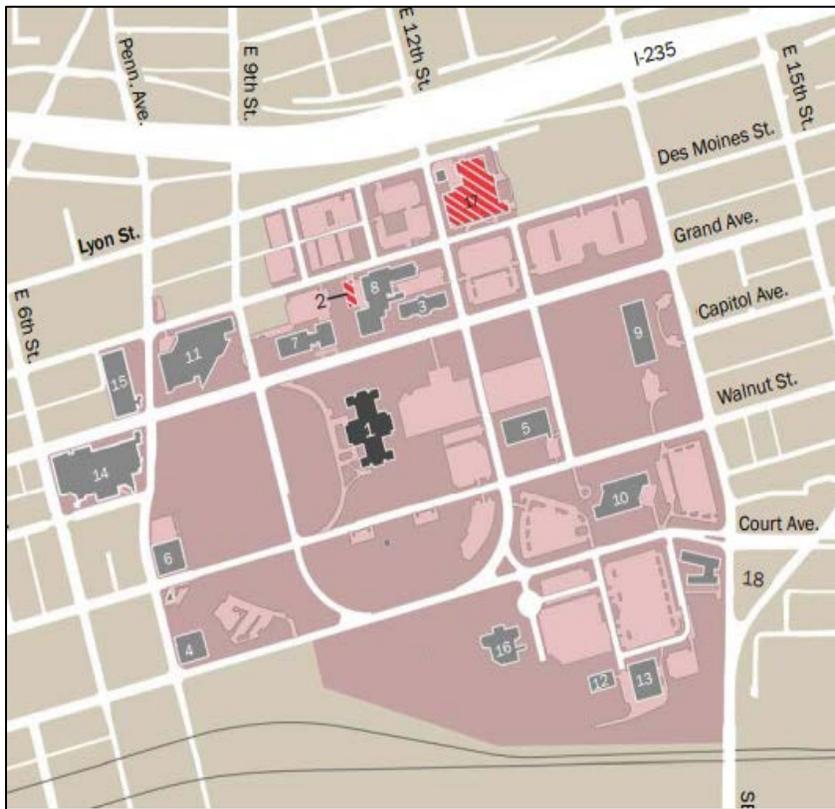


Pieces of Iowa's Past, published by the Iowa State Capitol Tour Guides weekly during the Legislative Session, features historical facts about Iowa, the Capitol, and the early workings of state government. All italicized text/block quotes in this document are taken directly from historical publications with the actual spelling, punctuation, and grammar retained.

Naming of the State Office Buildings – Part 1

The Capitol grounds have been evolving through planned and unplanned actions for more than 150 years. The Capitol was built in the center of a 10-acre plot given by Wilson Alexander Scott and Harrison Lyon.

Growth of the Capitol Complex, as it is known today, began when legislation was passed in 1913 by the 35th General Assembly to acquire additional land.



Existing Capitol Complex

The current Capitol Complex consists of 16 buildings and 200 acres stretching south to the railroad tracks and north to Interstate 235.

Several of the Capitol Complex buildings are named after prominent Iowans, but the naming or renaming of state buildings, whether through study commissions, legislation, or contests, was not always easy.

The need for general office buildings was recognized as early as 1919 when the Iowa Legislature appropriated \$1 million to relieve crowding in the Capitol. By the 1940s and '50s, however, it was recognized that the most urgent need was for general office space. Until then, several state departments were housed in rented space in downtown Des Moines office buildings, or occupied legislative committee rooms when the Legislature was not in session.

Ola Babcock Miller Building - 1899



The Ola Babcock Miller Building is one of the oldest and grandest buildings on the Capitol Complex, dating back to 1899. It was the second significant Iowa government building built on the Capitol Complex after the statehouse. Originally the Historical, Memorial and Arts Building, it now houses the State Library, the Ombudsman offices, and Legislative Services Agency offices.



Ola Babcock Miller

The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women lobbied for years to dedicate the century-old building, and the Legislature voted in 1999 to rename it. The building was renamed in 2002 for Ola Babcock Miller, the first woman to serve as Iowa Secretary of State and the founder of the Iowa Highway Patrol, which would later become the Iowa State Patrol.

Although she is noted for being the first woman to sit on the Iowa Executive Council as Secretary of State from 1932 until her death in 1937, Mrs. Miller's most outstanding achievement is considered to be the founding of the Iowa Highway Patrol, which was established to promote highway safety.

Mrs. Miller was active in the women's suffrage movement during the 1920s and served in leadership positions in numerous organizations, including as president of the Iowa state and international chapters of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. She would become one of the first four women inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1975.

The Des Moines Register, February 1, 2002

Building honors woman who founded State Patrol

By KATE KOMPAS
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

State officials dedicated the Ola Babcock Miller Building on Thursday, in honor of Iowa's first female secretary of state and founder of the Iowa State Patrol.

"It will be nice to drive by this building on the way to my office," Secretary of State Chet Culver said. "It will serve as a reminder to be as dedicated as she was."

The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women lobbied for years to dedicate the building, at 1112 E. Grand Ave., to Miller. The

Legislature voted in 1999 to rename the century-old building, also known as the Old Historical Building. More than \$20 million's worth of renovations has been done.

More than 50 people attended Thursday's dedication, including Lt. Gov. Sally Pederson and public safety Commissioner E.A. "Penny" Westfall. A plaque honoring Miller was unveiled.

Pederson praised Miller for her public service and dedication. Miller, who grew up in Washington, was active in the women's

suffrage movement before her name was put on the ballot in 1932 for secretary of state.

"It was the (Democratic) party's way of thanking her," Pederson said. "No one thought she would win, including Ola herself."

Miller won the election and went on to be re-elected twice. One of her more significant contributions in office was her creation of the then 15-member Iowa State Patrol, shortly after a friend's death on a state highway.

Miller died at age 65 while serving her third term.

Oran Pape State Office Building - 1915



The Oran Pape State Office Building was originally constructed in 1915 as a branch house for the International Harvester Company of America. It is believed the lower floor was used as a showroom for the tractors and farm equipment the company produced, while the upper floors stored manufactured parts for the company. The building was used for other purposes, as well, including possibly as apartments, before the state purchased the building and began using it as the Records and Property Building.

Safety Building renamed after patrolman

The Iowa Department of Public Safety Building in downtown Des Moines has a new name, recognizing the first Iowa Highway Patrolman to be killed in the line of duty.



Oran Pape

Oran "Nanny" Pape worked as a life-guard in Dubuque and played football for the Green Bay Packers and the University of Iowa, according to a news release. He joined the Iowa Highway Patrol, forerunner of the Iowa State Patrol, during its formation in 1935.

In April 1936, eight months after beginning work, Pape was shot by a highway bandit near Fairport in Muscatine County.

Pape shot and killed the bandit, but he also succumbed to his wound. Pape was 29.

The public safety building at 215 E. Seventh St. was renamed the Oran Pape State Office Building in a ceremony on Thursday.

A major renovation from 2005 to 2007 re-purposed the building for the Iowa Department of Public Safety. It was then renamed the Oran Pape State Office Building on July 26, 2012, in honor of Oran Pape, Iowa's first state trooper to be killed in the line of duty.

Lucas State Office Building - 1952



The Lucas State Office Building is the oldest — and was for several years the only — general office building on the Capitol Complex. Planning for the Lucas building began in 1941, but construction was delayed by World War II. Construction finally started in 1949 and was completed in 1952.

But the Lucas building wasn't named until 1966, when construction was nearing completion on a second state building. Known for many years simply as the "state office building," it was agreed that it wouldn't make sense to call one the "state office building" while giving the new building a name or to have two "state office buildings." The "new" building later would be named the Grimes State Office Building. Read about it in *Naming of the State Office Buildings – Part 2*.

Honoring Our First Governor

Headline from The Des Moines Register, December 22, 1966

Fourteen years after it was built, the six-story Lucas State Office Building was named for Robert Lucas, who served as Iowa's first territorial governor from 1838 to 1841.

The Des Moines Register, December 20, 1966

Name State Office Building After Gov. Robert Lucas

By George Shane

Fifteen years after it was built, the State Office Building now has an official name — the "Robert Lucas Building."

Lucas (1838-1841) was the first territorial governor of Iowa. The name was selected Monday in a joint meeting of several advisory committees and the State

Executive Council at the Capitol.

There also was about an hour's discussion over a name for the new Iowa State Office building now under construction at the southwest corner of E. Fourteenth street and Grand avenue.

Finally the question of the name of the new building was reassigned to a subcommittee on names headed by State Auditor Lorne R. Worthington.

At one point in the discussion it appeared that the new \$2,950,240 building might be named the Ansel Briggs Building after the first elected governor of Iowa.

Gov. Harold E. Hughes, chairman of the meeting, read some biographical data about Briggs.

"I am swayed (in Briggs' favor)," Governor Hughes said. "He was at one time a stage coach driver," added the governor, who was at one time a truck driver.

"Briggs also was opposed to having banks in Iowa, and said the only banks Iowa should have are banks of earth which are tillable."

A pained expression came over the face of Edward J. Burchette, Des Moines and Bloomfield banker who is a member of the Citizen's Advi-



ROBERT
LUCAS

sory Committee on the new state office building.

Secretary of State Gary L. Cameron then told the governor he was impressed with the good voice in which he had read the Briggs biography but suggested that Briggs "did not appear very distinguished."

After further discussion, Hughes suggested the name of the new building go back to the subcommittee for study.

The governor also offered to donate the portrait of Governor Lucas which hangs in the Governor's Mansion to the newly named Lucas Building. (It is a portrait by Leonard Good, head of the Drake University art department, painted as a commission from the wife of former Gov. Leo A. Hoegh who served from 1955-57.)

"It is a very good portrait and Lucas was a very stern-looking man. It would look good hanging in the entrance of the Lucas Building," the governor said.

Mrs. Maurice Noun, a member of the Iowa Capitol Planning Committee, suggested the new building be named after Carrie Chapman Catt. Someone asked who she was and there were no seconds to the nomination. (Mrs. Catt, once of Charles City, was a pioneer leader in the women's suffrage and peace movements.)

Other names suggested were the Sullivan Building (after the five Sullivan brothers from Waterloo who died in World War II on the same ship; Hickenlooper Hall, after U.S. Senator Bourke B. Hickenlooper; and Hughes Hall.