Capitol Collections Program

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2024-2025

Karen I. Wagner, Archivist

Program Collection—The Nebraska Capitol Collections, including Archives (two dimensional) and Artifacts (three dimensional), contain over 200,000 unique items concentrated on Nebraska's third State Capitol designed by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue.

Program Activity

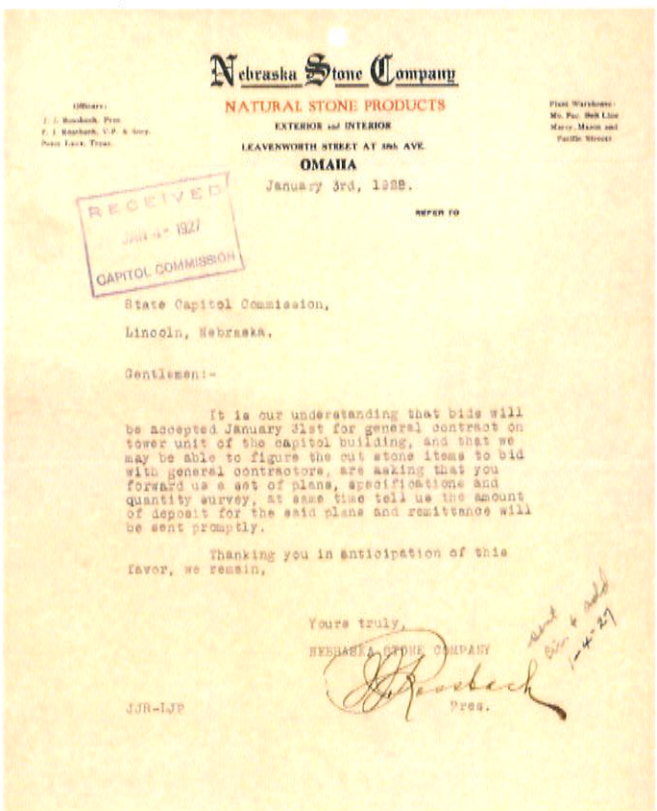
- Provided research and information in support of the HVAC replacement project.
- HVAC Phase 5 - relocation of 7th floor project records and reference library.
- Continued research on original light fixtures in support of the restoration and cleaning of the fixtures temporarily removed from service during the HVAC project.
- Research the 5th floor in preparation for upcoming repurposing as exhibition space.
- Exhibit planning for 5th floor.
- Scanned and processed construction era correspondence records.
- Added new catalog entries to the PastPerfect database; both new acquisitions and other objects previously cataloged on paper but not in the database.
- Responded to public image and research requests.

Examples of items added to our collections this year

- Die for making a charm of the Nebraska Capitol.
- Construction-era images.
- Publications from late 1800's-early 1900's belonging to Architect Bertram Goodhue.

Nebraska Capitol Collections Public Research Requests

Much of the research in the Nebraska Capitol Collections Archive is driven by current building projects. Occasionally there are inquiries from Nebraskans looking to validate family lore about a relative's involvement in the construction of the building. Most of the time the Archivist cannot offer any confirmation. The archives hold correspondence with various companies connected to the construction of the building, but not the company's employee records. However, in the past year, three inquiries arrived which could be documented and information provided.



Nebraska Stone Company

NATURAL STONE PRODUCTS
EXTERIOR and INTERIOR
LEAVENWORTH STREET AT 38th AVE.
OMAHA

Officers:
J. J. Rossbach, Pres.
F. J. Rossbach, V.P. & Secy.
Peter Lee, Treas.

Plant Warehouse:
Mo. Pac. Belt Line
Marco, Mason and
Pacific Streets

RECEIVED
JAN 4- 1927
CAPITOL COMMISSION

January 3rd, 1928.

REFER TO

State Capitol Commission,

Lincoln, Nebraska.

Gentlemen:-

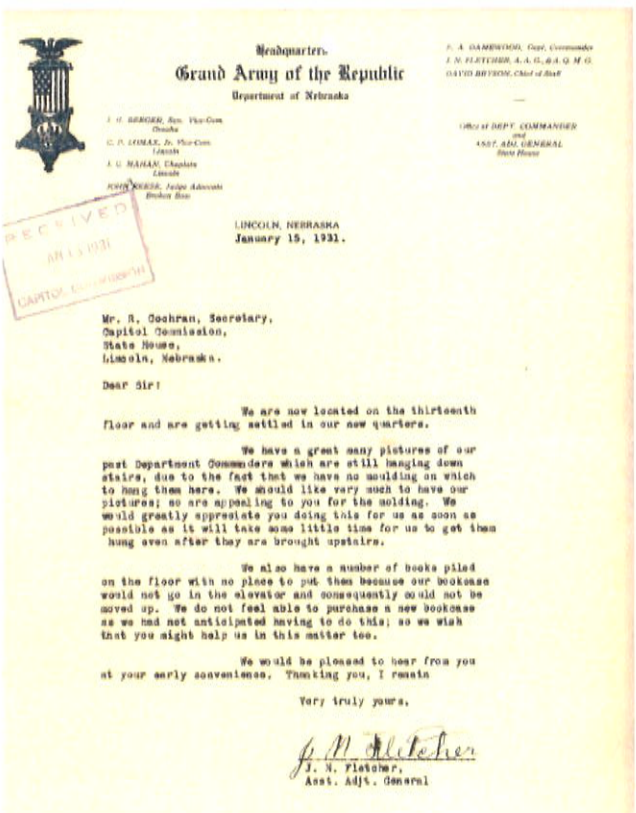
It is our understanding that bids will be accepted January 31st for general contract on tower unit of the capitol building, and that we may be able to figure the cut stone items to bid with general contractors, are asking that you forward us a set of plans, specifications and quantity survey, at same time tell us the amount of deposit for the said plans and remittance will be sent promptly.

Thanking you in anticipation of this favor, we remain,

Yours truly,
NEBRASKA STONE COMPANY
J. J. Rossbach
Pres.

JJR-LJP

Grandchildren of Joseph Rossbach had heard the Nebraska Stone Company,which Joseph co-owned with his brother Frederick, had provided stone for the Capitol steps. Researching documents in the Capitol Collections, OCC's Archivist verified the company corresponded with the Nebraska Capitol Commission during the construction bidding process. While the company did not submit a bid, the Archivist provided scans of the letters of interest on company letterhead with J.J. Rossbach's signature.



Headquarters
Grand Army of the Republic
Department of Nebraska

RECEIVED
JAN 19 1931
CAPITOL COMMISSION

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
January 15, 1931.

Mr. R. Cochran, Secretary,
Capitol Commission,
State House,
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Sir:

We are now located on the thirteenth floor and are getting settled in our new quarters.

We have a great many pictures of our past Department Commanders which are still hanging down stairs, due to the fact that we have no moulding on which to hang them here. We should like very much to have our pictures; so are appealing to you for the molding. We would greatly appreciate you doing this for us as soon as possible as it will take some little time for us to get them hung even after they are brought upstairs.

We also have a number of books piled on the floor with no place to put them because our Bookcase would not go in the elevator and consequently could not be moved up. We do not feel able to purchase a new Bookcase as we had not anticipated having to do this; so we wish that you might help us in this matter too.

We would be pleased to hear from you at your early convenience. Thanking you, I remain

Very truly yours,

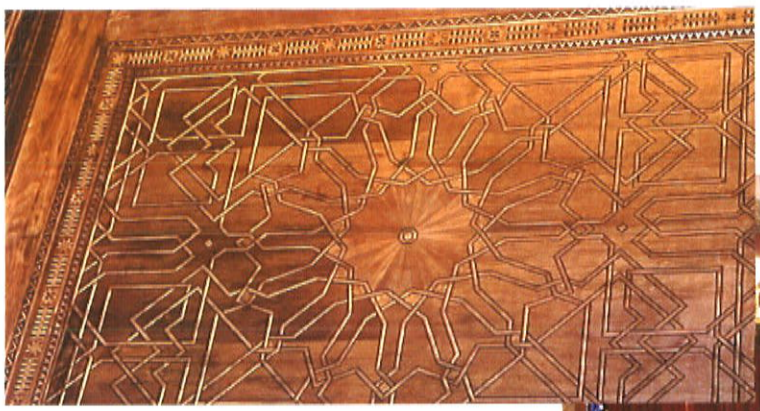
J. N. Fletcher
J. N. Fletcher,
Asst. Adj't. General

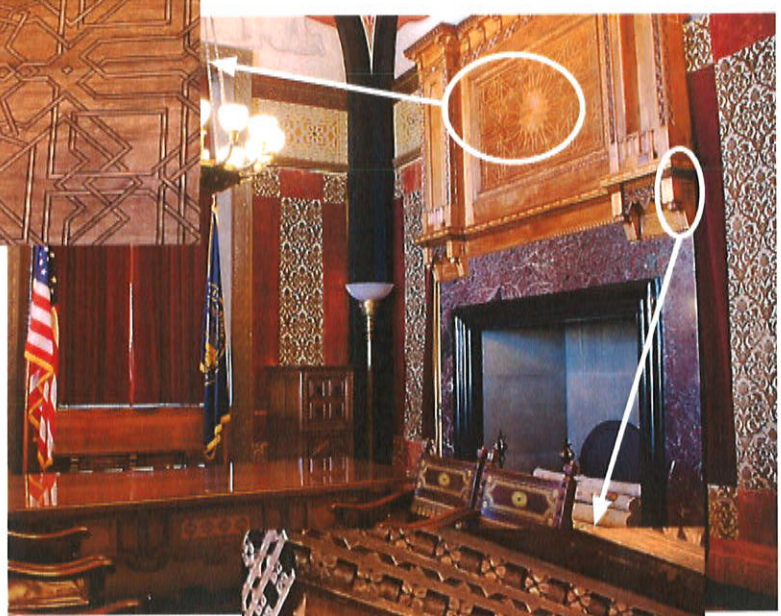
While touring the Capitol, an out-of-state visitor inquired about her Great Grandfather Fletcher. She understood he was Adj. General of the Grand Army of the Republic in the early 1930's and had offices in the Capitol. Research indicated the GAR had been housed on the 13th floor in the 1930's and by the time the tour was finished, the Archivist found letters from the GAR to the Capitol Commission with Fletcher's signature. The visitor viewed these documents, but was unable to view the 13th floor due to HVAC work in the tower.

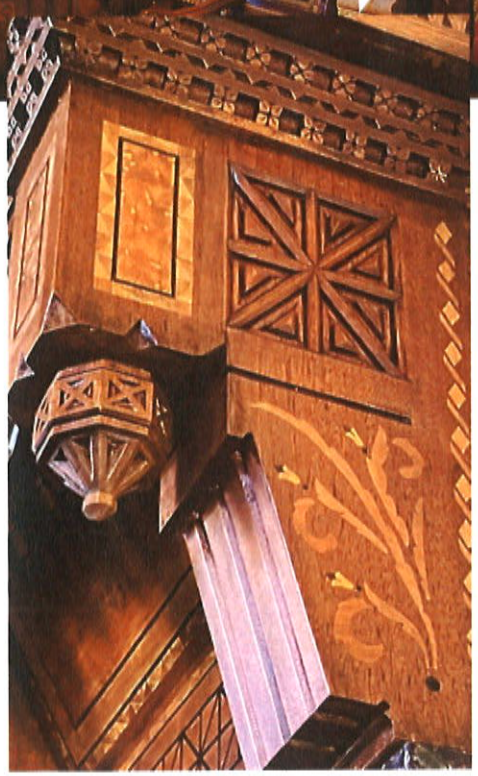
Capitol Collections

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2024-2025

Alfred Bloom owned a mill work business in Omaha. Family members, including his great grandchildren, knew the Alfred Bloom Company had worked in the Capitol but did not know what the company had contributed to the building. OCC's archivist found records showing the Alfred Bloom Co. was included in a 1927 contract for the Governor's Suite. Most notably, they did the wood inlay for the Governor's Private Office over-mantel. Because they were a subcontractor under another company, the archivist was unable to find any correspondence directly related to their work, and sent the family an image of the Governor's fireplace instead.







The Governor's Suite was designed in the style of the Italian Renaissance, and intended to be one of the most beautiful offices in the world. The woodwork in the Suite is of the finest quality, as anyone entering the Reception Room notices immediately. The marquetry above the book-matched wainscoting and surrounding the doors features corn motifs. The Chief of Staff's Office also features paneled walls, this time with carved details in geometric patterns. The walls of the Governor's Private Office are plaster covered by Italian silk voided velvet wall hangings which bring richness and warmth to the room. Only the Governor's desk and the fireplace over-mantel are wood, they feature exquisite marquetry. While some of the elaborate furnishings and decorative features of the building were created by craftsmen from far away places, it can be a point of pride for Nebraskans that the ornate fireplace over mantel was crafted by Nebraska hands employed at the Alfred Bloom Company. Above right, an overall photo of the Governor's office with the desk in front of the fireplace. Above left, a closer view of the central medallion of the over-mantel. Right, a closer view of the detailed carving and marquetry in the bottom right of the fireplace.

Grounds Maintenance

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2024-2025

Heather Dinslage, Groundskeeper Leader, Office of the Capitol Commission
Aud Koch, Groundskeeper Leader, Office of the Capitol Commission
Lexis Funk, Groundskeeper Leader, Office of the Capitol Commission

- Daily maintenance of 455,870 square feet (10.5 acres) of landscape and hardscape by the Office of the Capitol Commission including the four interior courtyards.
    - mowing, chemical application, aeration, seeding, pruning, sidewalk edging within turf lawn.
    - snow removal for the 90,000 sq. ft. of Capitol hardscape.
    - trim hedges, prune and maintain shrubs on exterior and in courtyards.
    - plant and maintain courtyard annual plants, tulips and petunias.
    - maintain trees and shrubs, prune, mulch and rake leaves.
- Support OCC Capitol special events.
- Maintain irrigation system and monitor irrigation schedule.
- Select, cut, decorate, maintain and remove Capitol Holiday tree.
- Supervise planting replacement shrubs on exterior.
- Selected and planted Arbor Day linden tree on Capitol southwest lawn
- Inspect and maintain courtyard plantings.
- Mulch all plantings at Capitol.
- Survey the Capitol grounds daily and pick up trash.
- Staff routinely maintains equipment for summer and winter use and oversees
  contractors who make major equipment repairs including:
    - Three vehicles (two pickups with snow blades and one dump trailer)
    - One Toro triple-deck riding mower and one 6' foot Toro riding mower with winter snow broom attachments
    - Two John Deere tractors, one with a front-end loader, snow blower, aerator, and forklift attachment and one smaller tractor
    - Two push mowers
    - Self propelled and pull type aerator
    - One riding spreader for the lawn and smaller push spreaders
    - Assorted weed whips and edgers
    - Three lawn sprayers
    - Five Snow Blowers

Grounds Maintenance
Office of the Capitol Commission November 2024-2025

More than Mowing

Office of the Capitol Commission Grounds staff routinely monitor the health of the Capitol's grounds. Healthy turf, while a large expanse of the Capitol's grounds, is just one small part of the landscape that makes the Nebraska Capitol's grounds attractive. When not mowing, grounds staff monitor the trees and shrubs on the exterior, and shrubs and flowers in the interior courtyards. Grounds staff have the training and skills to recognize and treat any diseases or infestations that occur.

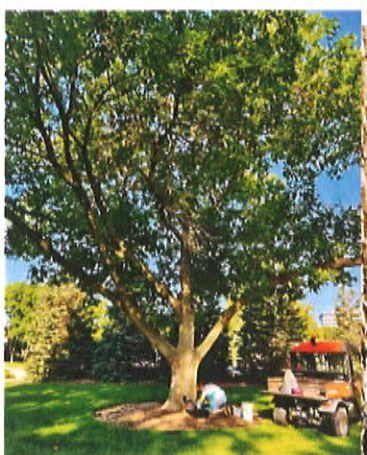


Roses are a focus in all four courtyards. Home gardeners know the trials of keeping a bush or two healthy. Capitol grounds staff care for over 300 roses, including 240 floribunda roses. The roses are watched carefully for diseases, such as rose rosette, left. The cross-bred floribunda roses also can revert back to the hereditary shrub form of their root stock, below left. In both instances staff removes the affected plants and replace them. Staff also monitor the roses throughout the season for damaging insects.

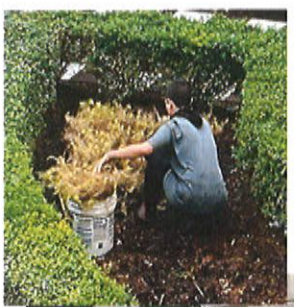


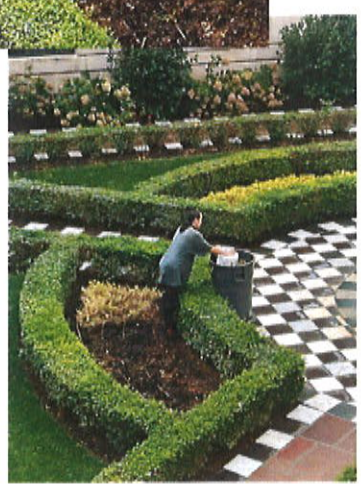


Once autumn arrives and the summer blooming petunias start to fade, the petunias are removed, below, so staff to can prepare the beds for planting tulips bulbs which will grow and brighten the courtyards in the spring. Each year the tulips are replaced by petunias in June and the cycle begins again.









There are two beautiful ash trees framing the south entrance of the Capitol. While other ash trees in the vicinity of the Capitol have suffered from the Emerald Ash Borer, grounds staff work diligently to treat the trees to keep the borer at bay. The trained and skilled staff are able to administer the chemicals and nutrients the trees need to live. Unfortunately nothing can keep the squirrels from damaging the trees on the lawn.

HVAC/Electrical/Plumbing
Maintenance and Preventative Maintenance

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2024-2025

Chris Lahmon, Shop Supervisor
Jeff Gillett, Capitol Plumber
Bret Pinkelman, Maintenance Technician
Vacant, Capitol Electrician
Teran Kehm, Maintenance Technician

Shop staff daily work-

- 261 daily rounds to inspect HVAC equipment for proper operation.

- Hot/cold calls from Capitol occupants, lights out calls, etc.
- Sound system and electrical for Capitol events.
- Seasonal heating/cooling change, work on steam and chilled water
- system pneumatic controls.
- Monitor, support and assist HVAC contractors on project as needed.
- Prepare offices in project area for occupancy.
- Rewire Capitol chandeliers for reinstallation in HVAC project area.

***Preventative Maintenance/ Work Orders**

- Responded to over 400 work order calls.
- Staff performs approximately 1,050 Preventative Maintenance Work
- Orders annually.
- Check and replace air filters.
- Grease motor and fan bearings.
- Check air-handler belts.
- Service air compressors for pneumatic system.
- Inspect electrical system in Capitol.
- Repaired leaks in existing office induction units.
- Clean and inspect all roof drains semi-annually.
- Inspect exterior lighting weekly to ensure safety and security.
- Re-lamp Capitol chandeliers, install special equipment.
- Clean existing cooling coils in induction units in all Capitol offices.
- Install power and lighting in newly renovated offices.
- Monitor electric substation switch for HVAC Project.
- Track HVAC Project work.
- Replace tower pump.
- Repair old cooling units.

Capitol Maintenance
Office of the Capitol Commission November 2024-2025

Routine Maintenance

Now that the Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Project has moved into the tower for the final phase, OCC's Maintenance staff are responsible for routine maintenance of the system. After years of constant maintenance on the pumps, pipes, and induction units of the old steam and chilled water system, routine maintenance on the new system involves checking thermostats and cleaning filters in the ventilation system.





The ventilation associated with the geothermal recirculating refrigerant system was designed with easily accessible filters, above and right. Clips hold the covers in place, staff removes the washable filters, replaces them with clean ones, and takes soiled filters to clean and reuse.

Office of the Capitol Commission staff maintain the Capitol's plumbing systems which takes them into every corner of the building. Plumbing pipes run through the basement and attic spaces. When a leak occurs staff climbs and crawls into action.

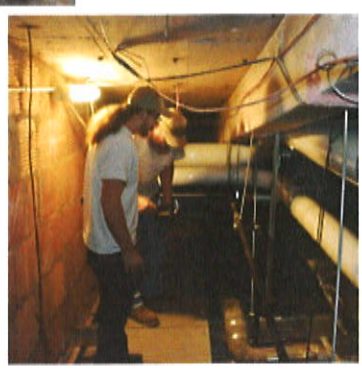






Above, the first step in fixing a leak is turning the water off in the basement. Above right, staff gains access to the attic where the leak originated via a hatch in a restroom. Water pipes in the Capitol are brass, and the leak was fixed by replacing a coupler, inset left with a union, inset right. Once the pipe was repaired and water turned back on, staff entered another attic space, right, to be sure water was flowing and refilling domestic water pipes.





Capitol Maintenance
Office of the Capitol Commission November 2024-2025

Roof Repairs

During the 1998-2010 Exterior Masonry and Roof Restoration Project a new cooper roof was installed. The new roof is a combination of copper batten and flat lock copper. The flat lock copper is used where the roof changes pitch, around drains for example. Long sections of copper batten roofing cover the rest of the roof. Along the edges of the roof the batten ends are sealed with interlocking sections of flashing soldered and sealed for waterproofing. Recently, a major windstorm caused some of the flashing to vibrate loose. Upon routine roof inspection following the storm, maintenance staff found the damage and reattached the flashing.



During the cool morning hours staff was on the roof, left, making the repairs needed to secure roof flashing after a wind storm. Below, a section of flashing came loose and had to be reattached with new copper straps. The welds securing these pieces together were done on the interior of the long section.



Right, the rivets used to hold sections of the flashing together were replaced as part of the process.





Some sections of the roof flashing did not require removal for repair and reattachment. Right, staff was able to secure the two sections together with solder joints on the exterior. By not removing the flashing system, staff was able to preserve the integrity of the system. OCC staff use least invasive techniques when they perform their maintenance tasks. Two new members of the team, Teran Kehm, right, and Bret Pinkelman, far right, met the challenge of joining the oxidized sections of copper, improving their soldering skills for the next time the roof needs repairs.





Capitol Custodial

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2024-2025

David Hoelscher, Capitol Conservation Supervisor
Richard Mallam, Custodial Leader
LaShawn Williams, Custodial Leader

- Five nights/week, 52 weeks/year OCC custodial staff clean 70,000 sq. ft. of Capitol Preservation space, corridors and stairs. OCC oversees Hartland Services, our contract custodial services team, in cleaning an additional 195,000 sq. ft. of adaptive use office space daily.

- OCC cleans carpet in the Capitol and does specialty cleaning of exotic stone and wood finishes in all preservation spaces.

- OCC staff manages recycling duties in the Capitol, focusing on paper, cardboard, plastic and aluminum recycling. Approximately 10 tons of cardboard, 60 tons of office paper, 10 tons of newsprint, 2 tons of magazines, 6 tons of mixed paper and approximately half a ton each of aluminum and plastic are recycled annually.

- OCC staff, along with our State-trained contract floor crew, has all floor duties to clean, strip, refinish, and restore the unique floors and finishes in the Capitol. Staff continues the floor renovation program to strip 30 - 40 years of old finish and apply new finish to all stone floors on first and second floors. Staff is currently working to strip and refinish the rotunda floor, but due to the different types of stone in the floor, and the different types of stripping products, staff must move slowly, testing each product on each type of stone to get the best results without damaging the marble tile.

- OCC custodial staff continues to be involved with event setups.

- Upon completion of contactor work in HVAC project areas, custodial staff cleans areas to ready them for occupancy.

Capitol Custodial
Office of the Capitol Commission November 2024-2025

Making Floors Shine

Office of the Capitol Commission custodial staff care for many different floor surfaces: marble, slate, and wood floors are under their care. In many locations carpet has replaced the original Battleship linoleum office floors. In use since the late 1800's, Battleship Linoleum is a natural product made of linseed oil, rosins, cork and wood flour and was chosen for general use in the Capitol because it is very durable and long lasting. A mid-20th century preference for carpet covered the original linoleum office floors. In high traffic areas, such as the third floor office corridors, the original battleship linoleum floors remain. The durable material is easily cleaned and with a wax finish shines beautifully.







Above left, the hall with the old layer of wax, wax that had been scratched and soiled over 50 years of use and the HVAC project, was scrubbed clean.

Above, Richard Mallam, custodial leader, applies wax over the cleaned linoleum floor.

Below left, the newly waxed floor shines in a 3rd floor corridor.

Building Conservation

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2024-2025

2025 Furniture Program Conservation/Restoration Activity -

Furniture Conservators, Dawn Snider and Lana Gabel

- All repairs and restorations of Capitol Original Furniture are documented and photographed. Physical reports are created and stored in Furniture shop files for reference and are entered into a digital PastPerfect program file for archival use.
- Ongoing computer skills training, upgrading skills to improve efficiency and productivity, and learning the history of the Capitol.
- Yearly audit of Capitol Original Furniture in the Executive Branch.
    - Continued inventory and information process training in PastPerfect Program which tracks Capitol Original Furniture (C.O.F.).
- Working to create centralized digital and physical record keeping system to allow all OCC shops to share information on current HVAC project activity, office renovations, Capitol Original Furniture inventory and scheduled activities of OCC offices and shops to provide better communication and planning of work, including samples of work products.
- HVAC Project - Removal of all construction area window blinds for tower 5th phase cleaning, restoration, and repair including rebuild, paint, and fit. Reinstall when window restoration/installation is complete. Law Library blinds completely rebuilt.
- Furniture repaired, conserved, restored or re-upholstered:
  8 chair repairs of various types
  1 sofa
  7 tables plus 18 hearing room tables
  2 costumer (coat tree)
  3 desks, including full restoration of Chief Justice desk
  4 bookcases
  Fabricate pieces and parts for furniture repairs
- Did conservation/restoration work in Governor's Private Office dome
- Work with outside contractors on jobs too big for OCC staff.
- Removed, cleaned, repaired 11 large sets of drapes and sheers for the Governor's, Lt. Governor's and State Auditor's Offices.
- Additional work:
    - Filled requests for occupant furniture updating inventory.
    - Conservation work on wardrobes, doors, and door casings throughout the HVAC Phase 4 construction area.

- Repaired/in-painted/finished non-project area doors needing attention due to normal wear and tear or graffiti.
- Ordered and installed replacement glass for desks and table tops as needed.
- Touched up finish in tower elevators.
- Water mark, stain removal and replace missing upholstery tacks on page chairs in West Legislative Lounge.
- Responded to and resolved furniture work orders for Capitol occupants.
- Organize furniture storage located in HVAC project area, remove and cleaned and return furniture as needed.
- Clean original furniture in construction zones after the contractors are finished.
- Help others in our department as needed to keep our building beautiful, safe, and functioning at its best.
- Clean and wax bust for the Hall of Fame reorganization project.
- Fine-tuned new offices in #1306 and #1308, touch up color and finish, waxed all woodwork after contractors finished.
- Stained, finished and waxed all woodwork installed by contractor in #1317 and #1319 saving money in contractor expense.
- Stripped paint, and refinished, and returned to wood finish small stair on 3rd floor east walk up.

Shop staff daily work-

- Responded to over 200 work orders in all specialties.
- Helped with snow removal.
- Reinstalled damaged original exterior bronze streetlamp.

Machinist, John MacKichan

- ongoing key and lock maintenance program
- window hardware repair and replacement for window project
- made specialty tools for contractors of the HVAC project
- ongoing door closer maintenance program
- rebuilt/repaired door pivots
- rebuilt/repaired doorknobs
- made new window blind brackets
- installed pigeon deterrent
- Capitol original asset protection
- original light fixture repair
- NPM Camera mounts
- Protect plaster maquettes
- made restroom partition bumpers

- Great Hall bust block hardware
- Scaffold support brace

Cabinetry, Hunter VonHolt

- Daily work orders for occupants of building
- Work with furniture shop on restoration of capitol furniture.
- Work with the contractors on phase 5 of HVAC project
- Rehung Phase 4 doors, returned furnishings to offices.
- Removed Phase 5 doors from tower
- Helped rehang Phase 4 blinds
- Phase 4 helped move furnishings from offices and removed doors from offices
- Work with window restoration team on windows.
- Made casing and window trim in #1319, stained and finished
- Power wash and stain courtyard benches and promenade deck closed barricades
- Removed, stripped, stained and refinished tower book lift doors
- Removed and refinished assorted doors.

Mason, Dan Kratky

- Attend Construction Meetings, Punchlist, Signoffs and Walk-throughs
- Help all shops and contractors as needed
- Worked on all aspects of Great Hall Bust Blocks. Remove busts, remove old bust blocks, clean niches, grind, sand and mount hardware to new bust blocks, set new bust blocks
- Helped with clearing out tower for construction work
- Paint stripes on steps at staircases
- Core drill for new electrical or data on floors at various locations
- Worked on various repairs throughout the building. (Remove and reset buckled red flagstone at courtyard walks, repaired caulk at fountains, fixed or replaced slate plinths, repaired broken marble at restroom partitions, misc. interior tuckpointing, roof caulking after storm damage.)

Paint and Finish Restorer, Mike Marshall

- Switched to part time work hours
- Worked with contract window team
- Worked with all shop staff on shop projects
- Worked on Governor's Kitchenette
- Repaired Private Office oil on canvas mural on dome
- Redesigned call stations for pages in Legislative chamber
- Removed doors from tower in advance of 5th phase HVAC contractor work
- Created and finished new woodwork for new Senator's offices

Building Conservation
Office of the Capitol Commission November 2024-2025

Blinds Go Up and Down

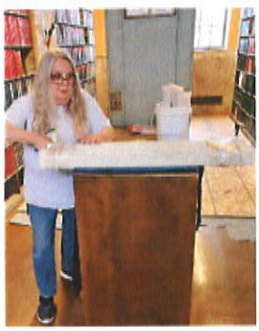
A little-noticed component of the heating and air conditioning system in the Nebraska State Capitol, the window blinds play a significant role in keeping the Capitol's offices comfortable. There are 682 sets of blinds letting the sun into interior spaces or keeping the sun out. To do their job properly the blinds must work well. During the current HVAC project, Office of the Capitol Commission Building Conservation staff have removed, repaired, and returned blinds to service. They are doing their part to support the HVAC project and its success in keeping office staff comfortable.



Left, with the blinds removed the deteriorated paint and rust on Law Library windows is visible. Blinds were attached to the iron window frames, and the location of the hardware on the blind made removal difficult, below. In some cases, staff had to go onto the roof and open the window to access the hardware. Above, the brackets holding the blinds were in ackward locations. OCC's machinist fabricated new hardware for ease of access as they are being returned after being rebuilt. Right, each blind is identified, bound, and numbered so they can be returned to original location.







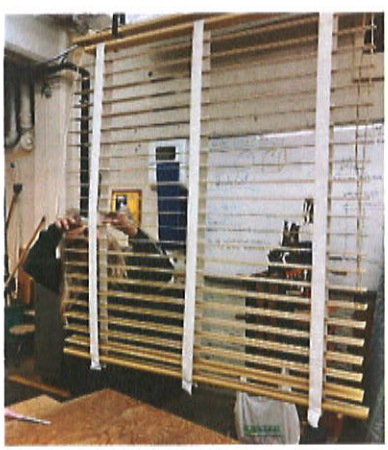




Left, hardware such as these brakes used to keep the blinds up were cleaned or replaced. OCC's machinist fabricated new hanging brackets for uniformity and ease of access when servicing blinds in the future, right. .



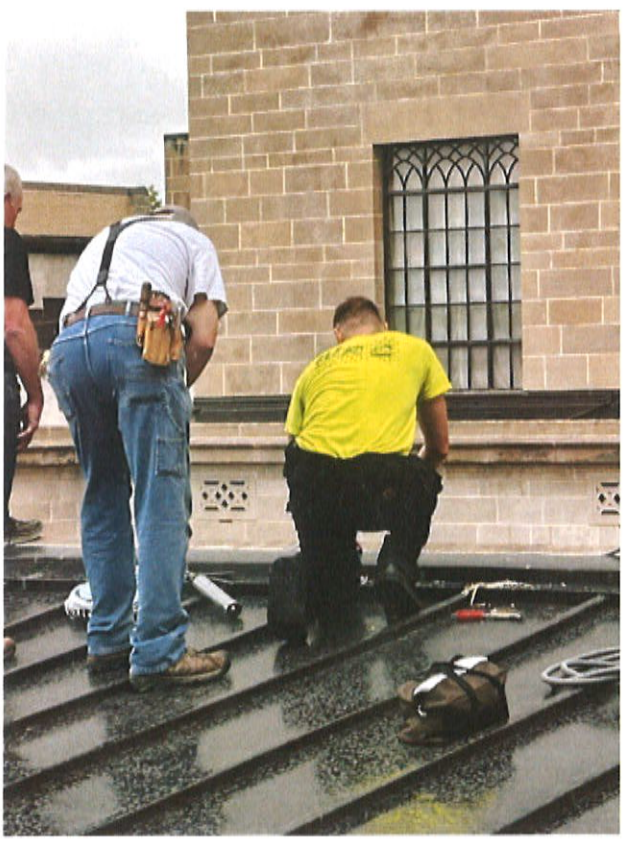
All blind slats are inspected for damage and repaired or replaced as needed. New slats are created from stock in storage and all are repainted for uniform color. Once all the slats are assembled for each blind unit, staff begins reassembly, right, with new tape and string to raise, lower and tilt slats to control the amount of light allowed into an office. Far right, the work takes time as each slat is slid into its proper place in the tape and the strings threaded from top to bottom through holes in the slats.

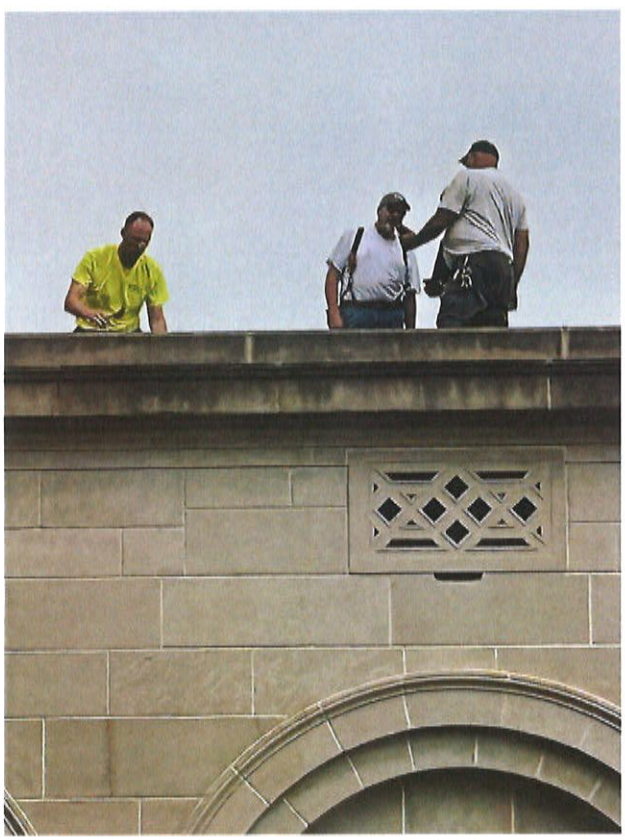




Project Follow-up

Staff longevity is important to the ongoing care and preservation of the Nebraska State Capitol. Some members of the Office of the Capitol Commission's current Building Conservation team were here for restoration projects undertaken in the 1990's. Monitoring the ongoing function of those projects helps inform current and future preservation work. The 1998-2010 Capitol Exterior Masonry Restoration and Roof Replacement Project improved the existing copper roof design to keep wet weather from infiltrating the Capitol from above. During the Exterior Masonry Project contractors tried to match the new caulk with that previously used. After 15 years staff was on the roof to evaluate the caulk installed at that time and to check performance. The new caulk has not performed up to expectations. In some instances the caulk had pulled away from the seam where the copper roof meets the masonry building. Working with sealant experts, staff and contractors will install new non-staining silicon caulk. In general silicon caulks are more flexible and long tasting than other masonry caulk products. The institutional knowledge of past projects is important as staff document the work they do. Supplementing the original project files kept by Office of the Capitol Commission with updated information will inform Capitol care in 15 to 20 or 100 years, when current staff is no longer available for consultation. Those files will be valuable for the ongoing preservation of the Nebraska State Capitol.





Capitol Tours and Special Events

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2024-2025

Roxanne Smith, Public Information Officer
(Tourism Supervisor/Special Events)
Allison Monzu, Tourism Aide
Susan Myers, Tourism Aide
Kirk Woita, Tourism Aide

Tours-

During the past year over 1800 tours were given.

- over 25,000 school children received tours
- over 40,000 documented visitors had contact with tour
- staff and many others walked through

Special Events-

- 33 Displays, First Floor Rotunda, State or Non-Profit Sponsored
- 11 Concerts, Second Floor Rotunda, including:
- Nebraska Music Education Association Concert Series
- 31 Rotunda Ceremonies
- 17 News Conferences
- 114 Weddings
- 124 Wedding and Family Photography sessions
- 35 Rallies/Events on the Capitol North Plaza/ Grounds
- 8 Capitol exterior lightings
- 1 FAA sanctioned exterior UAV flights

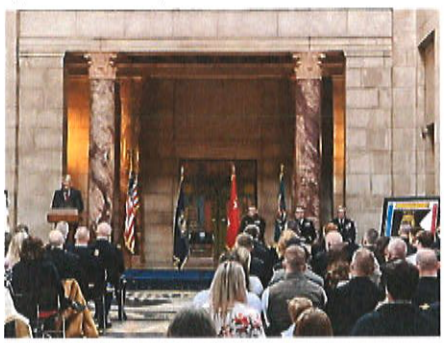
Tours and Special Events

The Nebraska State Capitol, home to the three branches of Government, hosts public activities all year long. From the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to the Nebraska National Guard, groups use the Capitol to showcase their activities. Events in the Capitol are sponsored by state agencies and can be sponsored by non-profit, not-for-profit groups of statewide or larger scope. Some events are held annually, such as the Official State Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, and others are unique to a special celebration, such as Nebraska Reptile Month.

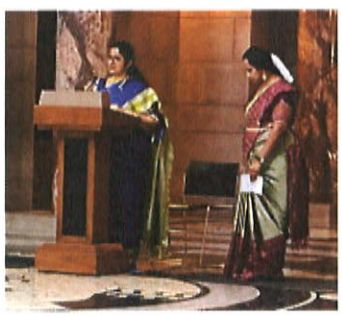


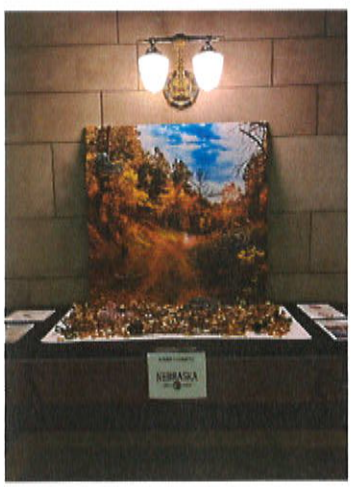
To celebrate Nebraska's home grown holiday, Arbor Day, in 2025 Governor Jim Pillen read his Arbor Day Proclamation and then invited students in attendance to help him ceremonially plant a Linden tree on the grounds of the Capitol in celebration of the day.

Below, Lt. Governor Joe Kelly addresses the audience at an Officer Candidate School graduation sponsored by the Nebraska National Guard. The rotunda is a perfect formal space for significant Nebraska National Guard and Nebraska State Patrol events.



Nebraska's Indian community celebrated the Hindu festival of light, Diwali, in the Capitol's rotunda. Right, the meaning of the festival, the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance was explained during the program. Then, below, dancers presented traditional dances from various regions of India for the audience.





The first floor rotunda of the Capitol is used by groups wishing to educate the public about of interest to Nebraskans. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's Reptile Month Display, left, was followed by the Nebraska Commission on Latino-Americans annual Day of the Dead exhibit. Nebraskans celebrate their diverse heritage in many different ways.



First celebrated in the 1940's as a way to bring holiday cheer to those stationed at the Lincoln Air Base, the Carol Sing and Lighting of the State's Official Christmas Tree has become a tradition for many Nebraska families. Usually the second Sunday in December, the event draws hundreds of people to the Capitol rotunda.

