

Grand Staircase



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Connecting the Capitol's first and second floors on the east side is the Grand Staircase. Among the most unique and beautiful features of the Grand Staircase are the two figurines located at the base, attached to the top of the newel posts. The figurines were originally commissioned for the Illinois Statehouse, but later donated to the state of Iowa. The gas lanterns contained on the figurines were subsequently converted to electric and have been on display ever since being placed in the Capitol.

The newel posts of the staircase are constructed of 12 types of marble. Each newel post also has an alabaster wreath decorated with various carvings. These carvings include a bat, ladybugs, snakes, fruits and many other unusual items.

The 48 granite steps of the Grand Staircase ascend to the second floor of the Capitol. Between the first and second floors, the staircase opens to a view of the mural painting *Westward*. The Senate and House of Representatives chambers, as well as the State Law Library, are accessible by climbing the Grand Staircase to the second floor.

