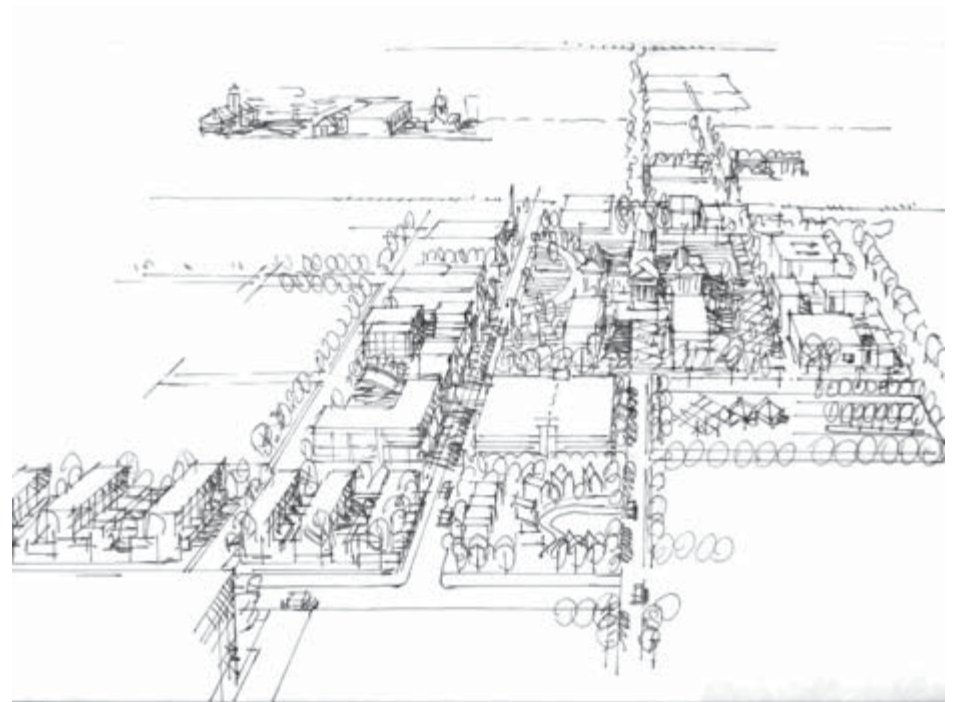


C a p i t o l P l a n



C a p i t o l P l a n

The City of Springfield was established in 1823. In 1839, the state legislature moved the State Capitol to Springfield. The first Capitol building in Springfield was completed in 1853 at a total cost of \$260,000 and continues to be the center of the downtown district. Fifteen years later, groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted for the present Capitol building on the hill just west of the downtown district. This building has been the symbol of both the state and the Capitol City. The dome was completed in 1889 and since then, the dome has been an icon for the city and the surrounding prairie. This building has been both the icon of the state and the Capitol City. The Supreme Court building was completed in 1906. An Armory building was added in 1936. The Secretary of State Building was started in 1918 and was completed in phases by 1968. These four buildings form the historic core of the Capitol Campus. The original historic core is outstanding period architecture, but drive further into the campus and one is surrounded by ugly surface parking lots and abysmal architecture not commensurate with the quality of the State Capitol.

The Capitol should be situated in a park-like setting such as the capitols of Sacramento, California; Madison, Wisconsin; Lincoln, Nebraska; and Indianapolis, Indiana. The Stratton building was added in the mid 50's. It provides 445,000 square-feet of office space and it is in need of rehabilitation. The State has budgeted some \$60 million dollars to restore the building. It is the team's opinion that the building should be replaced because it is obsolete as an effective office building. It is also too close to the Capitol for safety reasons and it blocks significant views of the Capitol building.

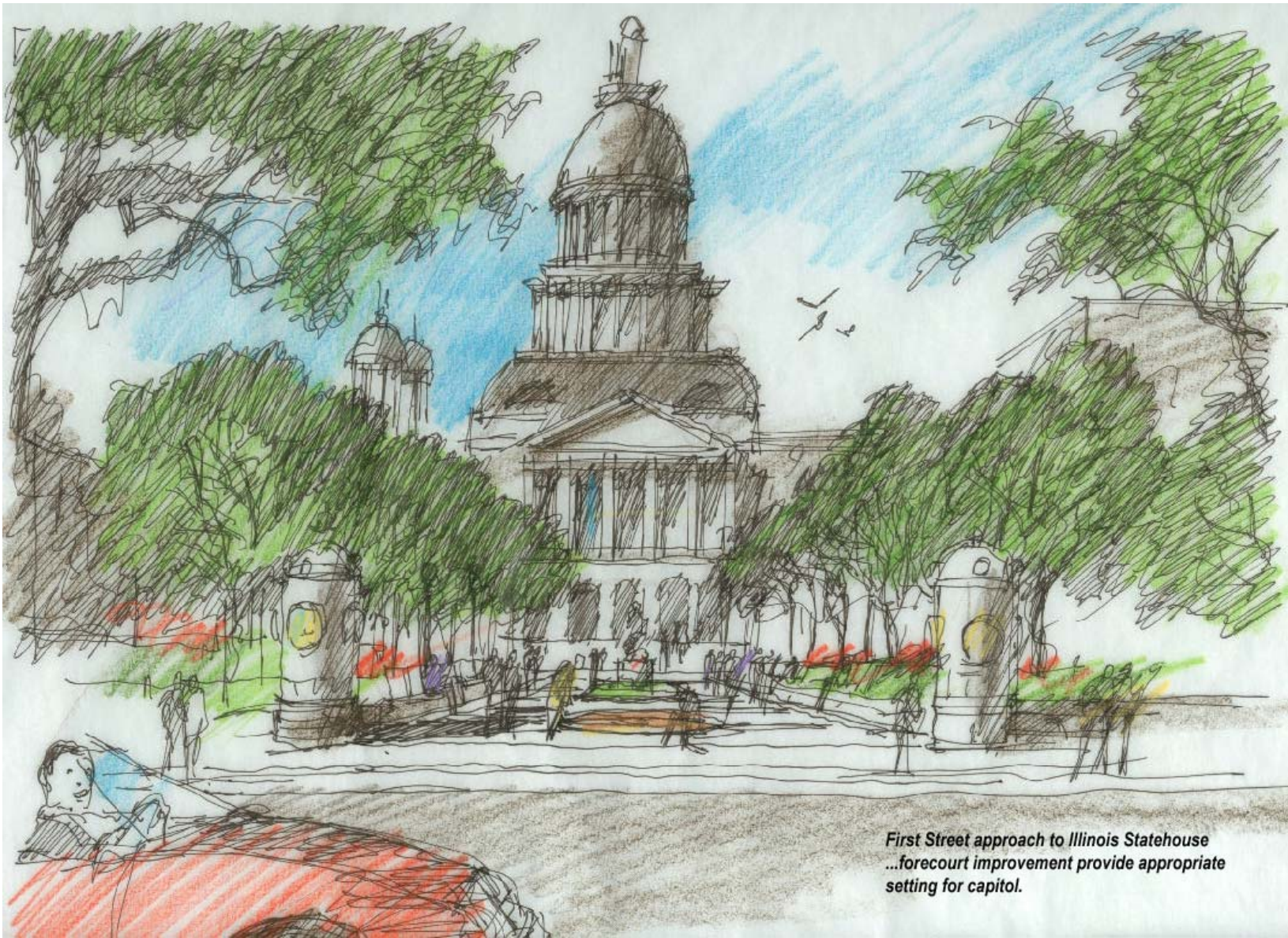
The team proposes that the new Stratton building be replaced with two buildings which are separated to allow views of the Capital from the West.

C a p i t o l P l a n

The team proposes that the Capitol sit by itself in a large unencumbered park area without parking. Parking can be either in an underground ramp by the State Museum or in an expanded ramp at the corner of College and Monroe.

In light of Sept. 11th, the team urges that the State conduct a detailed study to evaluate the safety and security of the Capitol Complex. Included would be a full site plan study of underground and condensed parking. Also, the whole aspect of urban design considerations, such as views, streetscapes, planting and reviving the deteriorating quality of the campus should be studied and corrected.

A space needs long range planning study with a 20 year horizon should be conducted. Once these needs are determined from historical data and contemporary projections, a proper site plan can be developed that establishes a border with the adjoining neighborhoods. This would assist in stopping the demolition of prime historic sites.



*First Street approach to Illinois Statehouse
...forecourt improvement provide appropriate
setting for capitol.*



R/UDAT

Springfield, Illinois

2002