> The statue of Thomas L. Kane, great benefactor of the Utah pioneers, was unveiled at a ceremony 11 December 1958 and is also located in the rotunda. Speakers at the unveiling ceremony included LDS church president, David O. McKay, Governor George D. Clyde, Ortho R. Fairbanks, sculptor, Nichols G. Morgan Sr., donor, and Secretary of State, Lamont F. Toronto.<sup>155</sup> Kane was described by one speaker as a man of "invincible resolution and great humanitarian principles."<sup>156</sup> A beautiful marble base was made of highly polished Italian light gray marble. A plaque at the bottom of the statue reads: "Brigadier General Thomas L. Kane, the immortal friend of Utah and its people."<sup>157</sup> The statue, which weighed one and a half tons, was lifted into place on a Friday morning and was the gift of Nicholas G. Morgan Sr., a great admirer of Kane.

The newest monument on the grounds is the Vietnam Memorial located on the west grounds. It is a sculpture created by Mark Davinport and Clyde Ross Morgan. It is reported that only five states in the country sent more soldiers than did Utah. This memorial lists the name of 388 men and women who died or are missing in action.