

840489

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE SPACE STUDY GROUP

R E P O R T

Submitted to Governor R. Perpich

February, 1984

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INTRODUCTION

Governor Rudy Perpich appointed the Governor's Office Space Study Group in August, 1983, and it held its first meeting on September 27, with the following membership:

Lynn Anderson

James Dorr

Russell W. Fridley, Chair

Gary Grefenberg

Sandra J. Hale

Ray Lappegaard

Thomas H. Swain

Lorenzo D. Williams

The Governor's charge to the Study Group was as follows:

"It shall be the duty of the Governor's Office Space Study Group to review the space needs of the Governor, with the goal of providing a modern, efficient, well-planned office layout.

The group should review the appropriateness and desirability of retaining the Governor's Office within the Capitol, as opposed to other space in the Capitol Complex.

The overall plan should include private office space for the Governor, adjacent spaces for key aides and a secretary, and appropriate conference room space, in a well-designed setting. If it is determined that the public interest would best be served by having the Governor's Office remain in the Capitol, it will be the duty of the group to recommend how a more efficient office layout can be obtained while at the same time preserving the historic integrity of the Capitol.

The group shall be empowered to consult with Minnesota State Senate and House Committees, persons versed in office design, historical preservation and other disciplines, for the purpose of achieving the above-mentioned goals."

The Study Group held six meetings, beginning on October 5, 1983, and concluding on February 9, 1984. During the course of its deliberations, it

INTRODUCTION (Cont'd.)

thoroughly reviewed the space needs of the Governor's Office. It also met with the following state officials to review the space needs and the status of space planning for the Senate, House, Supreme Court and Appellate Court, and Attorney General's Office:

Senate

Patrick E. Flahavan, Secretary of the Senate

James Greenwalt, Senate Administrative Assistant

House

James L. Pederson, House Administrator

David N. Kienitz, House Finance Director

Supreme Court

Susan Dosal, Supreme Court Administrator

Attorney General

Kent G. Harbison, Chief Deputy Attorney General

Joe Tessmer, Assistant to the Attorney General

CONCLUSIONS

The Governor's Office Space Study Group concludes the following:

1. THE STATE CAPITOL IS THE FOREMOST SYMBOL OF THE STATE

The State Capitol is both the dominant historical monument in Minnesota and the symbolic and ceremonial center of the state. Its ceremonial purpose required that the Capitol receive constant attention and care in order to safeguard the public's feeling for, access to, and use of the public spaces in the building. The most significant of the Capitol spaces to which the public has access is the Governor's Reception Room.

2. THE STATE CAPITOL IS THE CENTRAL FOCUS OF STATE GOVERNMENT

The State Capitol serves as the central focus of state government, as a ceremonial building, and as the site where citizens find the three branches of government represented. For many decades during the state's 126-year history, all offices of the three branches of government -- executive, legislative, and judicial -- were housed in the State Capitol. In recent years, however, the growth of state government has made it necessary to house legislative offices and staff members in adjoining buildings, and to plan for the construction of a Judicial Building, which was recommended by the Governor to the 1984 Legislature. It is appropriate, and expected on the part of the public, that the three branches of government continue to be prominently represented in the State Capitol Building by the physical presence of their leadership.

3. THE PRESENT SPACE FOR THE GOVERNOR IS INADEQUATE

Space for the Governor and his staff has become overcrowded. There is a need for additional office space and at least two conference rooms to bring the functions of the office up to minimal standards.

CONCLUSIONS (Cont'd.)

The Governor needs a conference room to accomodate the increasing demands of committees, task forces, and other groups constituted by the Governor. At the present time, the public is deprived, much of the time, of the opportunity to view and experience the most sought after room in the Capitol -- the Governor's Reception Room.

4. THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE SHOULD BE IN THE STATE CAPITOL

In order to indicate in a public way that the three branches of government are equals, or at least that each is separate and autonomous, the Governor's Office should clearly represent the executive branch of government within the State Capitol Building. No one branch of government should be considered "in charge" of space in the Capitol Building. Since that space is limited, it should be agreed that only the highest levels of each of the three branches need be represented and have offices in the Capitol Building.

This "co-equal" principle should become an operating guideline in the future planning for use of State Capitol space.

RECOMMENDATIONS (Cont'd.)

retained for ceremonial and public purposes. The Governor could use these two historic rooms for public events and use the readily accessible space on the north side of the West Wing as a working executive office.

5. That a coordinating committee for planning and allocating space in the State Capitol be established to serve all three branches of government. Such a committee would further the exchange of information on the space needs of each branch; it would also begin to forge a common effort to resolve space questions, with the interests of all three branches represented and aired in an environment that promotes the resolution and coordination of those problems.
6. That any space vacated by the Supreme Court, when a new Judicial Building is occupied, be reviewed and allocated by the proposed coordinating committee serving all three branches of state government.

In 1905, the Board of State Capitol Commissioners, after hiring Cass Gilbert and overseeing the planning and construction of the State Capitol, disbanded. In turning over the building for use as the seat of government for Minnesota, it offered this wise counsel:

"The State of Minnesota is about to occupy her new home -- a palace, in comparison with any of its kind heretofore constructed in the West . . . We do not believe that it can be properly cared for and preserved, if left to frequently changing and inexperienced hands. We find upon inquiry that the prominent large modern buildings of similar type elsewhere are placed in the exclusive charge of non-political boards or individuals with complete authority, and so, we think, ours should be."

RECOMMENDATIONS (Cont'd.)

This advice went unheeded for more than a half century until the Legislature created the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board in 1967. The Board's purpose is to take a long-range view of the needs of the Capitol and its surroundings, to upgrade the architectural quality of new buildings the State constructs in the area, and to upgrade public access to and enjoyment of Minnesota's Capitol, which is widely considered to be among the finest of state capitol buildings. The CAAPB has provided needed continuity in its care of the Capitol, but its functions do not extend to the allocation of space in the building. That is why the Study Group recommends the establishment of a coordinating committee representing the legislative, executive, and judicial branches to develop common goals in allocating precious space in the Capitol as the demands upon it increase in the future.

For the student of "separation of powers" and the three branches of government, the study of the use and allocation of space in the State Capitol is highly recommended. Here, one can vividly observe that these doctrines take on physical form as competition for space continues into the future. As the Governor's Space Study Group disbands, it urges the Governor, both houses of the Legislature, and the Supreme Court, to join together and fashion a mechanism that will look ahead and plan for space needs on a long-range basis. This recommendation, along with all of the others, are made by and agreed to by all members of the Study Group in the belief that, if implemented, they would genuinely relieve the State Capitol of the pressures of over-crowdedness that, over the years, have impaired the beauty and integrity of the State's most preeminent and predominant historically significant building.

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING PROFILE

Historic Profile

Minnesota's present statehouse, completed in 1904, is its third capitol building. The first was built in 1854 and burned in 1881; the second, hastily constructed and completed in 1883, was razed in 1938 after standing for fifty-five years. In 1894, a commission to initiate the construction of a new capitol invited architects to submit plans. The following year it selected the Renaissance design of Cass Gilbert. Ground breaking ceremonies were held in 1896, and the cornerstone was laid on July 27, 1898, with former Governor Alexander Ramsey participating. The building was finished at a total cost of \$4,500,000.

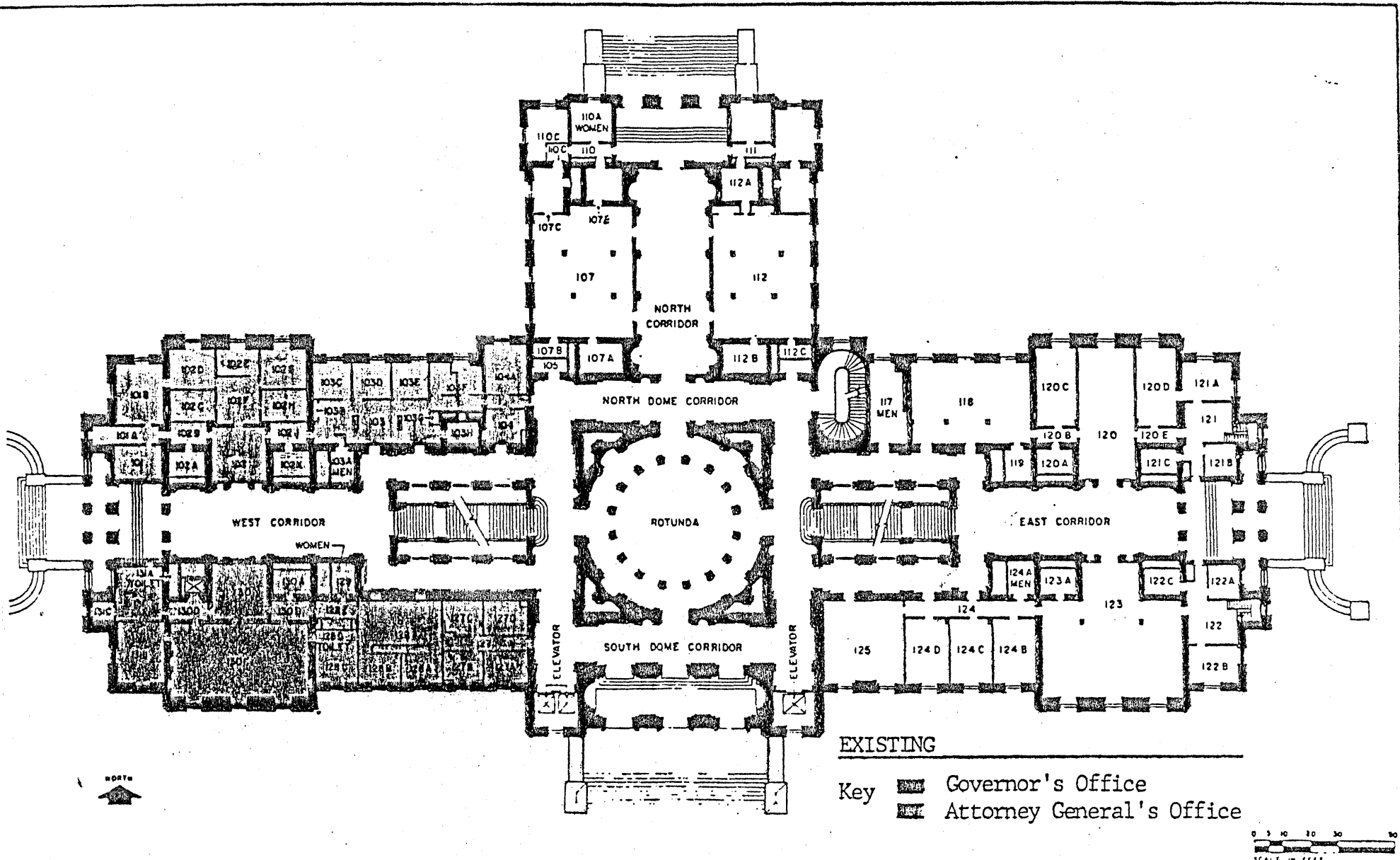
In his basic plan Gilbert probably was influenced by the nation's Capitol in Washington, D.C. For his design he drew heavily from the restrained academic Baroque style of French architecture, and for the climax of his composition he used Michelangelo's scheme for the dome of St. Peter's Church in Rome. A variety of stone is present in the massive structure, which measures 433 feet long, 228 feet wide, and 220 feet high. Minnesota granite from St. Cloud was used for the exterior basement walls and the steps and platforms of the ground floor; Georgia marble comprises the other outside walls, and the interior is finished in Kasota and Mankato limestone. Numerous murals, portraits, paintings, and statues, located throughout the Capitol, portray eminent public figures and events from Minnesota's past.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Governor's Space Study Group expresses its appreciation to James J. Hiniker, Deputy Commissioner of Administration, John J. Wood, Deputy Director of the Minnesota Historical Society, and Suzanne Zorn, Assistant to the Commissioner of Administration, for their valuable assistance in the preparation of this report.

CAPITOL WEST WING

EXHIBIT A.1
EXISTING FIRST FLOOR



NOVEMBER 10, 1972	Dec 1, 1982
FEBRUARY 21, 1972	
FEBRUARY 10, 1973	
AUGUST 20, 1977	
REVISIONS	

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION STATE OF MINNESOTA
6-10 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ST. PAUL, MINN. 55101
ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DIVISION
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

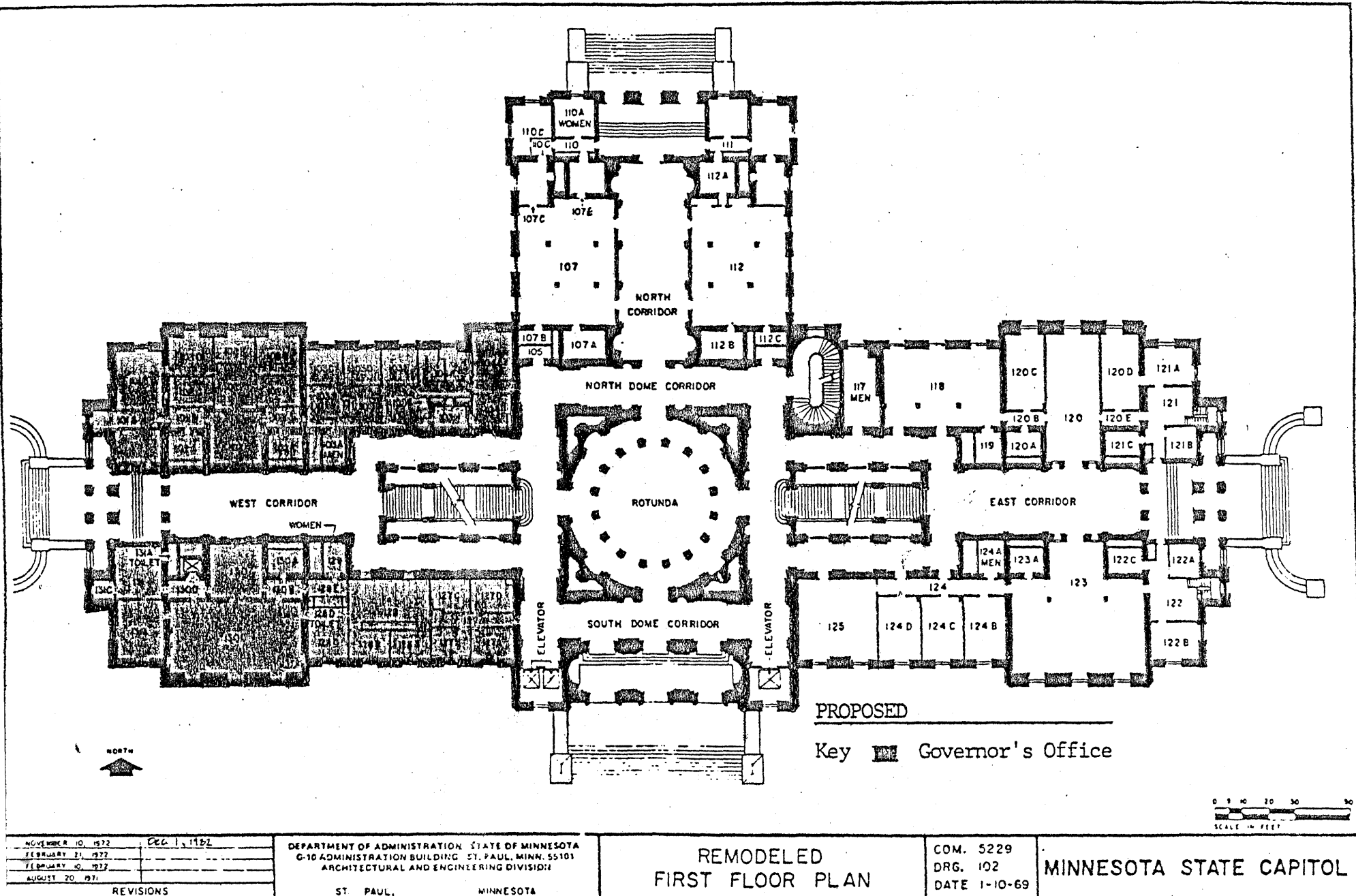
REMODELED
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

COM. 5229
ORG. 102
DATE 1-10-69

MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL

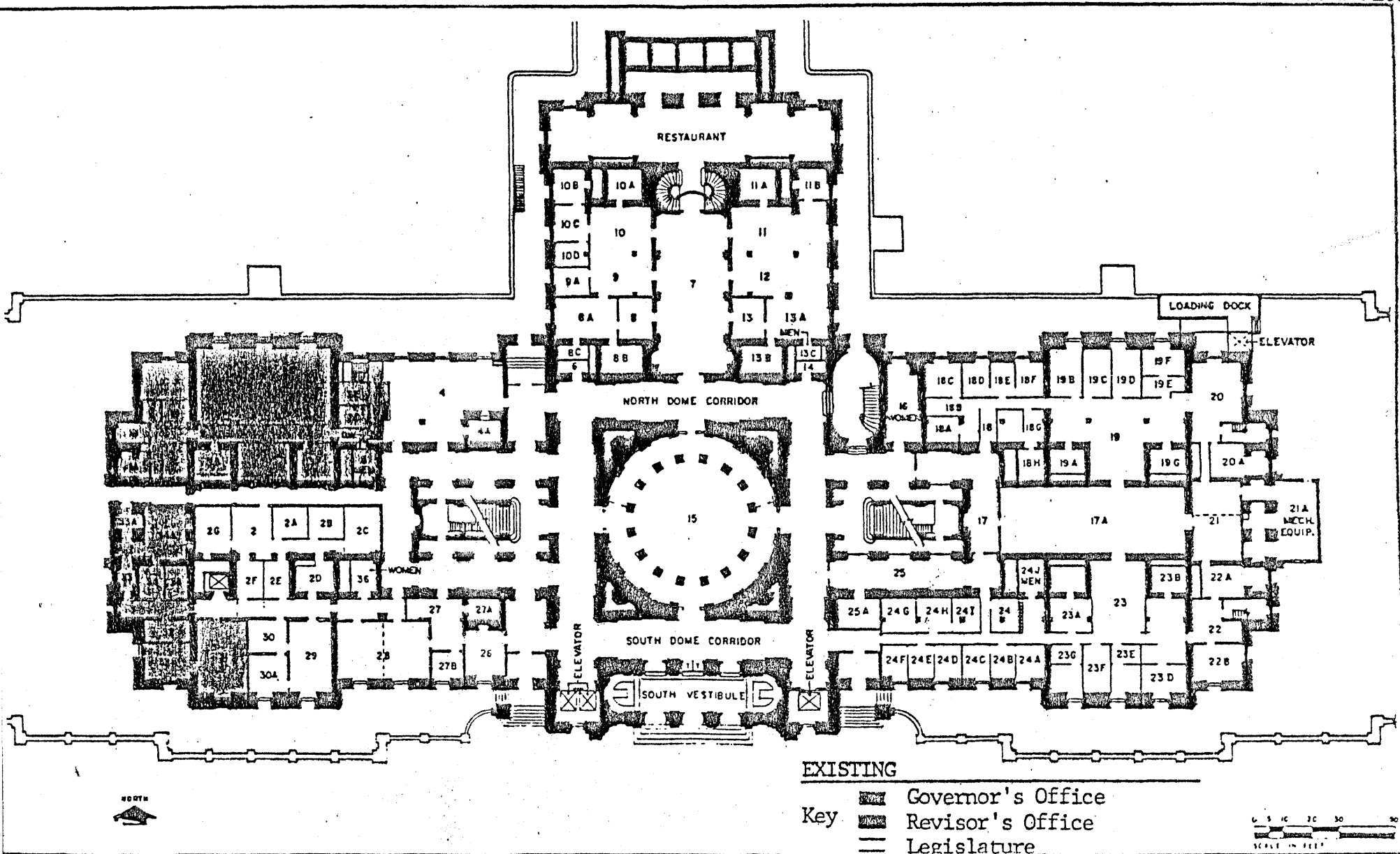
CAPITOL WEST WING

EXHIBIT A.2
PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR



CAPITOL WEST WING

EXHIBIT B.1
EXISTING GROUND FLOOR



NOVEMBER 10, 1972	DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION STATE OF MINNESOTA	COM. 5229	MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL
FEBRUARY 21, 1973	G-10 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ST. PAUL, MINN. 55101	DRG. 101	
FEBRUARY 10, 1973	ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DIVISION	DATE 1-10-79	
AUGUST 20, 1971	ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA		
REVISIONS		REMODELED GROUND FLOOR PLAN	