Our Visit to the Utah Capitol

The walk to the Capitol from Temple Square is only a mile. But the walk in the heat of July was almost unbearable. And who knew that Salt Lake City was hilly. We didn’t know. But we won’t soon forget it.

Along the way, Gary and I commented on the architecture and stopped often for me to take pictures (and to stand in the shade and catch our breath.) We saw homes listed as historic, homes with lost histories, and even a haunted house.

**McCune Mansion**

The Alfred McCune home was built in 1900 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is located on Capitol Hill. The home can be toured and rented for special events and meetings.
Woodruff-Riter Mansion

This Renaissance Revival mansion was built in 1906. It was a family residence until 1974 when it was turned into business offices. The historic house was renovated in 2004 and today it serves as an inn. The Inn on the Hill has been rated the best Bed & Breakfast in Salt Lake City.

And a home without a name, but no doubt if these walls could talk

this old home would have a story or two to tell.
I read that the Inn on the Hills is located two blocks above downtown Salt Lake City. From this vantage point, we had a great view of the city.

The exterior of this building caught my eye. It took be awhile to realize it was just a reflection.

After a mile long hike uphill, we finally arrived at the Capitol.
Across street – Old City Hall

A Utah Historic Site
Built 1864-1865
Construction- Red sandstone building,
Purpose- served as city hall and home of territorial legislation until 1894; was seat of city government nearly 30 years, 1866-1894- Utah territory

With our visit on a Sunday, we hadn’t expected the building to be open. I just wanted to take a few pictures of the Capitol and the grounds in case we didn’t come back into the city. We were pleasantly surprised that the building was open and didn’t have security like most capitol buildings we’ve toured.
We picked up the last self-guided tour brochure at the unmanned information desk. Instead of reading and following the guide, Gary and I decided to walk around the building and to read the guide later.

I later read and learned that:

- a local architect Richard K.A. Kletting won the competition for the design of the Neoclassical Revival style building
- local granite from Little Cottonwood Canyon was used for exterior
- construction began in 1912 and the building was dedicated in 1916
- the capitol has 4 stories
- the first floor- houses a number of exhibits on Utah’s history and what make Utah unique
- the second floor – houses the grand rotunda with a painted cyclorama and pendentives of Utah’s history and with a dome that rises 165 ft
- the third floor – houses the House and Senate chambers that are reached by a grand staircase with painted lunettes on each end building
- the fourth floor – houses a gallery space that overlooks the rotunda
We practically had the Capitol to explore by ourselves.

After checking out the exhibits on the ground floor, Gary rented a Lime scooter and rode it back to the dually. Then he came back to the Capitol in the dually and picked me up. Neither one of us wanted to walk another 1+ miles in the heat of downtown Salt Lake City.

While waiting on Gary, I sat down and soaked up the air-conditioning before heading outside again to take in the view of the Capitol grounds and surrounding area.
The Wasatch Mountains
It was a hot day but a beautiful day to tour Salt Lake City.