

Planning for New Capitol is Orderly, Eventful Procedure

Progress is Made On Extensive Task

Many Problems Met and Settled in Little Over Year Since Fire Swept Away Old Statehouse

By JOHN D. MINTO

AS SALEM watched with awe and sorrow while the dome of Oregon's historical capitol collapsed in engulfing flames on the night of April 25, 1935, little did watchers imagine the beauty and dignity of the building that would arise Phoenix-like out of the ashes of the old statehouse. Neither did they realize the struggles and work that would be necessary before the new structure would replace that which was constructed in 1873.

After the first reaction of regret over the loss of an old friend had passed, the people of Oregon faced the situation with grim determination that from loss should come gain.

As expressed by Governor Charles H. Martin when informed of the fire the state felt: "The state capitol has stood as a symbol of Oregon for more than half a century, and from the ashes shall rise a new capitol building symbolic of a new spirit and the new faith."

Obstacles appear. But from the first, obstacles to the building of the new capitol presented themselves. After determination was made to raise the charred walls of the old building, when they were found to be unsafe for further use by the state planning commission, an injunction was brought by the Marion county taxpayers league to enjoin the razing of the walls. This action was based on the ground that the state board of control had no authority to order their destruction and that the walls were sound and could be used for rebuilding of the capitol.

The action was started on May 8. On May 15, Circuit Judge L. G. Levelling ruled that the board had the necessary authority and the work was ordered to proceed.

With SEIRA labor clearing away the debris from the wrecked capitol, on the morning of June 4, Salem citizens were jolted awake by a dynamite blast intended to lay low the standing walls. Due to rock footing which explosives experts had failed to find, the blast scattered brick over a wide territory, breaking nearby windows and injuring several persons.

On July 31 the cornerstones of the old building was removed with ceremonies as the last of the walls were pulled to the ground.

Planners Given Job. Even before the walls were razed, Governor Martin had instructed the state planning commission to study the problem of a new capitol and make recommendations to a special session of the legislature which was to be called to provide funds for a new statehouse.

The problem of financing the new building was made simpler by assurances from President Roosevelt that the federal government would give aid to Oregon, and PWA indicated a willingness to make a grant for the purpose as soon as a request was made.

On May 29 the planning board recommended that a \$3,500,000 capitol be needed to fill the state's needs. It also advised that additional ground be secured and that plans for the development of a capitol group be made.

A tentative approval having been given by the PWA authorities of a grant of \$1,575,000 on a \$3,500,000 building, the planning commission continued its studies for the new capitol.

Site Most Problem. Various sites for the location of the statehouse were made, principal ones being the old site, addition of Willamette university grounds, Bush's pasture, the old site with added ground to the north, the hills south of the city limits and Candelaria Heights.

As the merits of the different sites were being studied on September 14 came a ruling from Attorney General L. H. Van Winkle to the effect that the new capitol must be built within the limits of the city as they existed in 1864. This decision excluded the hill sites south of the city.

On September 25 an allotment from PWA for a grant of funds

Advises Oregon



Carl F. Gould, Seattle architect, who served the Oregon state capitol commission in an advisory capacity in the nationwide architectural contest for Oregon's new statehouse at Salem.

was received by the governor. Call for a meeting of a special session of the legislature on October 21 was issued by the governor on October 8.

Legislature Acts. After a turbulent session, the legislature in its closing minutes appropriated \$2,500,000 for a new building on the old site, in defiance of Governor Martin's recommendation of \$3,500,000 expenditure and additional ground. The governor allowed the bill to become law on November 15 without his signature.

In compliance with the provisions of the law governing the capitol reconstruction commission was appointed on November 25.

After the commission's first meeting December 1, and under urging for haste by PWA authorities, plans for the new state capitol were developed rapidly.

At a meeting on January 2, Carl F. Gould, Seattle architect, was appointed technical adviser

Sentimental Attachment to Oregon's Old Capitol Lingers While Planning For New Progresses; Was Landmark

Symbolic of all that was Oregon, a landmark that Salem residents thought would last for many decades to come, the capitol that served the state during the important years in Oregon's history between 1876 and 1935 was destroyed by fire the night of April 25, a year ago.

The great copper dome of the state's structure was visible for miles from Salem and to the tourist passing through readily called to mind the fact that this was the capital city of the state. At night, there was always a light in the dome, a beacon that served to mark the center of Oregon's capital city.

Rising above the surrounding conifers and other trees of the park below, the dome reached a height of 187 feet. Those who climbed the winding stairway to its peak obtained an excellent view of the city and its environs, and on clear days Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Hood and other peaks

Oregon Architect Entries Numerous

26 Designs Submitted by Portland Men; List Covers Big Area

While Oregon architects did not share in the awards of the competition for the capitol design, a large number of them participated in the contest, the total number of designs submitted from Oregon architects being 25, some firms offering more than one set. Associated with deYoung and Moscovitz which won a cash award was Karl W. Rosenberg of Portland. Wallace Landreth of Baker was an associate of Norman Alpaugh of Los Angeles; and Hays and Simpson of Cleveland collaborated with Harry A. Hertzog of Portland.

Portland architects who entered the competition were: Rol L. Morin; Sutton, Whitney and Aandahl; Herman Brookman and Jamieson Parker as associates; Roald and Schneider; Sydney B. Hayslip and associates; Johnson Wallwork & Dukehart; J. E. Tourtelotte and Truman E. Phillips; Knighton and Howell; Lee Thomas; Barrett & Logan; Hollis Johnson and Robert W. Turner; Carl Linde and George G. Post; A. E. Doyle and associates; Whitehouse and Church; Alfred H. Smith; Lawrence, Holford and Allen; R. C. Sisson and A. J. Dreyer; Charles D. James; Frederick C. Hiron and David L. Foulkes; L. L. Dougan.

New York Leads. The following is the list of other cities represented by architects in the competition, with number taking part: New York, 28; San Francisco, 11; Los Angeles, 7; Seattle, 6; Philadelphia, 5; Washington, D. C., 5; Chicago, 3; Cleveland, 2. Eleven architects in Tacoma collaborated in one design.

The following cities had one entry each: Alexandria, Va.; Pittsburgh, (Turn to page 3)

to the commission. A nation wide contest for proposed plans was decided upon March 5.

As the contest closed on May 22 and a secret jury of five started judging the plans, 123 designs had been received by the commission from architects over the United States.

Two days before the announcement was anticipated, the jury picked the winning plan and Trowbridge and Livingston with Francis Keally, associate, of New York, were announced by the commission as the architects receiving the award for the designing of the new building.

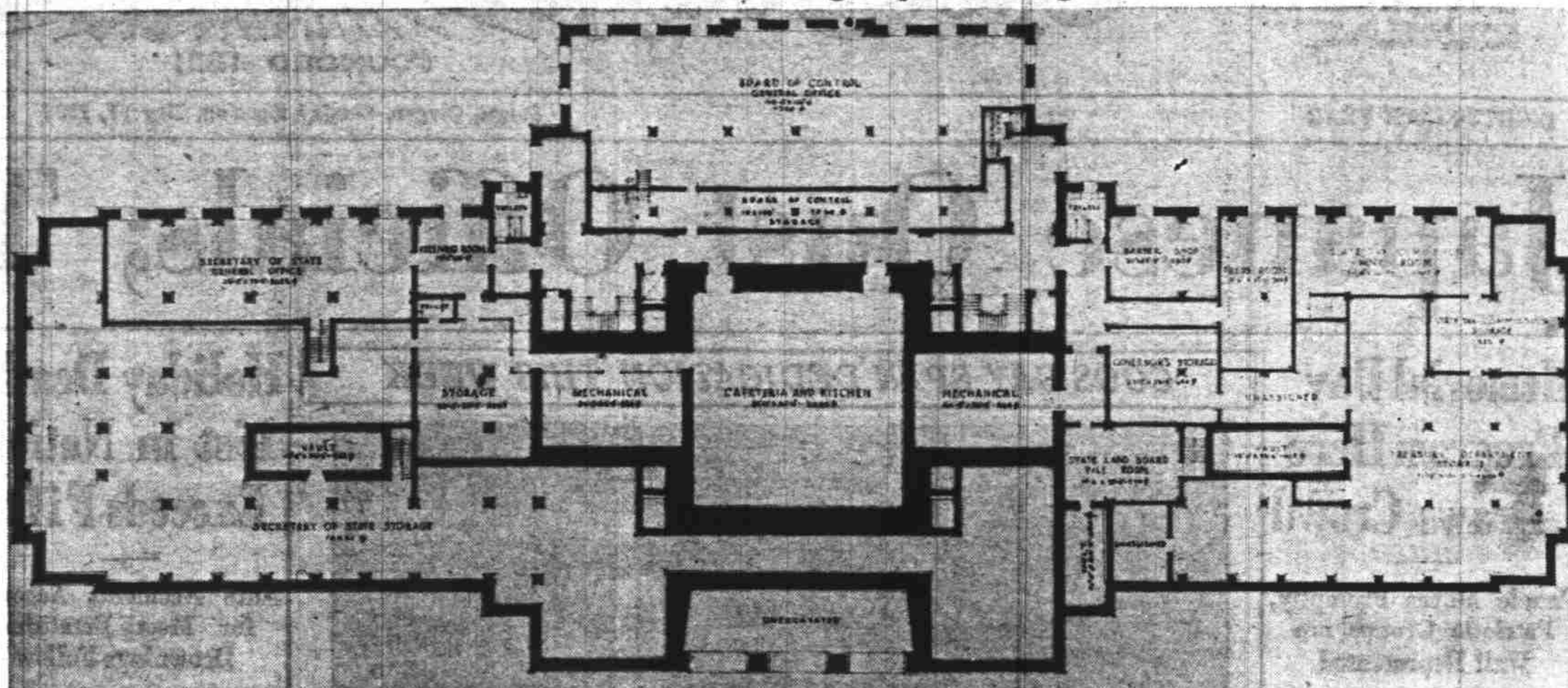
The next big step toward Oregon's new capitol comes on September 15 when the plans and specifications will be completed and bids asked for construction of the building.

While to Salem people, who sincerely miss the sight of the capitol looming above the trees of Wilson park, the progress seems extremely slow, if developments continue with no difficulties, Oregon's new statehouse will be the fastest built capitol in the nation. The average time for the construction of such buildings is six years.

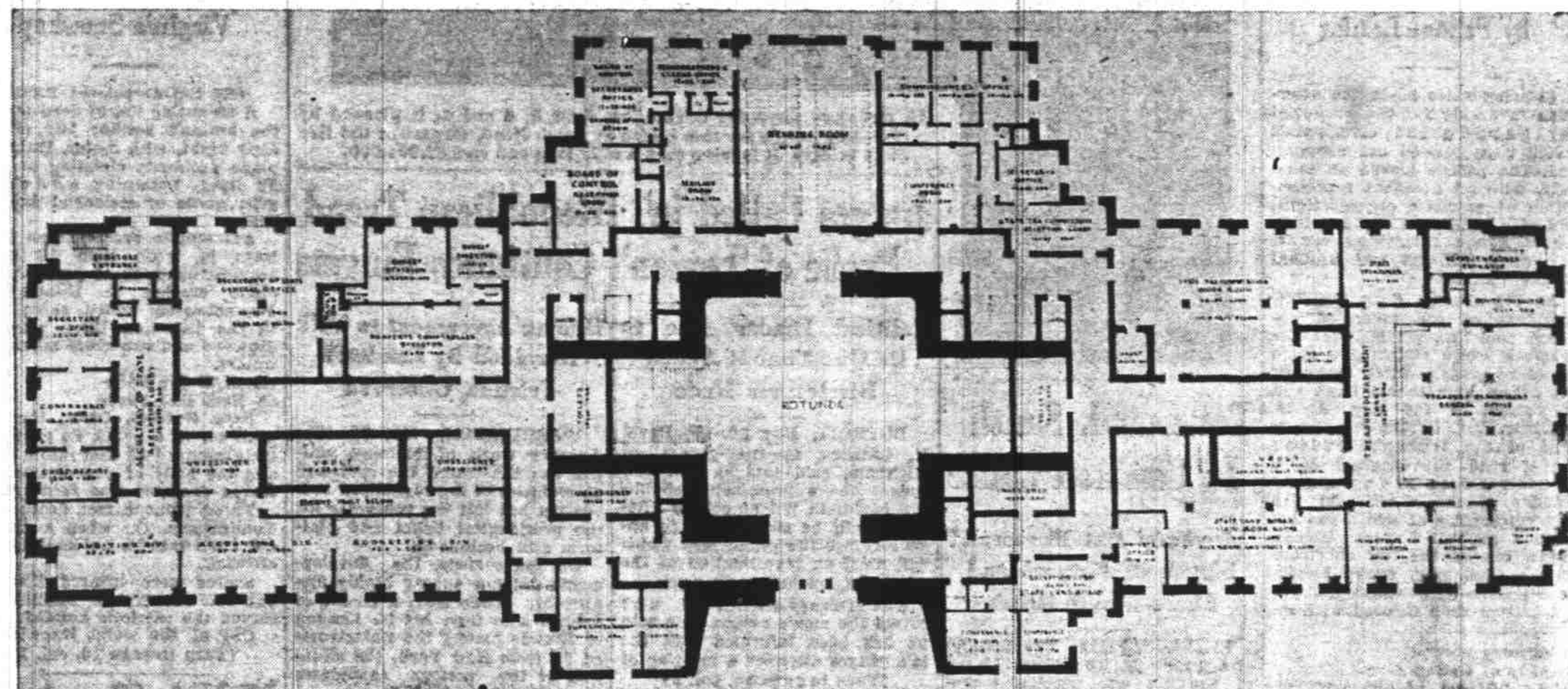
The porches that fronted the building on the east and west sides lent a dignity to the building that was shared by the long row of steps above which the columns loomed. Some of the smaller porticoes of the capitol have been used in construction of the Grecian court on the Willamette university campus.

The building proper was 75 feet in height, constructed almost entirely of bricks, trimmed and faced with limestone and sandstone. Looking down on the structure from an airplane, one saw a cross-shaped statehouse, with north and south wings 80 by 100 feet and east and west wings 40 by 60 feet, with the porches upon which the porticoes rested, 50 feet wide and 16 feet in depth, added to the east and west wings. The structure was built in the traditional capitol style found in so many states of the union, modeled on a small scale from the

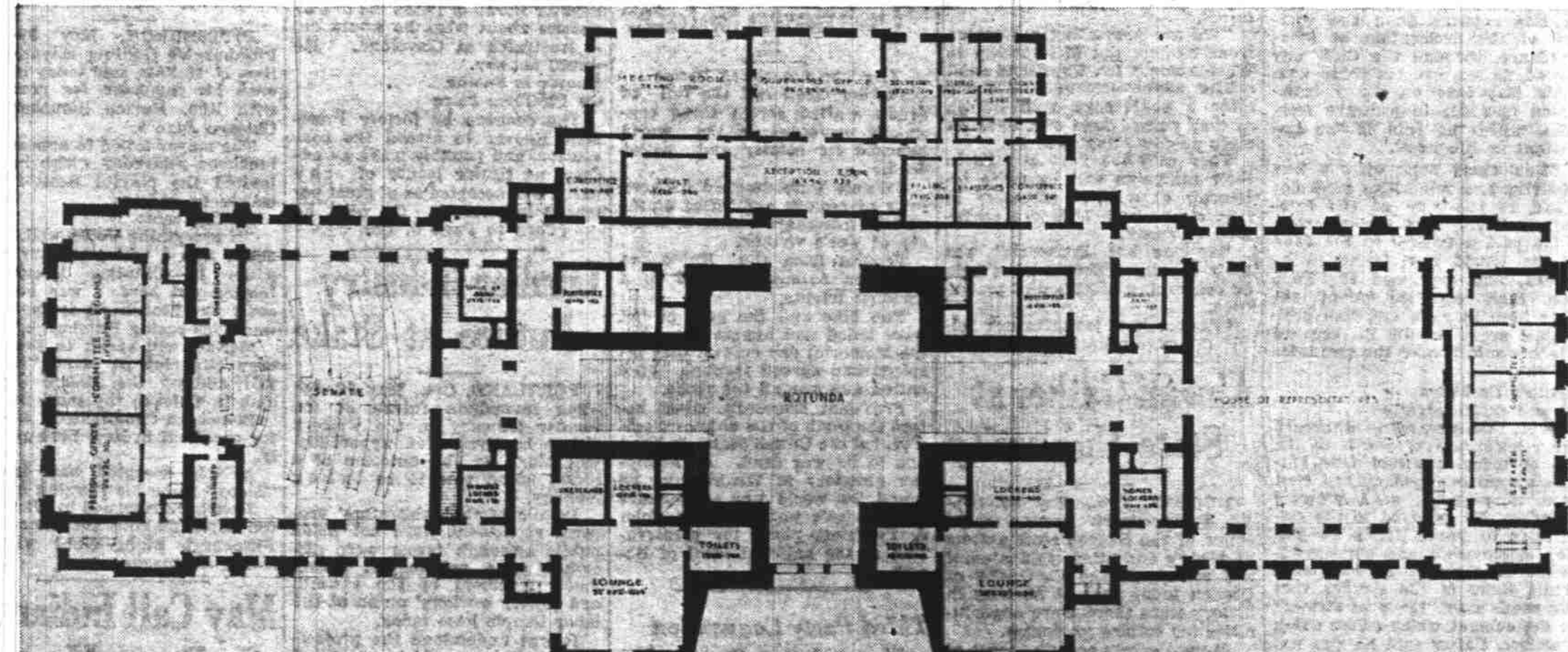
Floor Plans of Winning Capitol Design



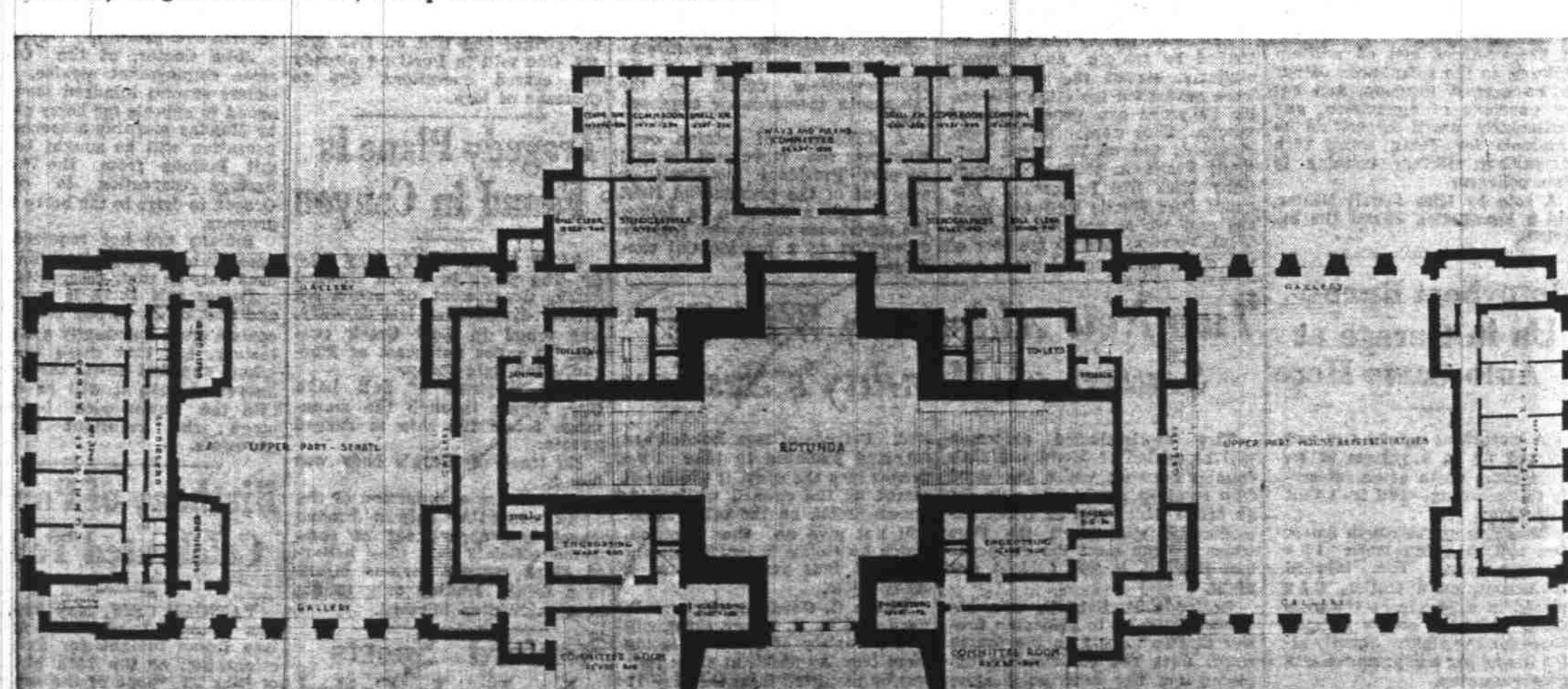
BASEMENT: Cafe and kitchen in the center; heating and ventilating equipment on each side of the cafe. On south side board of control general office and storage. On east wing general offices for secretary of state and large storage space and vault. On west wing barber shop, press room work room for state tax commission, and storage rooms for the tax commission, treasurer, governor and state land board.



FIRST FLOOR: Central rotunda with wide steps leading up to second floor. On south side board of control offices at left and tax commission offices at right; hearing room between. East wing devoted to offices of sec-retary of state and budget division. West wing, the state land board, the treasurer, across west end, and the state tax commission work room.

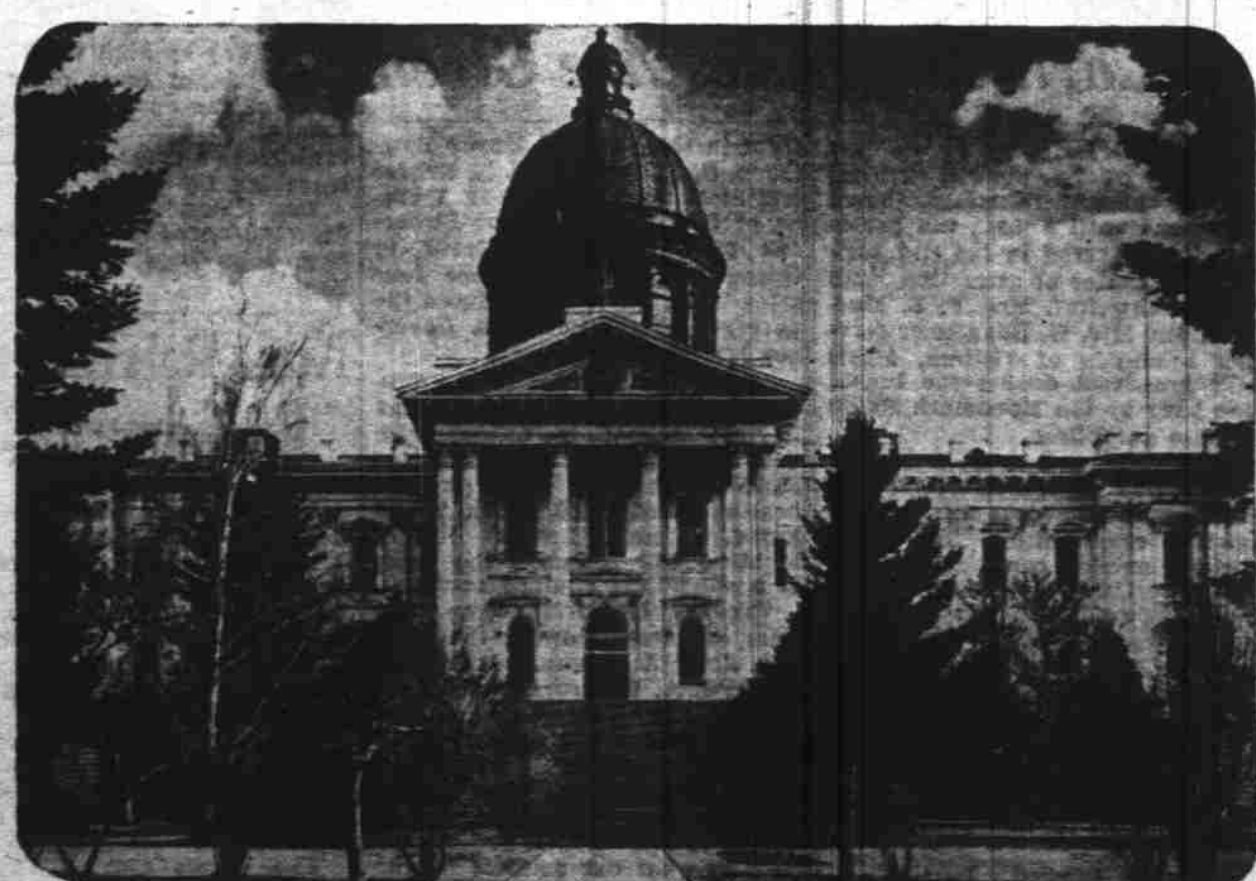


SECOND FLOOR: Governor's office in south wing. Senate chamber in east wing with office of president of senate and committee rooms in rear. House chamber in west wing, with speaker's office and committee rooms in rear. Private entrances for legislators in corners of the building at south, for governor at center, with private elevators to serve them.



THIRD FLOOR: Ways and means committee room in south wing; other rooms for legislature; each legislative chamber has central and side galleries. Committee rooms at each end of third floor; and above them additional committee rooms on fourth floor.

Oregon's Old and Beloved Capitol



Erected in 1873-6; Destroyed by fire, April 25, 1935

general features of the national capitol in Washington.

In the senate chamber were pictures of many of Oregon's governors and just behind the desk of the president of the senate the painting of John McLoughlin,

chief factor of the Hudson's Bay company who befriended the Americans in the frontier territory. In the house of representatives were paintings of other governors of the state and behind the speaker's desk the portrait of

Jason Lee, Methodist missionary who was instrumental in Oregon's becoming a part of the American union. All of these valuable paintings and many other mementoes and historical relics, as well as government records were lost in

the fire. The capitol housed, in addition to the legislative halls, the governor's office and the offices of the secretary of state, state treasurer, board of control, tax commission, land board, budget di-

rector, banking board, state police, labor commissioner, state board for vocational education and state forester. Most, but not all, of these offices, with greater space for each, are designated in the plans for the new capitol.