



California Historic Capitol A Symbolic Building, Made Richer by its Symbols

by Assemblyman Ken Cooley
Chair, Joint Committee on Rules

*As California's historic "People House", the West Wing is a Symbol first,
and a Building very much second.*

*The faces and hushed tones of those who visit the Capitol makes this plain;
the building and its rotunda stir awe and respect from its visitors.*

*For visitors to Capitol Park and the West Wing, symbols abound inside
and out because early Californians invested it with a rich story of our
system of governance and its meaning for all who enter its precincts.*

*Astonishingly, the 1952 Annex is entirely and unimaginably devoid of
these important symbols and their hope-giving narrative.*

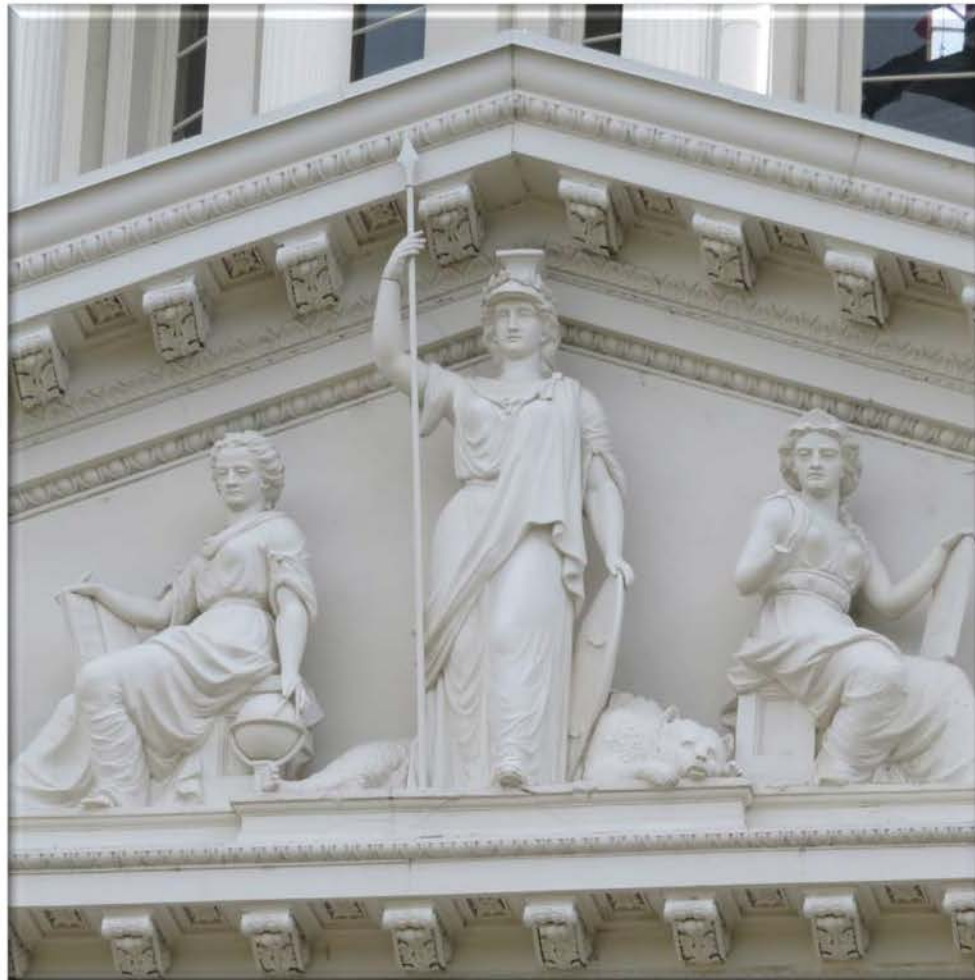
*To strengthen civic engagement, the Annex Project, by restoring this
narrative and symbols throughout, can again import their rich
understanding of our system of government, its heritage, and its promise.*

West Portico: A Tale of Governance

In “Natural World” atop pediment, well-known 1870’s hazards (Grizzly and Buffalo) rage wildly & imperil lives



In Pediment, Athena /Minerva, with public tools in hand to act both offensively & defensively for community, has “subdued the bear”



The Subdued Grizzly, symbolically restrained by Athena/Minerva's Shield, is the Key to a rich West Portico "Governance" Narrative.



Also the Bear on the Capitol Tiles



The Bear Symbolism Calls to Mind the Powers of Queen Califia



On South Portico – Eagle, Shield & figures with hands joined, honors the American Union of States.



On North Portico, California Joining the American Union is Celebrated



North Portico figures show documents as California's State seal joins, & instantly dominates, the American Union.



The symbolic papers are likely the February 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, conveying California to US from Mexico, & the US Law setting official statehood (Admission Day) as September 9, 1850.



Gold's discovery in 1848 made California an influential part of the American Union from Day 1 and we remain so today. The Annex Project Offers us the chance to once again, as early Californians intended, use the People's House itself to tell this story.

32 Horns of Plenty Honoring Unparalleled Abundance of Our Farms



Ag Produce Makes Banners in Rotunda



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On Twin Leaves of 2nd Floor Doors



On West Portico North and South



On Athena & Seal Tableaus in Rotunda



Meaningful Icons Abound in West Wing



Handsome Lions Convey Nobility of Public Work



Bears Show Strength



Also Independence



Pineapple of Welcome & Bundle of Sticks



Pineapple: Traditional Symbol of Welcome & Hospitality



Placed in 1870 stairwells, they welcomed all who came.
For Annex Project, welcoming ADA & Cal Title 24
hospitality is a needed “People’s House” outcome



The Bundle of Sticks (*Lat. Fascis*) Capitol's Most Abundant Symbol

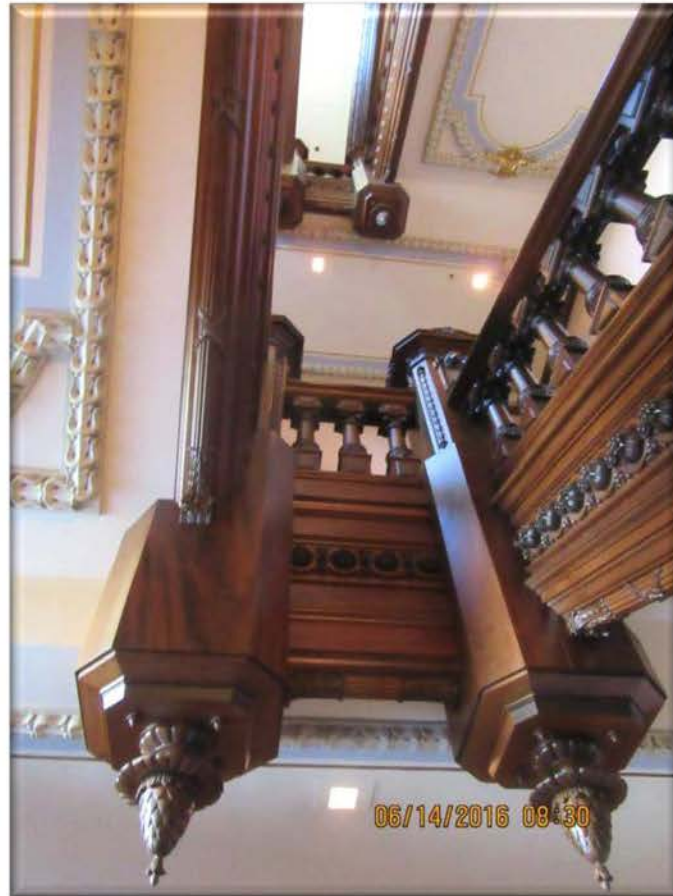


Bundle of Sticks

One Person is Weak, Together We Find Strength & Flexibility



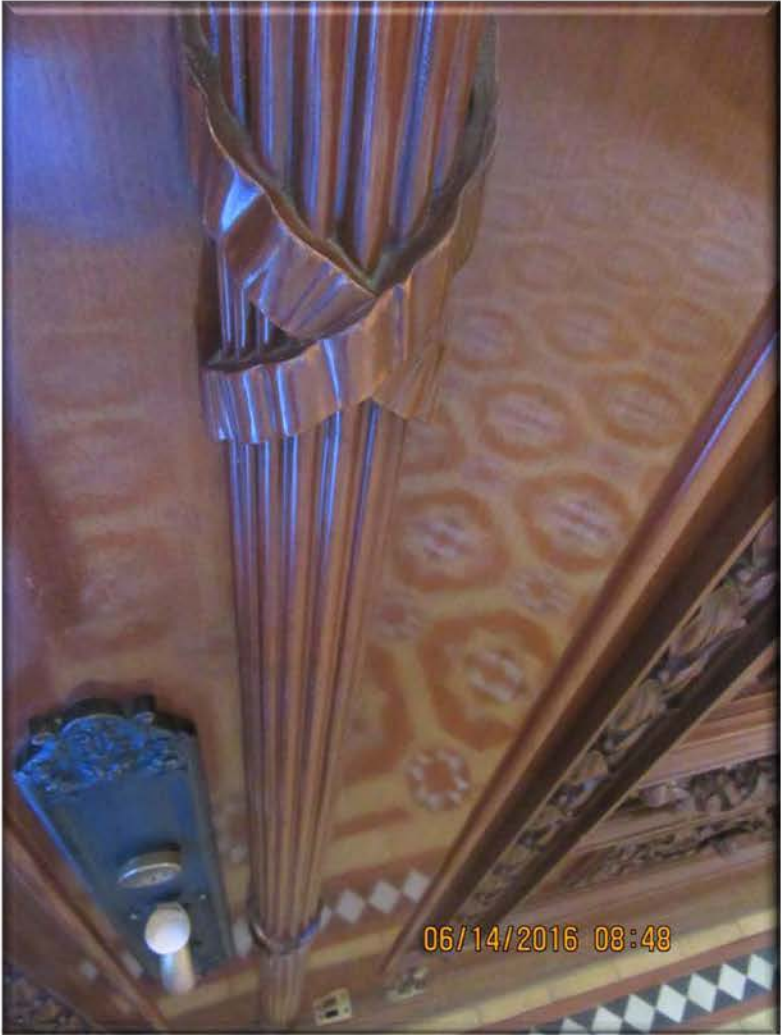
In the Stairwells



In All Capitol Park Lampposts



On Original Set of 2nd Floor Doors



Athena/Minerva Symbolizes Wisdom & our start as Full State 9/9/1850



Athena/Minerva, who sprang full grown from father's head, seen as akin to gold-rich California's admission to U.S. Union w/o being a territory 1st.



16 Alert Grizzlies Protect Public Fisc: Left Paw on Bag, Coins Below



Modeled on cast iron original in 1906 Treasurer's Office on first floor



The Ornate West Wing Doors on Second Floor Include Owls of Wisdom



A Legacy in Craftsmanship



A Legacy of Symbols Extolling our History

