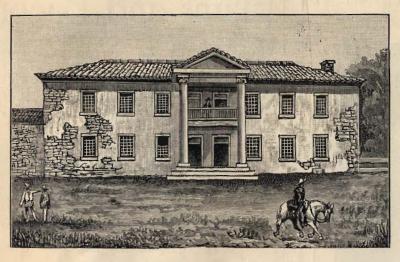
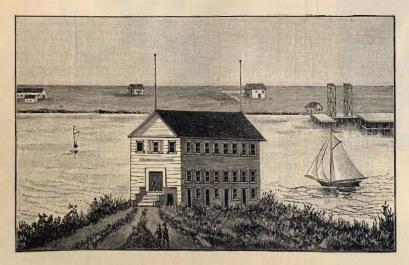


#### EARLY CAPITOLS OF CALIFORNIA





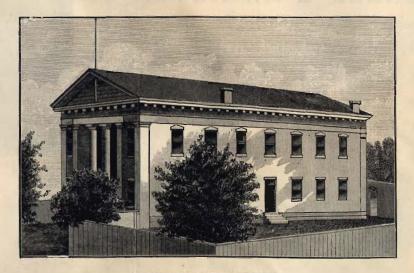
CAPITOL AT MONTEREY-1849



CAPITOL AT VALLEJO-1852-1853



CAPITOL AT SAN JOSE-1849-1851



CAPITOL AT BENICIA-1853-54

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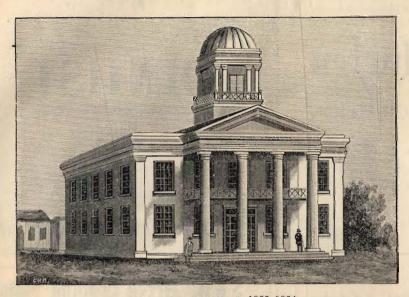
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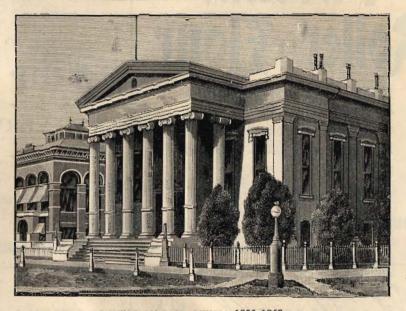
#### THE FIRST TWO CAPITOLS AT SACRAMENTO



CAPITOL AT SACRAMENTO 1852-1854

The first Courthouse that was erected at Seventh and I streets, in Sacramento City, and in which the sessions of 1852 and 1854 were held, was commenced in June, 1850, and completed December 24, 1851. It was destroyed in the great fire of July 13, 1854, which consumed a large portion of the business part of the city. On the 14th the "Democratic State Journal" gave the following as one of the incidents connected with the destruction of the Courthouse:

"Patriotic.—When the fire threatened the Courthouse with destruction, the Governor (Bigler), who was present, and who had been working from the commencement of the fire wherever Sacramento most needed a soldier, asked those present to assist him in saving the furniture. To this many objected, on the ground that private parties, who could not suffer the loss as well as the county, needed their services. A full-length portrait of Washington was standing against the southern wall, and pointing to it, the Governor said, 'See, there is the portrait of the father of your country; will you permit it to be destroyed?" when a general rush was made for the portrait, and it was saved." The portrait now hangs in the Senate Chamber.



CAPITOL AT SACRAMENTO 1855-1869

Immediately after the fire a contract was entered into between Joseph Nougues and the county officers for the erection of the present Courthouse. As originally arranged, the building answered the following description: Extreme height, 61 feet; dimensions, 80 by 120 feet; with a portico supported by ten pillars, 3 feet 6 inches in diameter by 31 feet 6 inches in height. The ground floor was devoted to a county prison. On the same floor were two separate offices containing fire-proof vaults, and occupied by the State Controller and State Treasurer. The second floor was devoted to a Senate Chamber, 57 by 30 feet, and an Assembly room, 72 feet 8 inches by 41 feet 4 inches, together with nine rooms for clerks and officers of the Legislature. The style of architecture is Ionic. The original contract price was \$100,600, and the subsequent contracts made the total cost of the building to the county \$240,000. The cornerstone was laid September 27, 1854, with Masonic honors, and the brick work was completed November 9th following. The building was finished January 1, 1855. It was rented to the State for capitol purposes at an annual rental of \$12,000, and was used for that purpose from 1855 until the completion of the present capitol.

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