

Nomination of
Robert L. Hanna
For
The 2005 Harry F. Cunningham, FAIA Gold Medal

August 18, 2005



Harry F. Cunningham, FAIA, Gold Medal

Nomination Form: It is the responsibility of the nominator to inform nominee of consideration for this honor.

Nominator:

Member Name CHARLES G. NELSON

Chapter Affiliation LINCOLN

Firm Address P.O. BOX 95165

Phone (402) 471-2021

City LINCOLN

State NE Zip 68509

E-Mail board@ea.ne.gov

Date 8/18/05

Nominee:

Name ROBERT L. HANNA

Phone (402) 430-4244

Address 2930 CEDAR AVE.

E-Mail _____

City LINCOLN

State NE Zip 68502

Profession / Business EMERITUS ARCHITECT

This is a resubmission

Supporting Information: Prepared in a uniform 8 1/2" x 11" format (5 copies required)

- Nominator's Letter: Describe nominee's qualifications. Not to exceed 1 page.
- Biographical Data: Not to exceed 4 pages.
- Statement on contributions, specific in nature: Not to exceed 3 pages.
 - Service to Profession
 - Service to the community/state
 - Significant works (if applicable)
- Miscellaneous Material: photos, clippings, articles, etc. Not to exceed 3 pages.

Charles G. Nelson

8/18/05

Signature of Nominator

Date

Return this form and supporting materials by Thursday, August 18, 2005 to:

AIA Nebraska: P.O. Box 80045 • Lincoln, NE 68501-0045



Charles G. Nelson, Architect

August 18, 2005

AIA Nebraska
The American Institute of Architects

UNL / College of Architecture
102 Architecture Hall
Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0106

Re: Nomination of Robert L. Hanna for The Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal

From humble beginnings, born above the beer tavern in Ewing, through idyllic youth roaming the streets and alleys of Grand Island, to a career in architecture that embodies the true meaning of the profession as public service, Robert L. Hanna has distinguished himself as a practitioner and devotee of the profession and its lore.

As recipient of the Leo A. Daly scholarship, Bob completed his Bachelor of Architecture degree at the University of Nebraska and began the journey that would pass through the offices of Frank N. McNett, Leo A. Daly, Schaumberg & Freeman, Steve Cook, Dale Gibbs, Davis & Wilson, and Clark & Enersen.

The Nebraska Capitol designed by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue was an early beneficiary of his public service. Recognizing disrespect toward the building by politicians and bureaucrats in 1967, Bob single-handedly began the process of photographing, cataloguing, and publicizing architectural atrocities committed in the name of expedience, effectively initiating public awareness of the treasure owned by all Nebraskans and spawning the 1975 book The Nebraska Capitol and Environs Plan directed by Architect and Professor Thomas S. Laging. Preservation of the Capitol continues today under the watchful eye of Bob's protégé, Robert C. Ripley.

Robert Hanna was a founding partner of the Bahr and Hanna architectural firm. He has published two books of sketches immortalizing humble and proud elements of the Nebraska architectural experience. He has fought diligently for or against initiatives that affect the quality of life for Nebraska. He has taught at the University of Nebraska, sharing his gifts in architectural rendering and inspiring students to think beyond technology.

The profession of architecture in Nebraska is well served by Robert L. Hanna. His countless architectural renderings of projects across the state and nation have given life to public places that could not be accomplished by computer simulation. He has worked with and encouraged architects and their associated professionals to strive toward excellence, and has fostered respect for the past as a basis for the future.

I am pleased to nominate Robert L. Hanna for the Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal.

Charles G. Nelson, AIA Executive Director
The Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects

TED KOOSER

1820 Branched Oak Road
Garland, NE 68360-9303
Phone/Fax: 402-588-2272
e-mail: kr84428@alltel.net

July 22, 2005

AIA Nebraska
The American Institute of Architects
UNL / College of Architecture
102 Architecture Hall
Lincoln, NE 68588-0106

Re: Robert Hanna nomination for The Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal

I'm writing to second Charles Nelson's nomination of Bob Hanna for the Cunningham Medal.

What business does the U. S. Poet Laureate have in recommending an architect for an important recognition? Well, though I never finished architecture school, and instead diverted my interest in designing buildings to designing poems, I have maintained a lifelong interest in architecture, and in architects and their practices. And, most importantly in this instance, I am a close friend of Bob Hanna and admire him not only for his fine character but for his work as well. I know of no other architect or artist who can present concepts with such skill and vitality. Though computers now do renderings, there isn't one of them that will ever get as good at it as Bob.

Please give his nomination every consideration. He deserves this honor.



Ted Kooser

ROBERT L. HANNA was born in Ewing, Nebraska in 1939, spent his childhood in Grand Island, Nebraska, and studied architecture at the University of Nebraska, receiving a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1963.

As a registered architect in Nebraska, Robert has maintained a private architectural practice in Lincoln since 1968. He has been awarded the Nebraska Honor Award and the Central States Regional Honor Award for design excellence in architecture. As an Assistant Professor in the College of Architecture, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Robert taught for eight years. In 1984, Robert was inducted into Tau Sigma Delta, National Honor Society in Architecture and the Allied Arts.

Robert has been an active painter since 1979 and maintains his studio in Lincoln, Nebraska. He is a member of the Midwest Watercolor Society and the American Watercolor Society. As an artist, Robert has completed commemorative commissions for Kearney County, York County, and Otoe County in Nebraska, and for the state of Texas. He has won four purchase awards at the Crown Center Spring Arts Festival in Kansas City, Missouri. Robert's sketches and watercolors have been exhibited in the Walker Gallery, University of Nebraska-Kearney, the Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer in Grand Island, Nebraska, Wayne State College, Wayne, Nebraska, McCook College, McCook, Nebraska, Missouri Western College, Saint Joseph, Missouri. His paintings are exhibited in many private collections including the University of Nebraska-Kearney. Robert conducts watercolor and visual communication workshops throughout the midwest.

EDUCATION

- Leo A. Daly Architectural Scholarship 1957-1962
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Bachelor of Architecture, 1963
- National Finalist - Lloyd Warren Design Competition - 1963

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL STATUS

- Robert Hanna Studio and Gallery

AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Award of Excellence of the Central States Region of the American Institute of Architects - 1974
- Nebraska American Institute of Architects Design Honor Award - 1974
- Nebraska American Institute of Architects Design Honor Award - 1968
- Nebraska Capitol Environs, Contributor (National Endowment for the Arts Grant) 1975

Robert L. Hanna

Page two

AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS

- First Award for Urban Design and Planning

Progressive Architecture

1978

- ***Sketches of Nebraska***

Text and illustrations for book publication

University of Nebraska Press

1984

- ***Nebraska Portfolio***

Text and illustrations for book publication

University of Nebraska Press

1992

- ***As Far As I Can See, Contemporary Writing of the Middle Plains***

Illustrations

Windflower Press

1989

- **Architectural Record**

Issue devoted to Young Architects and their work in America

1972

- Grand Island, Nebraska Hall of Honor

Selected in 1986

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Midwest Watercolor Society
- American Watercolor Society

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Robert Hanna Studio, Lincoln, Nebraska
2004 - present

- Hanna Architects, Lincoln, Nebraska
February 1976 - 2004

Robert L. Hanna

Page three

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Bahr, Hanna, Vermeer, & Haecker, Architects, Ltd., Lincoln, Nebraska
Vice President
1971 - February 1976

- Bahr, Hanna, Vermeer, Architects, Lincoln, Nebraska
Partner
1969 - 1970

- Bahr & Hanna, Architects, Lincoln, Nebraska
Partner
1968 - 1969

- Clark & Enersen, Olsson, Burroughs & Thomsen, Architects and Engineers,
Lincoln, Nebraska
1963 - 1968

- Schaumberg & Freeman, Architects, Lincoln, Nebraska
1961 - 1962

- Dale L. Gibbs & Associates, Architects, Lincoln Nebraska
1960 - 1961

- Steve E. Cook & Associates, Architects, Lincoln, Nebraska
1958 - 1959

- Davis & Wilson, Architects, Lincoln, Nebraska
1958 - 1959

- Leo A. Daly Company, Architects, Omaha, Nebraska
1959

- Frank McNett, Architects, Grand Island, Nebraska
1957

- Sketch Portfolio for Sir Winston Churchill Memorial
Church of Saint Mary Aldermanbury
Fulton, Missouri
1963-1966

ROBERT L. HANNA
Teaching Experience
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- Assistant Instructor
Textiles, Clothing, and Design
August 22, 1988 - May 19, 1989
- Assistant Professor
Architecture 270
August 17, 1987 - January 3, 1988
- Assistant Professor
Architecture 371
January 5, 1987 - May 15, 1987
- Assistant professor
Architecture 270
August 18, 1986 - January 4, 1987
- Assistant Professor
Architecture 345
January 3, 1983 - May 18, 1983
- Assistant Professor
Architecture 855
January 5, 1981 - May 18, 1981
- Assistant Professor
Architecture 370
August 29, 1977 - January 9, 1978
- Assistant Professor
Architecture 445
January 10, 1977 - May 22, 1977
- Assistant Professor
Architecture 855
January 5, 1976 - May 17, 1976
- Research Associate
National Endowment for the Arts City Options Grant
October 1, 1974 - August 31, 1975
- Visiting Professor
Architecture 017
February 1, 1970 - June 30, 1970
- Visiting Professor
Architecture 017 and Architecture 018
September 1, 1969 - January 31, 1970
- Visiting Professor
Architecture 004 and Architecture 018
February 1, 1969 - May 31, 1969

Nomination of Robert L. Hanna for The Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal

Contributions of Mr. Hanna

Service to the Profession of Architecture.

- Bob has served the profession as an advocate for architecture, both past, present, and future.
- He co-founded, with Deon F. Bahr, what has become one of the preeminent firms in the state.
- He has performed architectural renderings for many projects, often acting as the ad hoc designer while preparing conceptual representations for use by firms in their marketing programs.
- He has been generous in judiciously providing pro bono services to young or struggling architects.
- He has encouraged many practicing architects, with his friendly nature, to treat their projects and clients with respect and care.
- He has acted as a role model to aspiring architects who admire his artistic abilities and attitudes.
- Most of all, though, Robert L. Hanna has been, and continues to be, a tireless watch dog for abuse to the Nebraska public's architectural heritage.

Service to the Community or State.

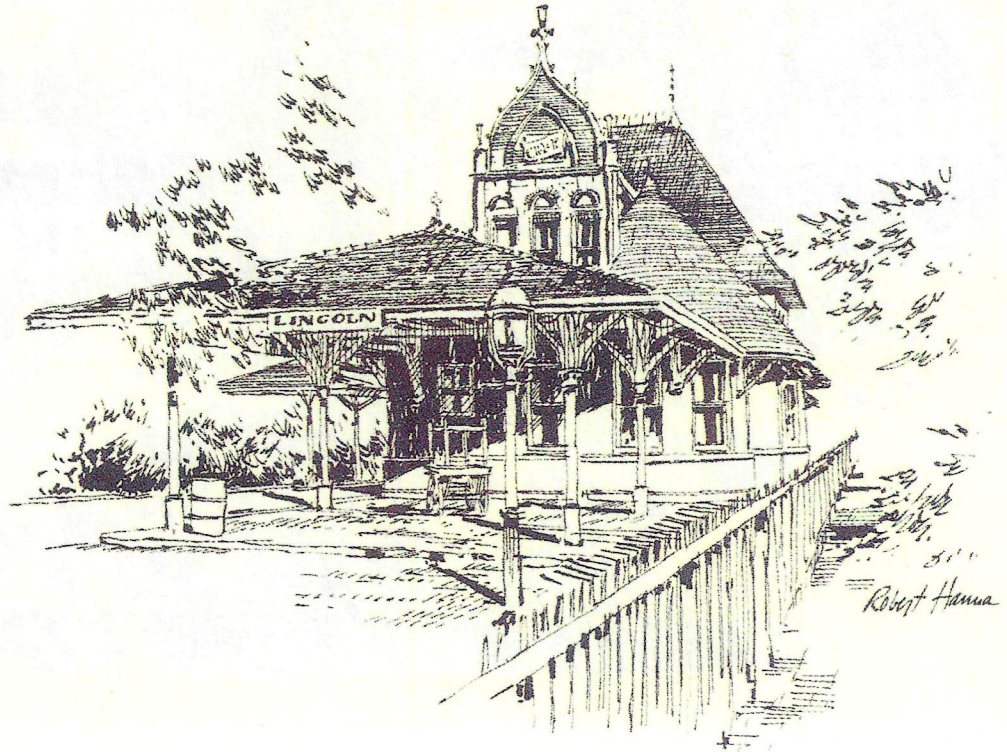
- Bob has participated in many workshops around the State of Nebraska, sharing his talents with others and encouraging them to develop their abilities.
- He has traveled the state sketching the architecture of the people and absorbing their culture to pass on to future generations.
- He has produced two volumes of sketches of Nebraska, with commentary and art belying a sensitivity to the state and its people.
- Most of all, though, Robert L. Hanna has been courageous in protecting Nebraska's capitol building. In 1967, while standing alone against the Philistines of expedience and their architectural abuse of the building, he alienated a high-ranking official to the point where he needed to have another person sign the letter asking for relief from misuse of the building.

Significant Works.

- While Bob has been a practicing architect and has participated in significant projects, that is not the basis for this nomination for the Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal. Like Colonel Cunningham before him, Robert L. Hanna has worked behind the scenes to foster excellence in the profession of architecture, to enable others to practice their professions, to record the architectural heritage of the people, and to leave the State's home, the Nebraska State Capitol Building, better than he found it.

Robert Hanna

Sketches of Nebraska



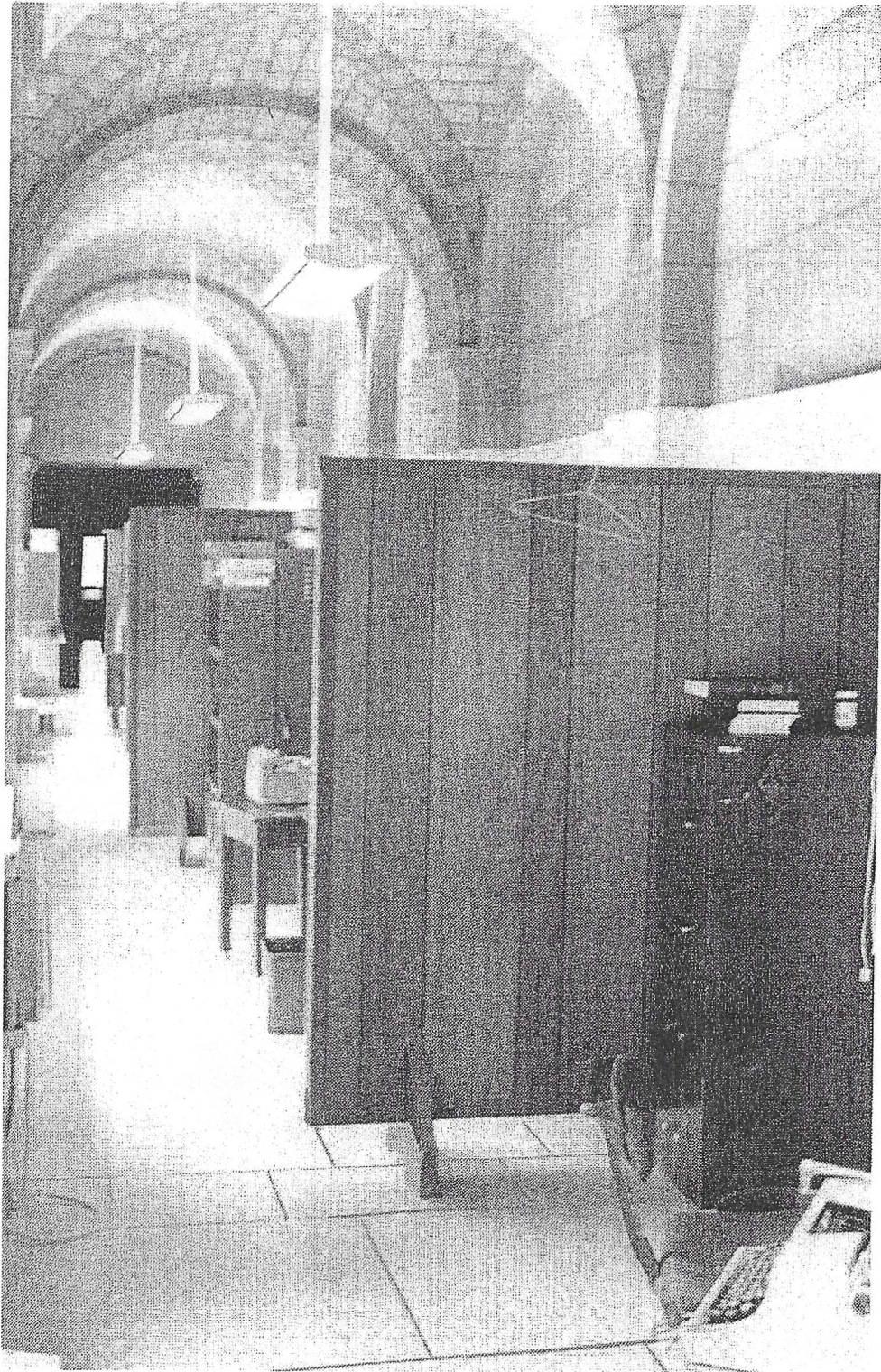
The scenes included here portray the originality and vitality and strength of the state's carpenters, architects, builders, and engineers. Some of the buildings stand in the shade of the wrecking crane. "Perhaps by calling attention to these magnificent and irreplaceable structures, I can help to preserve them," Hanna says. For others it is too late: "I looked at them once, scratched out my drawing, and when I looked back they had disappeared, destroyed by fire or weather or the wrecking crew. Only my sketches and the memories of local townspeople persist

A Nebraska Portfolio



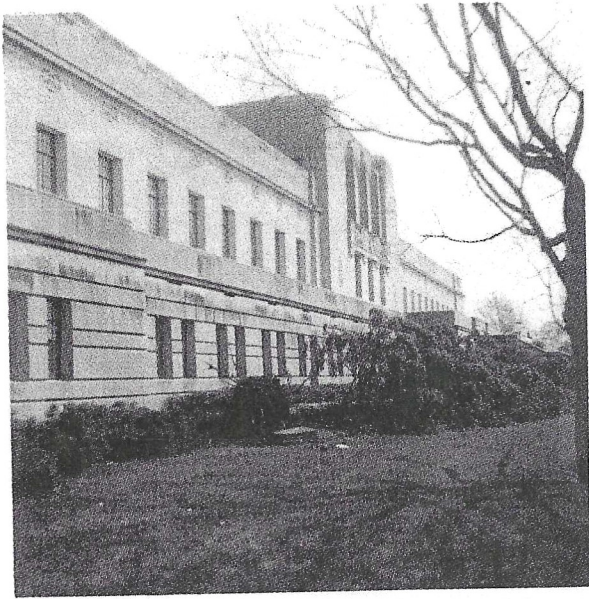
Robert Hanna

For eighteen months Robert Hanna put his architectural career aside to drive his faithful Dodge Aspen back and forth across Nebraska. He logged fifteen thousand through all seasons and weather. He ducked tornadoes and braved snowstorms to draw barns, bridges, depots, mills, storefronts, mansions, courthouses, churches, theaters, bandstands, ballparks, and other monuments to the human proclivity for building.



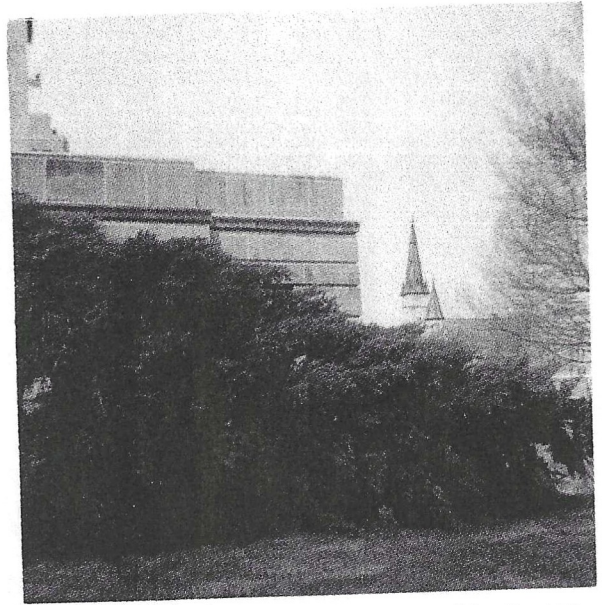
South Courtyard Corridor, 1967; the windows had been painted black.
From The Nebraska Capitol And Environs Plan, 1975. Page 26.
Image Courtesy of the Nebraska Capitol Collections

• OCT •



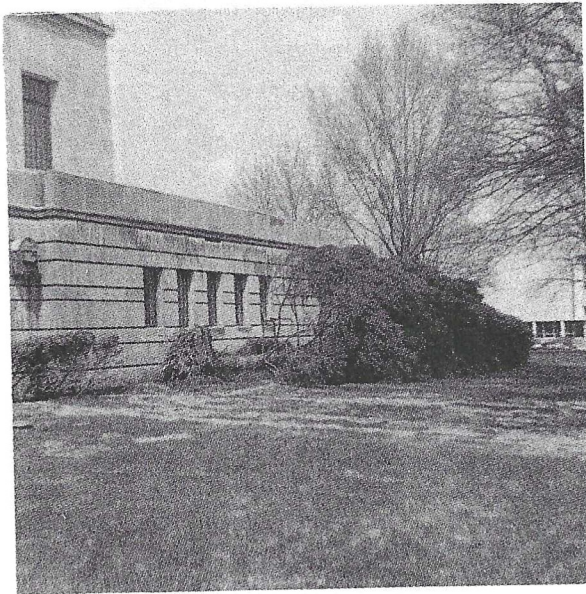
28-6-41

OCT •



28-6-42

• OCT •



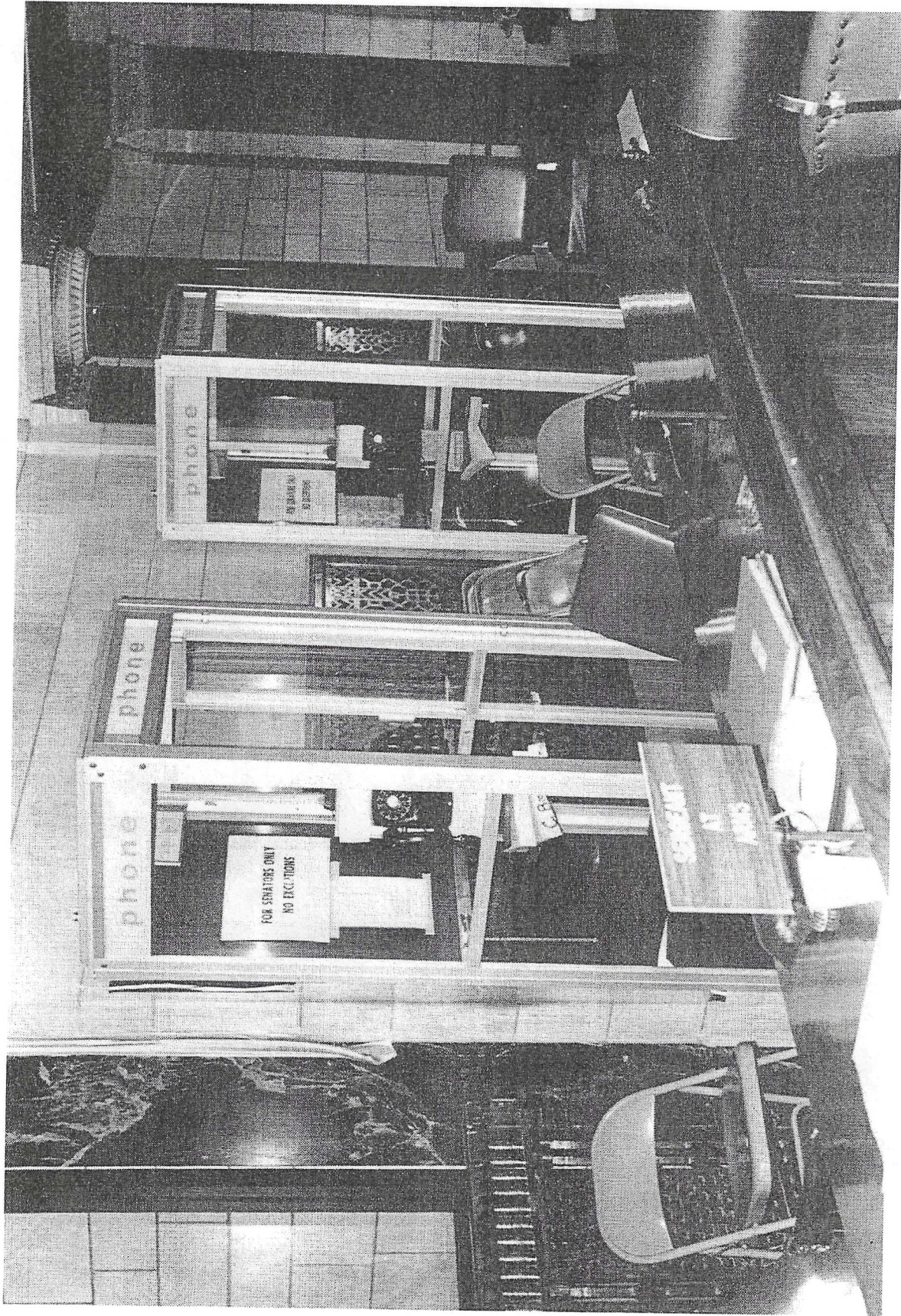
28-6-43

• OCT •

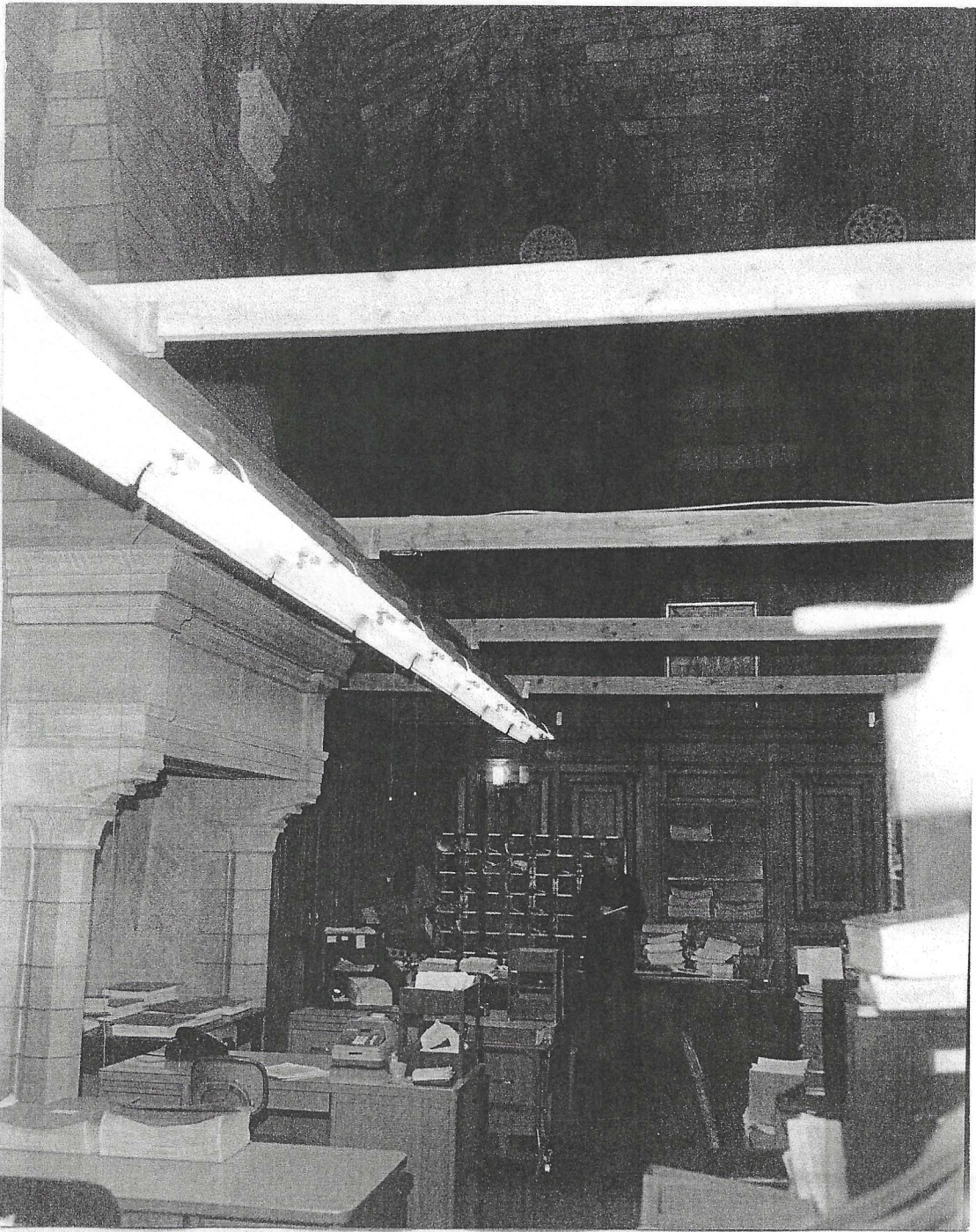


28-6-44

*Trees destroyed 1967
original plan abandoned?*



New telephone booths installed in the Legislative Chamber, 1967.
From The Nebraska Capitol And Environs Plan, 1975. Page 21.
Image Courtesy of the Nebraska Capitol Collections.



Lounge Fireplace and Lighting, 1967.
Image Courtesy of the Nebraska Capitol Collections.