

# Pioneer Statuary Group | Buffalo Fountain



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In 1884, architect Jacob Weidenmann was chosen to design plans for improving the State Capitol grounds. In 1890, the project began, and it was completed in 1892.

The design for this grouping called for: "The Pioneer of the former territory, a group consisting of father and son guided by a friendly Indian in search of a home." A Connecticut artist, Karl Gerhardt, was contracted to sculpt the piece for \$4,500.

Originally designed to be a lion's head, this bronze buffalo head was determined more appropriate to Iowa's prairie environment. The fountain was made for drinking — for horses as well as for humans. Alexander Doyle, designer of the Great Seal tablet, designed this fountain for \$500.