



MOTHER IOWA & THE CAPITOL



Grounds for a great walkabout 1.6 miles

For additional information, visit <http://legis.iowa.gov/resources/tour/capitolgrounds.aspx>.

The Iowa State Capitol and grounds anchor the east end of downtown Des Moines. The splendid building, constructed between 1871 and 1886, boasts five gold-covered domes and 29 types of marble in the interior. Daily tours are available except on Sunday.

The 187-acre capitol grounds include 47 monuments and memorials. Dial 515-802-3004, then key in the stop number in parentheses for more details. Here are six popular stops:

WWII Memorial Plaza (1) honors all who served and stands as a reminder of the reasons for the U.S. involvement in the war. The plaza includes the *Pearl Harbor Memorial*. (Stop #26)

Wilson Alexander Scott (2) is the only person buried on the capitol grounds. In 1856, Scott and others built the Old Brick Capitol situated where the *Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument* stands. Scott donated 9½ acres for the grounds. (Stop #35)

Shattering Silence (3), designed by James Ellwanger, commemorates Iowa's civil rights history. Be sure to read the "Matter of Ralph," the story of a slave from Missouri who came to Iowa to earn the money for his freedom, which is carved in stone. The Matter of Ralph (1839) was the first

ruling by the Territorial Supreme Court of Iowa. The Supreme Court ruling found "no man in this territory can be reduced to slavery." Standing near *Shattering Silence* at sunset provides an excellent view of the city. (Stop #37)

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument (4), the first monument built on the Capitol grounds, stands 135 feet tall and is topped by the figure Victory holding palm fronds in both hands, symbolizing peace. The north side of the monument features the often-photographed *Mother Iowa*. (Stop #38)

Lincoln and Tad (5) is one of the few U.S. monuments showing Abraham Lincoln in his role as a father rather than a president. In 1961, Iowans Fred and Mabel Torrey sculpted the statue from a Civil War photo. The bronze statue was paid for primarily with Lincoln pennies (\$25,000 in all) collected by Iowa schoolchildren. (Stop #23)

Pioneer Statuary Group and Buffalo Head Fountain (6) at the foot of the west steps of the capitol represent a friendly Indian scout guiding a hardy pioneer and his son. Originally designed as a lion's head, the bronze fountain was changed to a buffalo head, which was deemed more appropriate for a prairie state. Horses were once watered here. (Stop #33)

Route Scout Joan Arnett, Iowa State Capitol tour guide supervisor