

# Missouri State Archives

## Finding Aid RG 389.01

### Board of Commissioners for the Improvement of the State Capitol

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*Abstract:* Records of the Board of Commissioners for the Improvement of the State Capitol, a temporary committee from 1887–1891, including correspondence, financial records, minutes, and a senate resolution, 1887–1891 (bulk dates 1887–1890).

*Extent:* 0.7 cubic ft., (Half Hollinger box and one oversized box).

*Record Description:* Paper

*Alternative Formats:* None.

*Location:* Missouri State Archives.

### Administrative Information

*Access Restrictions:* No special restrictions.

*Publication Restrictions:* Copyright is in the public domain. Items reproduced for online or physical publication should carry the credit line: Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives.

*Preferred Citation:* [Item description], [Date]; [Box and Folder]; [Series]; Board of Commissioners for the Improvement of the State Capitol, 389; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

*Acquisition Information:* Agency transfer. Accession Number 81–124.

*Processing Information:* Processing started by unknown archivist in 2008 and completed by Amy C. Nickless on 1/11/2024.

### Historical and Biographical Notes

The Board of Commissioners for the Improvement of the State Capital Building was created on March 9, 1887 for the purpose of enlarging the main edifice of the state capitol via additions, fireproofing the building, building fire-proof vaults to house archival records, installing a steam heating system, and supplying other improvements according plans as adopted by the board (*Laws 1887*, p. 17).

The Board was composed of the governor, secretary of state, state auditor, state treasurer, attorney-general, superintendent of public schools, and commissioner of the permanent seat of government. The first meeting was held on March 29, 1887, and the Board consisted of Governor John S. Marmaduke; Michael K. McGrath, Secretary of State; John Walker, State Auditor; James M. Seibert, State Treasurer; Barton G. Boone, Attorney General; William E. Coleman, Superintendent of Public Schools of the State and Ashley W. Ewing, Commissioner of the Permanent Seat of Government.

The Act specified that the work was to be completed and accepted on or before January 1, 1889. The Board of Commissioners changed that date to December 1, 1888. Work was begun in the summer of 1887 and completed in November of 1889.

Upon the death of the Governor John S. Marmaduke on December 28, 1887, Governor Albert P. Morehouse, formerly Lieutenant-Governor, became chairman of the board. When the new administration came into office in January, 1889, changes to the board included Governor David R. Francis; A. A. Lesueur, Secretary of State; J. M. Seibert, State Auditor; Lon V. Stephens, State Treasurer; and J. M. Wood, Attorney General. Coleman and Ewing retained their positions.

The General Assembly originally appropriated the sum of \$250,000 the capitol building improvement projects, but it became necessary to vote an additional appropriation of \$30,000 to cover the cost of extra work done.

## Timeline

Year	Event
1887	The Board of Commissioners for the Improvement of the State Capitol was approved and enacted on March 9 by “An Act to appropriate money for the improvement of the state capitol building.” The Board first met on March 29. Work on improvements began that summer. Originally, the board was granted \$250,000 for the improvements.
1887	Upon the death of Governor Marmaduke on December 28, Albert P. Morehouse became governor and chair of the board.
1888	The Commissioners announced all work must be completed by or accepted on December 1.
1889	An administration change occurred in January, rotating five previous members off the board and five new ones onto the board. Work on all projects was completed in November.
1891	The board met for the final time on September 5.

## Additional Descriptive Information

### Bibliography

Missouri Session Laws, 1824–Present. *Missouri State Archives*. Accessed September 11, 2023. <https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/molaws>.

*Official Manual of the State of Missouri*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Secretary of State. Volumes 1878–1910 through 1999–2000. <https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/bluebook/search>.

*Revised Statutes of Missouri*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Secretary of State. 1825 through present. <https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16795coll26>.

### Related Material

MS 314 [Tom Sater Capital City Collection](#).

RG 320 Board of the Permanent Seat of Government.

RG 321 [State Building Commission](#).

RG 322 Board of Public Buildings.

RG 395.01 [State Capitol Commission Board, 1911–1924 \(First Board\)](#).

RG 395.01 [State Capitol Commission Board Photograph Collection, 1913–1917 \(First Board\)](#).

### Series

The records are organized into the following series:

Correspondence, Incoming, 1889–1891

Financial Records, 1887–1889

Minutes, 1887–1891

Senate Resolution, 1887

## Correspondence, Incoming, 1889–1891

*Extent:* 1 folder

*Arrangement:* Chronological

### Scope and Content

This series consists of correspondence to the board.

### Container List

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	1	Letter and flyer from The Pacific Red Gravel Company of St. Louis	May 4, 1889
1	1	Applications for Position of Night Watch at Capitol (J.H. Goodwin, Harry L. Brown, Jos. A. Dearing, Ben F. Adams, Charles F. McCarty, P.G. Bolton)	March, 1890
1	1	Letter from Chief Engineer, James Harding, to Chairman on the Board, recommending extension for improvements to the capitol grounds for 30 days	November 5, 1891

## Financial Records, 1887–1889

*Extent:* 12 folders

*Arrangement:* Alphabetical

### Scope and Content

The Financial Records series consists of various financial records pertaining to the capitol building improvements decided on and funds appropriated by the General Assembly in 1887. Types of documents included are advertisements, bids, specifications, contracts and sub-contracts, additional improvements, appropriations and disbursement of funds, and all relevant correspondence.

### Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	4	Architect Applications: Advertisement for Plans and Specifications and Consequent Applications by Architects	March, 1887
1	3	Architect Fees and Reports	June, 1887– December, 1889
1	4	Bids for Capitol Renovation	June, 1887
1	5	Bids for Sodding Contract	April– May, 1889
1	6	Cost Estimates of Initial Improvements	March, 1888 and September, 1891
1	7	Disbursement of Funds	March, 1889– December, 1891
1	9	For Initial Work Scheduled	June, 1887
1	9	Installation of Tank, Pump and Fittings and Closing of Cistern	April, 1889
1	8	Jefferson City Water Works Co., Rates, Rules and Regulations Booklet	October, 1888– July, 1889
1	9	List of Charges for Additional Work Ordered by Architect	March, 1889
1	9	Mulcahy Contracts and Bond	March–July, 1887
1	10	Request Additional Appropriation	March 27, 1889
1	9	Painting Walls	March, 1889
1	9	Partial Payment on Contract	May, 1889
1	9	Repairing Corridors of Capitol	February, 1888
1	9	Repairing South End of Capitol Wall	April, 1888

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	9	Repairing South Wall of Capitol	May, 1888
1	11	Retaining Wall Advertisement for Bids; Bids and Specifications for Work	February, 1888– December, 1891
1	12	Specifications and Bids–Water Line Covering	May, 1889
1	13	Specifications for Improvements	March, 1889

## Minutes, 1887–1891

*Extent:* 1 folder and 1 flat oversized box

*Arrangement:* Alphabetical

### Scope and Content

The Minutes series consists of one ledger-sized volume and one folder. Included are the votes of the Board, dealings with the architect and the contractor, and planning sessions for changes in the contract. Also included are changes in the composition of the Board as one administration left office and a new one came into office.

### Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	14	Board Meetings, Notes of (includes two sets of handwritten 1889 minutes)	1888–1891 and No Date
OB 1		Minute Book	March 29, 1887– September 5, 1891

## Senate Resolution, 1887

*Extent:* 1 folder

*Arrangement:* Chronological

### Scope and Content

This series consists of a handwritten Senate Resolution from the 34<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, dated 1887 regarding the use of Missouri stone only in the extension of the Capitol Building.

### Container List

Box	Folder	Date
1	15	June 6, 1887