

Fifty Years of Progress

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Fifty Years Of Progress

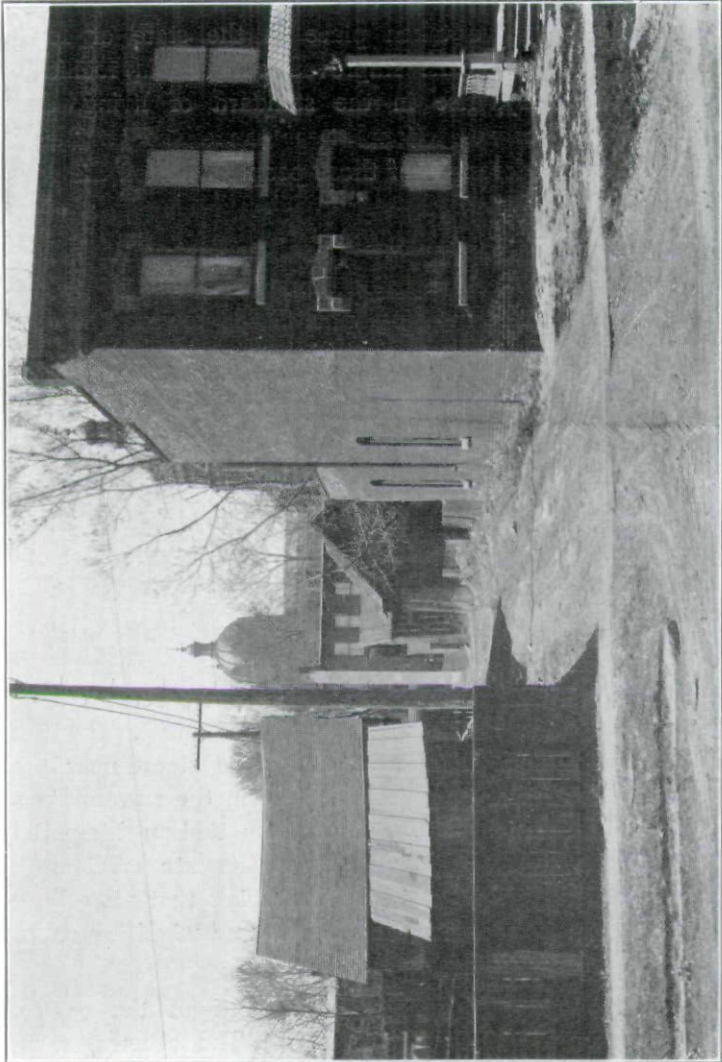
PHOTOS AND TEXT BY
BEVERLY SHIFFER

Many changes have taken place in the state of Iowa during the past 50 years. Improved educational facilities, growth of industry, rise in the standard of living, and beautiful parks and recreational areas can all be attributed to the efforts and foresight of those people who led the way to a better Iowa.

Shortly after the capital was moved to Des Moines, Mr. Willson Alexander Scott donated land which was to be the site of a new capitol building, plus \$6,000 toward the cost of construction. The areas surrounding the new capitol were then privately owned, and in the years that followed, this neighborhood showed signs of age. In 1909, Chief Executive Warren Garst in his biennial message said, "I feel that . . . all the people of the state ought to be deeply interested in providing a suitable setting for our magnificent State Capitol . . . We have provided . . . for the interior decoration; we have neglected the exterior and environment."

That something had to be done was obvious. The state first purchased land around the capitol, cleared the grounds and proceeded to landscape the entire area. It was slow and tedious work, but the rewards were great. The tall Soldiers and Sailors Monument that once stood near the ruins of a shoe factory now stood alone in the surroundings befitting a memorial of this kind. The Allison Memorial was completed in 1916 in memory of the late William B. Allison, and is only one of many memorials that were built in later years, enhancing the beauty and significance of our capitol's surroundings.

On the following pages are views around the capitol building taken in 1913, 51 years ago. The accompanying pictures were taken in 1964. These illustrate that changes for the good are possible, not only in our capitol city, but all over the state, as long as there are people who care.



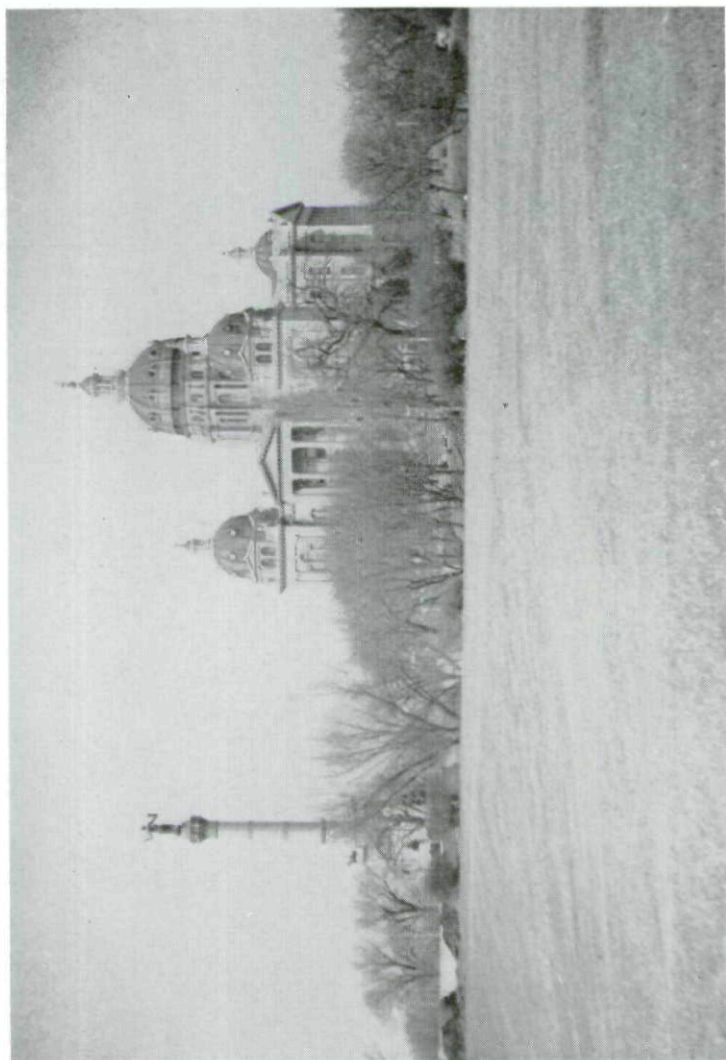
LOOKING WEST FROM 13TH STREET—1913



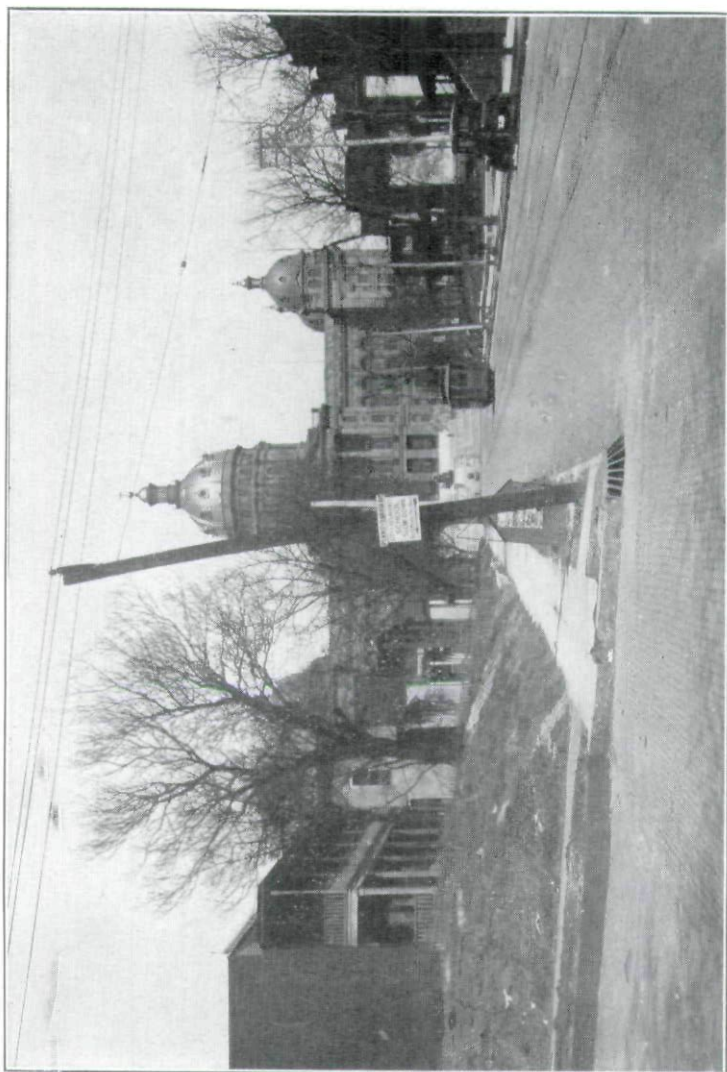
LOOKING WEST—1964. NEW STATE OFFICE BUILDING IS AT LEFT



LOOKING NORTHWEST—1913. REMAINS OF SHOE FACTORY ARE IN FOREGROUND



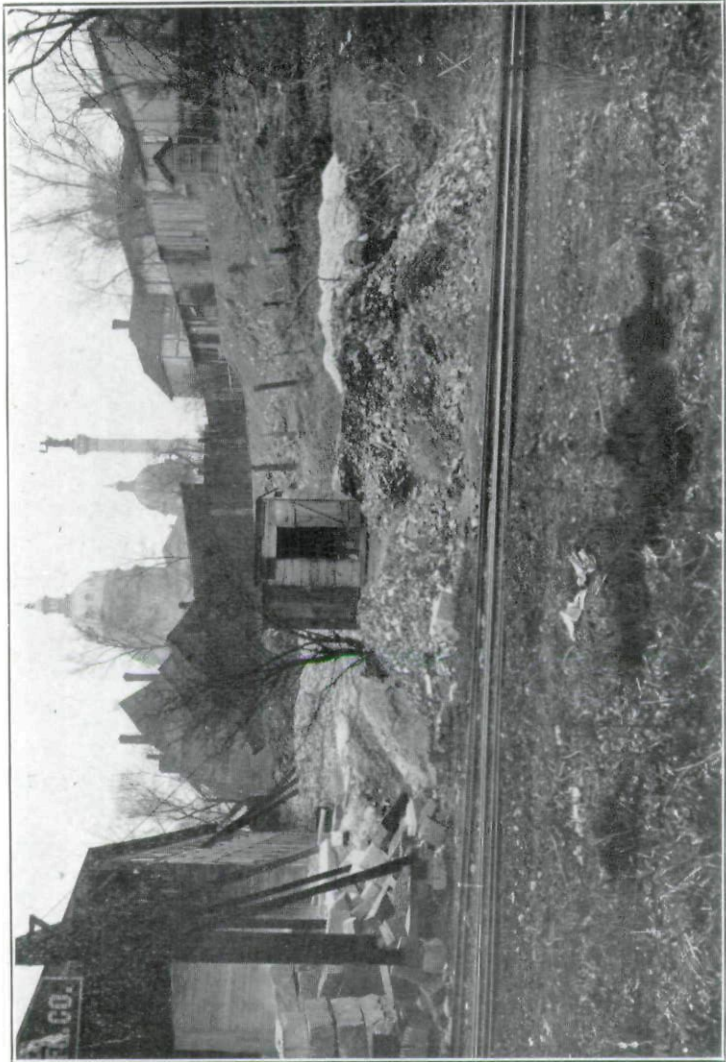
LOOKING NORTHWEST—1964



LOOKING EAST ON LOCUST STREET—1913



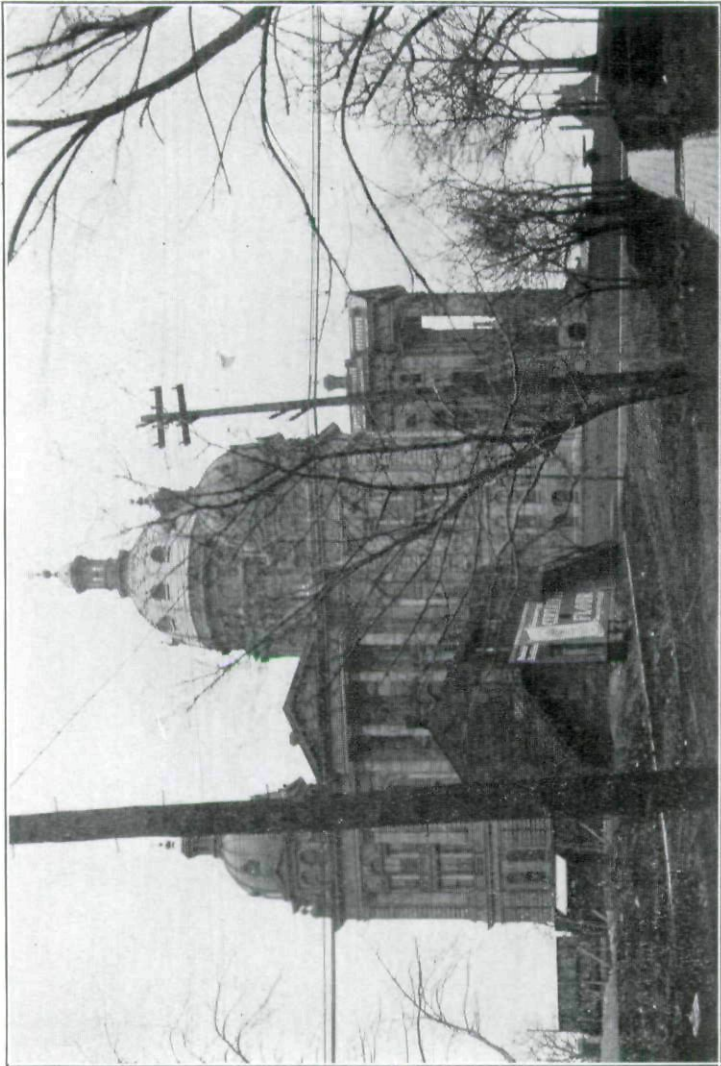
LOOKING EAST ON LOCUST STREET—1964



LOOKING NORTHEAST—1913



LOOKING NORTHEAST—1964



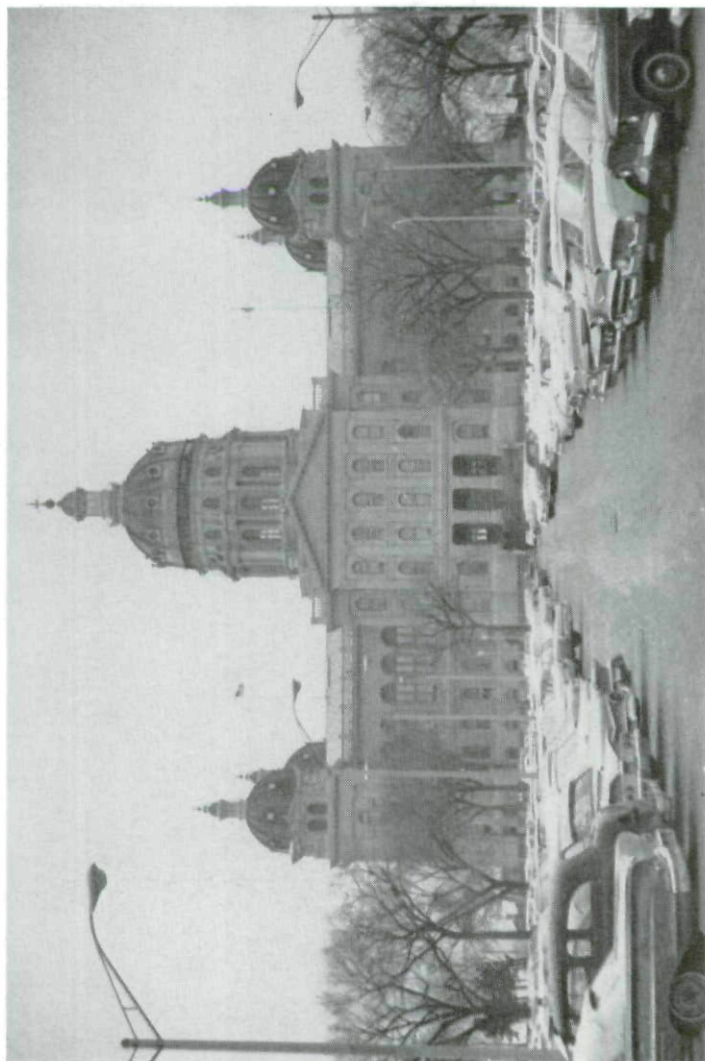
LOOKING SOUTH—1913



LOOKING SOUTH—1964. NEW STATE EMPLOYMENT BUILDING AT RIGHT



LOOKING WEST TOWARD CAPITOL—1913



LOOKING WEST—1964



LOOKING NORTH TO FRONT ENTRANCE OF HISTORICAL BUILDING—1913



LOOKING NORTH TO FRONT ENTRANCE OF HISTORICAL BUILDING, 1964

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