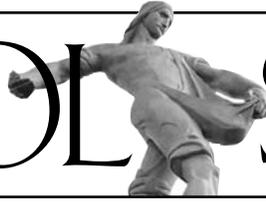


THE CAPITOL SOWER



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPITOL COMMISSION | VOLUME THREE | NUMBER TWO | JUNE 2010

Exterior Masonry Project Nears Completion

The first exterior masonry project to holistically address the care of the Nebraska State Capitol's Indiana Limestone facade and copper roof is entering its final construction season. Office of the Capitol Commission staff are optimistic that the restoration work being completed, with ongoing/proper maintenance, will ensure the Capitol meets the needs of government for hundreds of years. The Exterior Masonry Restoration Project began in 1995 with an inspection of the entire facade and roof of the Capitol. After 70 years of Nebraska's extreme climate and minimal maintenance, the exterior no longer shed water as it should. As the Exterior Masonry Project progressed, consulting architects and engineers from Bahr Vermeer Haecker/Lincoln and Wiss Janney Elstner/Chicago encountered design details considered state of the art in 1932, which contributed to the decline of the Capitol's exterior integrity. The consultants used their knowledge of modern building materials and construction detailing, in coordination with Office of the Capitol Commission's years of collective experience caring for the Capitol, to develop a plan to improve existing building technology and create systems to ease maintenance.

A major component of the tower restoration was the attachment of shelf angle supports on the tower's steel frame. During original construction, the limestone was faced on the exterior and left to carry its own weight, which caused stress and cracking. The shelf supports were inserted to carry the

limestone facade at each floor level and eliminate stress on the mortar joints and limestone. Parapet walls were rebuilt and lead flashing installed to stop water from seeping down through exterior walls. Concrete and concrete brick cores replaced the red brick cores of the wing walls at the entrances. The concrete is more stable under high moisture conditions. Weep holes were installed to drain away any moisture. The complete re-tuckpointing of the limestone facade was an important part of the exterior masonry project and will help keep the exterior weather tight.

During the installation of a new copper roof, flashing was increased to deal with snow drifting and ice accumulation on the roof. A heavier copper was used on the roof and a waterproof membrane was installed. More of the roof was covered with a batten system, reducing the number of solder seams associated with the flatlock system.

As part of the Exterior Masonry Project, Office of the Capitol Commission staff and the project consultants created detailed design documents and photographed all phases of the work, creating a valuable archive for future caretakers of the Nebraska State Capitol. Future generations of Nebraskans will be grateful that such time and care was taken to keep Bertram Goodhue's monument to the citizens of Nebraska functional into the 21st Century and beyond. 

Nebraska Capitol Commission Membership

Dave Heineman

*Governor
Chairman*

Mike Flood

*Speaker of the Legislature
Vice-Chairman*

Janice Walker

Court Administrator

Wayne Drummond

*Dean
College of Architecture, UNL*

Michael Smith

*Director/CEO
Nebraska State Historical Society*

Bryce Neidig

Congressional District 1

Stan Meradith

Congressional District 2

Jim Cudaback

Congressional District 3

Robert C. Ripley

*Administrator
Office of Capitol Commission
Secretary*



The People of the
OCC
Office of the Capitol
Commission

ADMINISTRATION

Bob Ripley, *Administrator*
Tom Kaspar, *Architect*
Mark Tonjes, *Capitol Manager*
Tammy Honnor, *Facilities
Construction Coordinator*
Cecilia Curtis-Beard,
Administrative Assistant

ARCHIVE

Karen Wagner, *Archivist*

CARPENTRY

Brett Daugherty, *Shop Supervisor*
Ron Dulas, *Furniture Conservator*
Roger Frink,
Hardware Conservator
Steve Janssen, *Furniture Finisher*
Phil Lagoni, *Mason*
Mike Marshall, *Cabinet Maker*
Bill McClurg,
Furniture Conservator

CUSTODIAL

Perry Shuman,
Capitol Conservation Supervisor
Richard Mallam, *Custodial Leader*
Rich Naber, *Custodial Leader*

GROUNDS

Mike Hoppmann,
Arborist/Groundskeeper
Don Pracheil, *Mechanic*

MAINTENANCE

Michael Jordan, *Shop Supervisor*
Jerry Allen, *Plumber*
Kent Bonebright,
Sheet Metal Fabricator
Tahir Karimi, *Electrician*
John Steele,
Maintenance Specialist

TOURS

Roxanne Smith,
*Tourism Supervisor/
Special Events Coordinator*
Gloria Witherspoon,
Tourism Aide

Capitol Staff

Ground Maintenance Staff

Grounds Maintenance Staff serving the Office of the Capitol Commission and the State Building Division have almost 150 years of combined experience caring for the trees, turf and shrubs planted at the Nebraska State Capitol. The Grounds Maintenance Staff cares for 338,710 square feet of landscape and provides snow removal for 57,460 square feet of hardscape at the Capitol as part of their overall maintenance of 1,886,981 square feet of state facility grounds.

Craig Kreiner has 36 years with State Building Division and has been Horticultural Supervisor since 1995, he supervises a staff of four, plus detail workers. The Grounds Keeper Leaders oversee fertilizing and mowing the turf, mulching and pruning the shrub beds, general care of the Capitol's tree resources and maintenance of the Capitol's underground irrigation system. To perform their many duties they are forklift and platform lift certified, EPA certified for chemical application, and have Commercial Drivers Licenses. While grounds staff work cooperatively to maintain the Capitol Grounds.



*Craig Kreiner
36 years*

Lee Briggs takes the lead on the shrub beds and care of the courtyard's flowering trees and shrubs.



*Lee Briggs
29years*



*Mike Hoppmann
21years*

Mike Hoppmann is a Nebraska Certified Arborist.

Chris Bohlen's focus is turf and the application of fertilizers and herbicides.



*Chris Bohlen
25years*



*Don Pracheil
31 years*

Mechanic Don Pracheil cares for the fleet of trucks and snow removal equipment, utility vehicles, turf equipment and tools the grounds staff use.

With the help of the detail workers, the seasoned Grounds Maintenance staff maintains the Landmark landscape setting for the Nebraska State Capitol. 

Capitol Commission Meeting Notes

The Nebraska State Capitol Commission met on February 2, 2010. Old business for the Commission included a review of renovation projects for the second half of the fiscal year. Discussion focused on energy efficiency, including lighting in renovated space and the need to balance historic preservation with lighting improvements. The Capitol Administrator explained that general illumination in offices is supplemented with task lighting on work surfaces to increase energy efficiency. The Office of the Capitol Commission considers energy efficiency improvements in all projects. Currently insulation is being added to the roof of the Capitol as the new copper is being applied, previously there had been none. New business included the budget summary for the upcoming FY 2010-11 and the 5% cuts being made in Office of the Capitol Commission expenditures. Other business included discussion of the newly remodeled Landmark Store and the desire to see Capitol-related gift items become available as funding allows. 

Lincoln Memorial Plaza

Historic monument an attraction on Capitol Grounds

In 1903, Nebraskans proposed to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of the city's namesake Abraham Lincoln by commissioning a statue of Lincoln within an architectural setting on the grounds of the Capitol. Daniel Chester French and Henry Bacon were chosen to create Nebraska's Lincoln Memorial. French and Bacon later collaborated on the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. Nebraska's great orator, William Jennings Bryan, spoke to a crowd of thousands at the September 12, 1912 dedication of this project.

The Lincoln Memorial at the west entrance of the Nebraska State Capitol predates Bertram Goodhue's building and was required to be included in the new Capitol's design. Originally enclosed with a granite wall and separate from the entrances of the second Capitol, Goodhue incorporated the Lincoln Memorial in the west entrance of his building. He opened the back wall of the Memorial Plaza allowing pedestrians to move through the Memorial and into his Capitol. This required changes in grade and paving. Ernst Herminghaus, in his landscape plan for the Capitol, created a planting plan using upright junipers to visually enclose the plaza. The shrub beds around the Lincoln Memorial were restored for Arbor Day 2000 with funds from "Fourth Grade Friends of the Capitol," a state wide fund raising effort led by students and teachers at Kahoa Elementary in Lincoln.

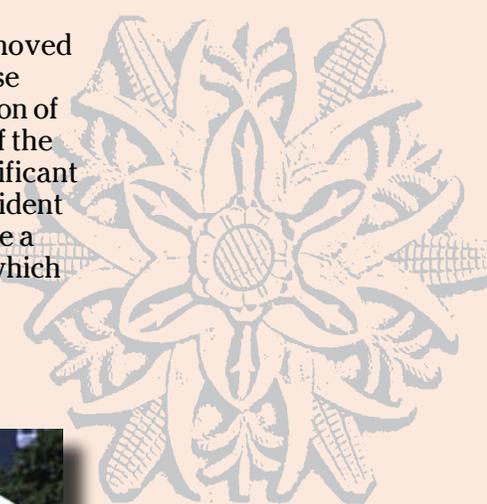


Postcard from the Nebraska Capitol Collections shows the Lincoln Memorial shortly after dedication.

The Lincoln Memorial has become an important feature on the grounds of the Nebraska State Capitol. It is the site of public ceremonies and rallies. Visitors are drawn to the site for commemoration and photography. Maintenance and restoration work have included cleaning the statue, repairing and stabilizing the bronze lamps and restoring the granite eagles. The red Colorado sandstone paving at the Memorial has been removed and relaid to improve drainage. These projects, and the ongoing conservation of the Lincoln Memorial by the Office of the Capitol Commission, ensure this significant historical monument to the 16th President of the United States continues to have a significant place in the Capital City which bears his name. 



Any public space open and accessible could be the target of vandalism. The eagles carved into the granite tablet backing the Lincoln statue have suffered from such damage. OCC has been able to find qualified restoration artists to repair the broken sections. These highly skilled professionals are in great demand to maintain public art. There is a need for more trained professionals in this field.



Setting an Architectural Jewel

Ernst Herminghaus, Landscape Architect

*Arbor Day
tree planting
helps to restore
the Capitol's
landscape.*

The Landscape Plan for the Nebraska State Capitol was created by Nebraska's first professionally trained Landscape Architect, Ernst Herminghaus. Following basic design concepts for the grounds identified by Capitol architect Bertram Goodhue, Herminghaus designed the landscape setting of Nebraska's Capitol. Through careful placement of trees across the streets around the Capitol, Herminghaus visually expanded the Capitol site, which Goodhue thought too small; careful selection and siting of trees on the grounds then framed and visually expanded the entrances of the Capitol. As a trained landscape architect, Herminghaus picked tree and shrub species adapted to Nebraska's temperate climate. His formal designs identified each tree and its location on the grounds.

The original landscape design documents guided preparation and planting on the Capitol's grounds following its completion in 1932. After final grading and concrete work were completed, sod was laid. By the

end of 1934, the ornamental bronze street lamps were installed and trees and shrubs planted. Early postcard views of the new Capitol show a just planted landscape and are compared with later views to track the many changes that have occurred on the Capitol Grounds.



After 50 years of living in Nebraska's climate, some of the original trees were showing their age or had died and been removed; shrubs had outgrown their beds. Over time additional plant material had been added without regard for the original plan. In 1984, a Capitol Grounds Restoration Master Plan was created to guide restoration of the grounds. In the new Grounds Master Plan, Landscape

Architect Richard Sutton, PhD, FASLA amended Herminghaus' plant list with updated disease resistant and drought tolerant cultivars of the originally identified trees and shrubs. The Grounds Master Plan is guiding current work to restore the grounds to Ernst Herminghaus' original setting for Goodhue's jewel, the Nebraska State Capitol. 



Arbor Day 2010, First Lady Sally Ganem and Cornhusker Council Boy Scouts of America plant a tree on the Capitol's west lawn. The Sugar Maple Tree, circled in the Herminghaus plan and historical postcard above, is one of 45 trees and 50 shrubs planted as part of the restoration of the Capitol landscape.

Core Construction

Blending ancient and modern techniques

The ancient Romans set the standard for masonry construction thousands of years ago. That masonry standard was used to construct monumental architecture throughout the Western World until the advent of steel frame construction at the turn of the 20th Century. Built in the 1920's Nebraska's Capitol has both types of construction. Bertram Goodhue, Capitol Architect, relied heavily on masonry construction for the Capitol's base and used a steel frame clad in stone for the 400 foot tower.

In a manner similar to the Roman use of marble for the exterior surface of temples around the Mediterranean, Goodhue used high quality Indiana Limestone for the exterior facade of Nebraska's Capitol.

Local limestone, used in the first two Capitols, was unable to withstand Nebraska's climate. However, Nebraska is represented in the red clay bricks which make up much of the interior core of the building. The ancient Romans are credited with inventing concrete. Goodhue also used this 'modern' building material in his Capitol. The Capitol's foundation is poured concrete with steel reinforcement. Upon that foundation rests the structural brick core and limestone facade of the square base. The tower rises from the foundation on steel columns enclosed in concrete and brick. On the interior, red clay bricks form bearing walls and red clay tiles



Demolition of the east promenade stair reveals the brick core of the limestone walls.



The west promenade stair, newly restored, appears to be constructed of granite and limestone. The concrete and brick core are hidden from view.

form the non-bearing partition walls. Limestone and plaster were used for many interior wall finishes.

In the various phases of the Exterior Masonry Restoration Project, Mark 1 Restoration Company has opened up the facade of the Capitol and exposed its inner core. Restoration at the entrances has provided staff and visitors an excellent view of the classical construction techniques used in the Capitol. In the final phase of restoration, the East Entrance is being rebuilt using the same classical masonry techniques. However to increase stability in Nebraska's climate, concrete and concrete bricks

An air hammer breaks the bond between limestone and brick backing. Once freed from the mortar the limestone blocks can be lifted away for storage until reassembly.



will form the inner core. Once the granite stairs and limestone walls are installed, the Capitol's interior core will once again disappear from view. Visitors and staff will

be left to imagine what construction techniques were used to create the monumental Nebraska State Capitol. 



To improve stability poured concrete and concrete bricks replace red brick.



WHAT'S OLD IS NEW

Worth one thousand words

Postcards fill in the blanks.



The third Capitol has been the subject of postcards since Goodhue's design was chosen in 1920. The Nebraska Capitol Collections contains over 100 postcard images of the building. These postcards are useful tools for researchers. Capitol staff are always on the lookout for historic postcards and images of the Capitol which are unknown to the Capitol Archivist. Such is the case with postcards collected by Capitol Tourism Aide Jamison Wyatt. While views of the Capitol's original

landscape soon after planting are part of the collection, one of Wyatt's postcards, above, provides a glimpse of the building site and grounds after building construction was completed in 1932, but before landscape planting in 1934.



Lincoln historians and old car lovers can enjoy this 1920's postcard, 15th Street is open and lined with Model Ts.



Mid-twentieth century aerial views presented in two formats. Notice the trees flanking the south entrance.



Postcard companies often adapted the same image for day and night time views.



CAPITOL EVENTS

Cornhusker Girls State

June 10, 2010

The American Legion Auxiliary will hold the Girls State Gubernatorial Swearing In Ceremony in the 2nd floor Rotunda of the Capitol at 2:00 p.m.

Cornhusker Boys State

June 11, 2010

The American Legion Boys State government office visits will begin with a brief orientation in the 2nd floor Rotunda at 1:00 p.m.

Girl Scouts Girl Awards Ceremony

June 13, 2010

The Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska Council will hold its awards ceremony in the 2nd floor Rotunda at 2:00 p.m.

Independence Day

July 4, 2010

The Nebraska State Capitol will be open for hourly guided tours between 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Americans with Disabilities Act 20th Anniversary Display

July 19-30, 2010

The Arc of Nebraska is sponsoring a time line display of the history of the American with Disabilities Act in the 1st floor Rotunda.

20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act Rally

July 26, 2010

The Arc of Nebraska and other statewide disability organizations will be hosting a rally in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the ADA at 10:30 a.m.

Swearing In Ceremony for Attorneys

September 14, 2010

The Nebraska Supreme Court will hold the ceremony to swear in newly admitted members of the Nebraska State Bar Association at 10:00 a.m. in the 2nd floor Rotunda.

Annual Awards Ceremony

September 16, 2010

The Nebraska Department of Corrections will recognize excellence in service of their staff in the 2nd Floor Rotunda of the Capitol at 11:00 a.m.

Jr. Duck Stamp Exhibit

September 20 - October 4, 2010

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service will showcase 36 pieces of art to recognize the winners of the 2010 Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest in a 1st floor Rotunda Display.

The Governor will sign Proclamations

at 10:30 a.m. in the Warner Chamber on June 9, July 7, August 11, September 8, October 6 and November 10. For proclamation information please contact Kendra in the Governor's Office at (402)471-2256. 

All events at the Nebraska State Capitol are free and open to the public.

Nebraska State Capitol

Guided Tours are offered Monday-Friday hourly from 9:00 am to 5:00 p.m. except at noon. Saturday and Holidays from 10:00 am to 5:00 p.m. except at noon and Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please call 402.471.0448 or visit www.capitol.org for more information.

First Day of Issue in Capitol Rotunda

Governor Dave Heineman and Secretary of State John Gale joined Kerry Kowalski, United States Postmaster for Lincoln, in the 2nd floor Rotunda on April 16, 2010, to unveil the Nebraska State Flag Stamp on the first day of issue of the fourth set of the Flags of Our Nation stamp series. The state



and territorial flags of the United States are honored on first class stamps with artwork showcasing "American the Beautiful."

Nebraska's Flag Stamp features a center pivot irrigation system representing the "amber waves of grain" produced in Nebraska. 





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Capitol Architect
Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, 1869-1924

In this issue:

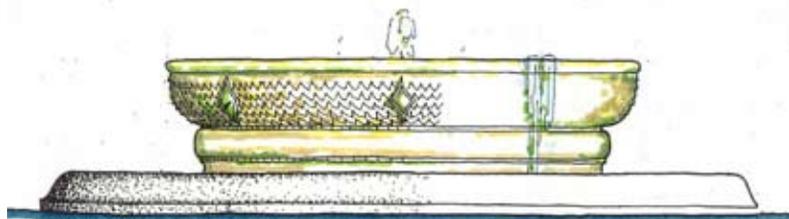
- LINCOLN STATUE 3
- LANDSCAPING 4
- CORE MATERIAL 5
- ARCHIVE NEWS 6
- CAPITOL EVENTS 7

Senators Work to Create a Splash *Four Fountains for Fourth Graders*

A piece of Capitol detail that was delayed during the Great Depression may one day become a reality. More than 75 years after plans for four courtyard fountains were set aside to save costs, the Fourth Fountains Project has been launched to raise \$1.5 million to build the 8-foot diameter fountains. Four Fountains for Nebraska's Fourth Graders. That's what project leader State Senator Scott Price of Bellevue calls the initiative he established in cooperation with Senators John Harms of Scottsbluff and Kate Sullivan of Cedar Rapids. Price and his colleagues want Nebraska Fourth Graders to begin raising money to make the project happen. With 24,500 Fourth Graders attending 718 schools, Price thinks the cumulative amounts of small contributions will add up.

Capitol Administrator Bob Ripley describes the fountains as large, low bronze bowls lined with ornamental glass tile in the colors of red, gold, white and blue to represent the four seasons. The outside of each bowl will have eight medallions representing symbols of water. Each fountain will have a large central bubbler that cause ripples in the water to refract sunlight off the glass lining. A lower fountain bowl will fill the rest of the designated 12-foot circles already built into the courtyard landscape. 

Tax-deductible donations can be made to:
Fourth Fountains Funds
c/o Nebraska Community Foundation
PO Box 83107
Lincoln, NE 68501



The Capitol Sower, published by the Office of the Capitol Commission, is available online at www.capitol.org. Contact the Tourism Supervisor at <roxanne.smith@nebraska.gov> for more information.

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