

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

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Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Capitol Building Advisory Committee  
**FROM:** Norm Brisson, Chief Administrative Officer  
**DATE:** July 23, 2010  
**SUBJECT:** Exhibiting State Key in the Capitol Rotunda

The Governor's Office is requesting approval to exhibit the State Key in the Capitol Building Rotunda. The key was donated to Colorado Governor Richard Lamm by Hyde Park Jewelers in September 1984. The key consists of precious metals as well as precious and semi-precious stones. (Photos of the key are attached.) The key has been in the possession of the Colorado State History Museum. The key is a wonderful artifact and having it on exhibit at the State Capitol will enhance the experience of both Capitol state employees as well as visitors to the building.

The Governor's office has been in discussions with Larry Zeschin on an appropriate display for the key if permission were granted for the key to be shown in the State Capitol. Larry is a retired exhibits' preparer at the Colorado Historical Society with 25 years of service. He completed over 150 exhibits while at the Society. In addition to his professional work at the Society, Mr. Zeschin fabricated and installed artifact mounts for Kevin Scott's "Mr. Brown's Attic" exhibit at the Colorado State Capitol, as well as exhibits for the Colorado History Museum's ten regional museums, the Longmont History Museum, the Buffalo Bill Museum in Golden, the Estes Park Museum, the Denver Public Library, and the Denver Art Museum.. Mr. Zeschin currently works as a freelance exhibits' preparer. He carries liability insurance and his resume and letters of reference are available if the Committee desires to review those documents.

Mr. Zeschin is familiar with the State Key having prepared the security mount used for the key when it was on exhibit at the Colorado History Museum. Larry has examined the potential exhibit space in the Capitol, i.e. the niche currently occupied by the bust of Governor/Chief Justice/Senate President William Lee Knous, and has suggested three exhibit options. The discussion of the options outlined below is a summary of Larry's recommendations and evaluations.

Option 1 is to mount the key on a single monolith of solid black granite with an inset for the key and the entire face covered with 1/2" clear tempered plate glass fastened with four security screws. (Lead time for the base could be from two to four months.) The black would provide a complimentary color to the pink onyx and yet provide a suitable background for the sterling silver of the key and the gray

marble plaque it is mounted on. The drawback for this particular option is the fact that the base would weigh about 286 lbs. Although the onyx at the base of the niche is 1 3/16" thick, which would probably be thick enough to support the weight of the base provided there was sufficient support below. The second drawback is security. With the monolith scenario, the glass is only fastened with four security screws. With the security screws on the market today, security wrenches to remove those screws can be purchased at most hardware stores. Larry did speak with one State Patrol Officer in the Executive Security Detail about the key's exhibit. It was the officer's opinion that in light of the fact that a camera could be positioned to view the case at all times, and it would be in a prominent spot, that security screws would probably be sufficient. Larry also consulted with Steve Golden, the security director of the Colorado Historical Society, and according to Mr. Golden, technology in the security camera software should enable motion sensor capability to be incorporated into the cameras view, thereby eliminating a separate sensor inside of the case.

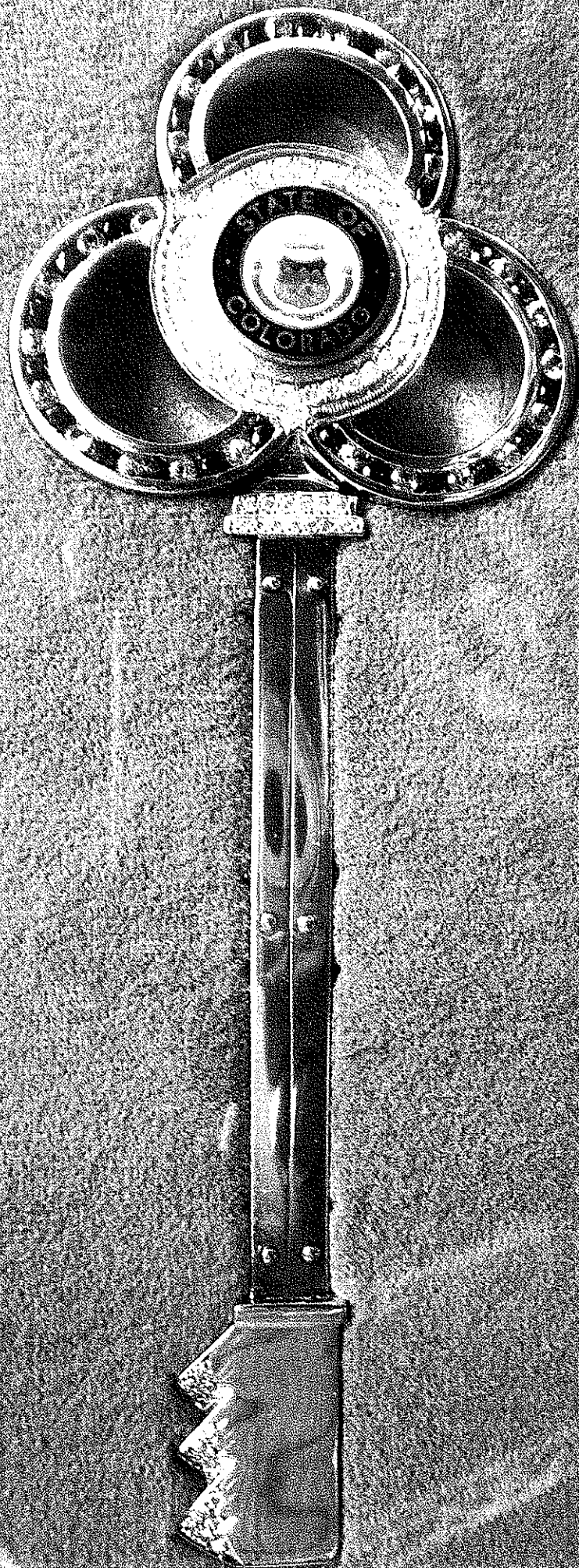
The second option would be to fabricate a hollow granite box which would incorporate the glass in an inset as well as the key. The glass would be secured with epoxy into the face of the granite, and access to the key would be gained from underneath. Key operated pushbutton sliding door locks would be incorporated into the sides of a box fabricated to hold the key in position beneath the tempered glass. In this design no fasteners or security devices would be seen, the entire display would be of less weight and one would have to physically move the base and use a key from underneath to remove the key. The display would basically retain the same shape except for the fact that there would be a 1/2" margin of granite around the edge of the glass.

The third option also involves fabricating a case. The display case would consist of a 1" thick solid black granite frame 18" wide by 16" in height by 3 1/2" deep, fastened to a 60 degree angled solid granite block 12" wide by 12" in height by 6 1/2" in depth. This option incorporates key locks for increased security, has sufficient weight not to be carried off, yet not overload the pink onyx of the niche base and provides a higher quality finish on the granite than could be achieved with either of the two previous options. Although this option would cost more than the other two choices, it provides enhanced security, use of durable yet attractive materials, and the ease of accessibility over the two previous options. Time frame from approval of project to installation would be approximately six weeks.

I am available to answer any Committee questions or to conduct further research on any concerns.

cc: Jim Carpenter, Chief of Staff

Wynne-Dorsey



THE KEY TO THE STATE OF COLORADO

PRESENTED TO

GOVERNOR RICHARD D. LAMM

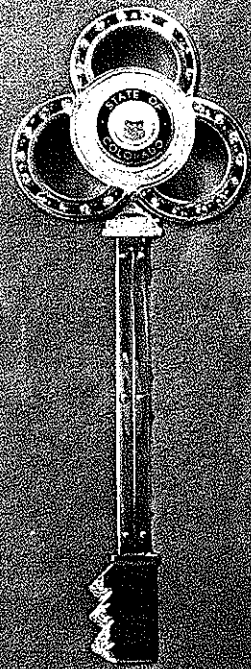
ON

SEPTEMBER 6th, 1934

CONTENTS:

62 DWT, 14KT, 21 DWT, 18 KT, 23 DWT STERLING  
2.60 CT. YELLOW SAPPHIRE 2.70 CT. BLUE SAPPHIRE





THE KEY TO THE UNITED STATES  
1776-1781  
GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT  
TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY  
AND TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR  
BY THE PRESIDENT  
1789  
PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY  
TO THE PRESIDENT  
1790  
PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY  
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