

THE CAPITOL SOWER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPITOL COMMISSION | VOLUME TWELVE | NUMBER TWO | JUN 2020

HVAC Project Update

The wellfield phase of the Nebraska State Capitol Heating Cooling and Ventilation and Window Repair Project is completed. Water is circulating from the wellfield to the new heating and cooling system installed in the southwest quadrant of the Capitol in Phase I of the HVAC project. The mechanical equipment upgrade allowing the geothermal heating and cooling system to function, and a major component of Phase I are complete.

The second phase of the project continues the replacement heating

and cooling equipment in the southeast quadrant, and addresses the Supreme Court, State Law Library and Warner Legislative Chamber. Window repairs are progressing more efficiently with a new local contractor taking over the second phase work. Frames are being repaired on site when possible. Repairs to the windows are occurring in a local shop. Windows are being removed, repaired and returned to service at a much faster pace saving time and money. 

Nebraska Capitol Commission Membership

Pete Ricketts
Governor, Chairman

Jim Scheer
Speaker of the Legislature
Vice-Chairman

Michael Heavican
Chief Justice Supreme Court
Vice-Chairman

Katherine Ankerson
Dean
College of Architecture, UNL

Trevor Jones
Executive Director & CEO
Nebraska State Historical Society

Doug Carey
Congressional District 1

Thomas Sanderson
Congressional District 2

Trent D. Loos
Congressional District 3

Robert C. Ripley
Capitol Administrator
Secretary

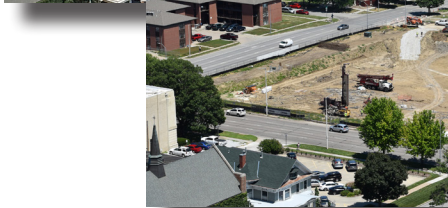


July of 2018 wellfield site preparation began with the removal of the parking lot surface, the remaining structures, and the rerouting of all on site utilities.

Left, initial excavation on the site began on the north side.

Below, drilling equipment can be seen in the bottom left of the excavated site. Well drilling continued one and one half years.

Below, the completed wellfield site returned to the previous grade will be turned over to State Building Division in July of 2020 to await use as parking or the site of a new state office building.



Left, five variable speed pumps circulate water from the 225 wells in the wellfield to the heating and cooling system in the Capitol.



The People of the OCC Office of the Capitol Commission

ADMINISTRATION

Bob Ripley, Administrator
Matt Hansen, Preservation Architect
Vacant, Preservation Architect
Brett Daugherty, Capitol Manager
Tammy Honnor, Facilities
Construction Coordinator
Noelle Pinneo
Administrative Assistant

ARCHIVE

Karen Wagner, Archivist

CARPENTRY

Vacant, Shop Supervisor
Lana Gabel,
Furniture Conservator
Dawn Hickmon,
Furniture Conservator
Steve Janssen, Finisher
Dan Kratky, Mason
John MacKichan,
Hardware Conservator
Mike Marshall, Cabinet Maker

CUSTODIAL

Perry Shuman,
Capitol Conservation Supervisor
Richard Mallam, Custodial Leader
David Hoelscher, Custodial Leader

GROUNDS

Heather Dinslage,
Groundskeeper Leader
Vacant, Mechanic

MAINTENANCE

Michael Jordan, Shop Supervisor
Jeff Gillett, Plumber
Tahir Karimi, Electrician
Chris Lahmon,
Maintenance Technician
Beth Barry,
Maintenance Technician

TOURS

Roxanne Smith,
Public Information Officer/
Tourism Supervisor/
Special Events Coordinator
Jessica Richard, Tourism Aide
Kirk Wiota, Tourism Aide
Vacant, Tourism Aide

OCC AT WORK

Experience and Service Capitol Manager

Brett Daugherty took no time adjusting to his new position as Capitol Manager with the Office of the Capitol Commission. With 22 years experience as OCC's Shop Supervisor, Daugherty has the experience and skills to manage all phases of the care and maintenance of the Nebraska State Capitol. In many ways, he was preparing for this new role since he graduated from Lincoln Southeast High School. Early in his career, he discovered he enjoyed working with his hands, which lead him to the Nebraska Department of Transportation (Roads at that time), where he was Facility Maintenance Specialist. At Roads Central Complex, he had multiple responsibilities including plumbing, heating ventilation and air conditioning, and electrical work. During that time he earned his electrical license.



Brett Daugherty, Capitol Manager

Moving to the Capitol in 1998 to become Shop Supervisor, Daugherty supervised the Maintenance and Carpentry shops, reporting to the Capitol Manager. Now, as Capitol Manager, he will oversee these same shops plus the Capitol Custodial program and care of the Capitol's grounds. With extensive experience in the Capitol, he understands the nuances of working on a National Landmark building and will effectively lead the team in their ongoing maintenance and preservation work. Daugherty looks forward to working with his staff because there is something new and different every day.

Daugherty is an avid runner who can be seen leaving the Capitol in running clothes almost every noon, rain or shine. Whether it's zero or 100 degrees he is constantly training for marathons. He has run in over 30 including those in New York City and Boston. Most memorably he was running in the Boston Marathon when it was bombed. He also enjoys woodworking and cycling the state with the Tour de Nebraska. 

The Office of the Capitol Commission welcomes three new members to the team. Each brings special skills to the job of supporting OCC's mission of preserving, maintaining and promoting the Capitol. 



*David Hoelscher
Custodial Leader*



*Beth Barry
Maintenance Technician*



*Kirk Wiota
Tourism Aide*

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Law Library Doors

Opened and closed thousands of times a year, the doors in the Nebraska State Capitol are an often overlooked part of the historic fabric of the building. Of the hundreds of doors throughout the Capitol, there are a few special doors. These include doors in the Executive, Legislative and Judicial areas of the Capitol. During Phase II of the HVAC Project, the main doors of the State Law Library are being restored.

The walnut doors leading from the 3rd floor rotunda balcony into the Nebraska State Library are similar to office doors in design. Over 9 feet tall, they are the tallest doors in the Capitol, and the interior of the doors is lined with pigskin. Restoration of the doors will involve the cleaning and refinishing of walnut exterior. A local conservator will replace the pigskin on the interior. The doors will be returned to service once Phase II of the HVAC Project is completed.



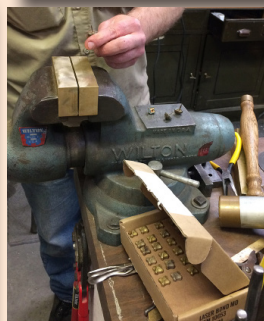
Left, the Library doors show years of use; the doors were scratched and soiled. Below, once hardware was removed staff cleaned the grime and refinished the scratches.



Left, the Library door's leather covering was torn and damaged from years of use. Below, in addition to missing leather, some of the decorative studs holding the leather in place are missing.



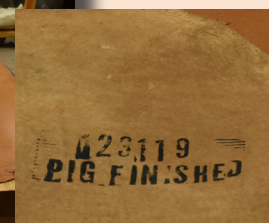
Above, OCC staff remove the deteriorated leather as they prepare the doors for conservation. Restoration of the leather on the inside of the doors will be done by a conservator, Mayda Jensen, who has provided expertise on similar Capitol door restoration projects.



Above, OCC's machinist, John MacKichan, reuses as many of the original door studs as possible, carefully bending the tack backs into position when necessary. Any missing studs will be replaced with new replicas fabricated by OCC staff.



Right, staff sorted through a stock of hides from a previous leather door restoration project. The oversized pig's hides were specially dyed to match original colors and placed in a basement vault in anticipation of future need for leather door restoration.



Court of Appeals Returned to Service

**Judges
return to
restored
chamber**

With the completion of Phase I of the Capitol's Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Replacement Project, the Court of Appeals Chamber has returned to service. During the second phase of the project, while the Supreme Court Chamber undergoes HVAC modifications, the Court of Appeals Chamber will serve both Courts. The 13 judges using the chamber will be comfortable in their newly restored chairs in the easily heated and cooled chamber.

Contractors and staff worked diligently to fit the new system within the original configuration of the room. The most

noticeable change in the room is the removal of the linear vents added in the 1960's and the restoration of the original ventilation grilles in the decorative linen wall coverings at the front and back of the chamber. OCC staff and Robert Mussey, a specialized conservator from Boston, were able to save as much of the original linen as possible, clean and reinstall it, and then in fill with new linen custom colored and painted to exactly match the original stencil design. With the woodwork cleaned and restored, and a final cleaning done, the room was ready for use.



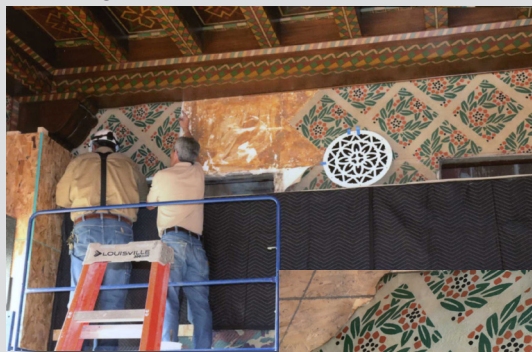
Above, the ventilation system added to the courtroom in the 1960's was oversized and not compatible with the room's historic character.



Above and right, the linear vent was cut into the wall and through the hand-stenciled linen wall covering.



With the original wall covering gone, above, HVAC contractors removed the 1960's duct work and exposed the original vent holes. Right, they then installed the new ductwork in the original locations. Below, plasterers repaired the walls, adding plaster where needed. The conservator then worked to reinstall the linen wall covering and fill in missing sections.



Above, OCC's Mike Marshall and Brett Daugherty carefully remove, and save, right, the linen wall covering. The salvaged pieces of wall covering were laid out in the order removed. The repetition in the stencil pattern enabled the conservator to reuse most pieces before recreating sections to replace lost material. The paper model of the original vent helped OCC staff locate the original vents hidden behind plaster.



Below, the restored Court of Appeals Chamber.



BEHIND THE SCENES

Court of Appeals Consultation Room

The public face of the Nebraska Court of Appeals can be seen in person or on the internet* during regularly scheduled oral arguments. The beautiful Appeals Court Chamber features book matched walnut paneling, a decorative hand stencilled ceiling and linen wall coverings. The Appellate Court Consultation Room provides a dignified private space for the Judges to retire and discuss the cases before them. The HVAC Project replaced the equipment added to the room in the 1960's and reduced the footprint of the ducts still needed to move conditioned air from the basement to the 3rd floor Law Library. This change and the replacement of the heating and cooling units in the room, required Office of the Capitol Commission staff repair and refinish the Consultation Room's oak floor and contractors restore and repaint the textured plaster walls.



Left, with the 1960's HVAC system gone, the missing oak finish floor and other damage was exposed. Right, OCC staff replaced the missing oak flooring and repaired damaged sections of the original floor.



Above, Dan Kratky sanded the floor to remove the old finish and as much stain as possible. Upper right, Mike Marshall and Steve Janssen stain the floor to even out the color. Lower right, after the stain dried, Janssen and Marshall applied the finish coat. Working together ensures a quality finish which will last for years.



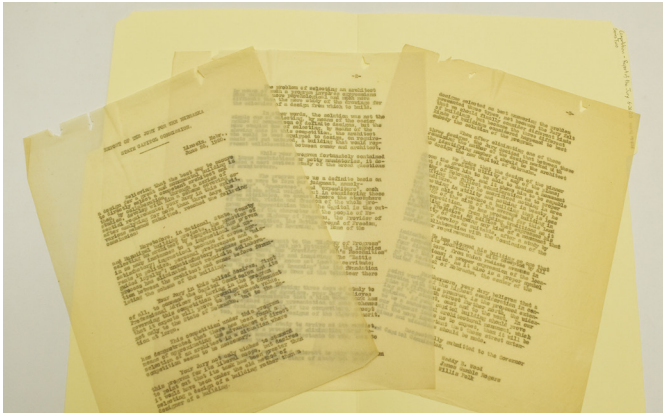
Above, the newly installed and stained oak floor blends well with the original floor. Notice the restored textured plaster wall. Below, with the final finish on, the floor shines beautifully.



*<http://netnebraska.org/basic-page/television/live-demand-state-government>

WHAT'S OLD IS NEW

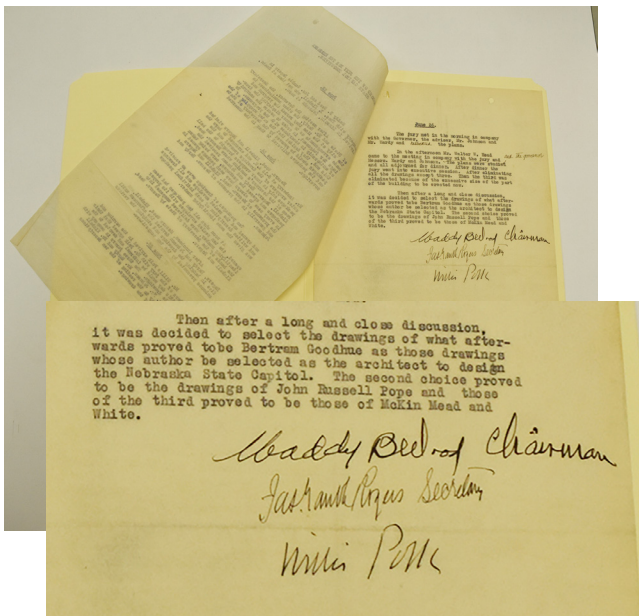
The Nebraska Capitol Collections Archive houses materials related to the creation and maintenance of Nebraska's third State Capitol. One hundred years ago the Nebraska Capitol Commission concluded a national design competition with the selection of Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue as Capitol architect. The documentation of that process is part of the collection archive, which includes among other documents minutes of the Nebraska Capitol Commission from May 6, 1919 through January 1, 1935. 



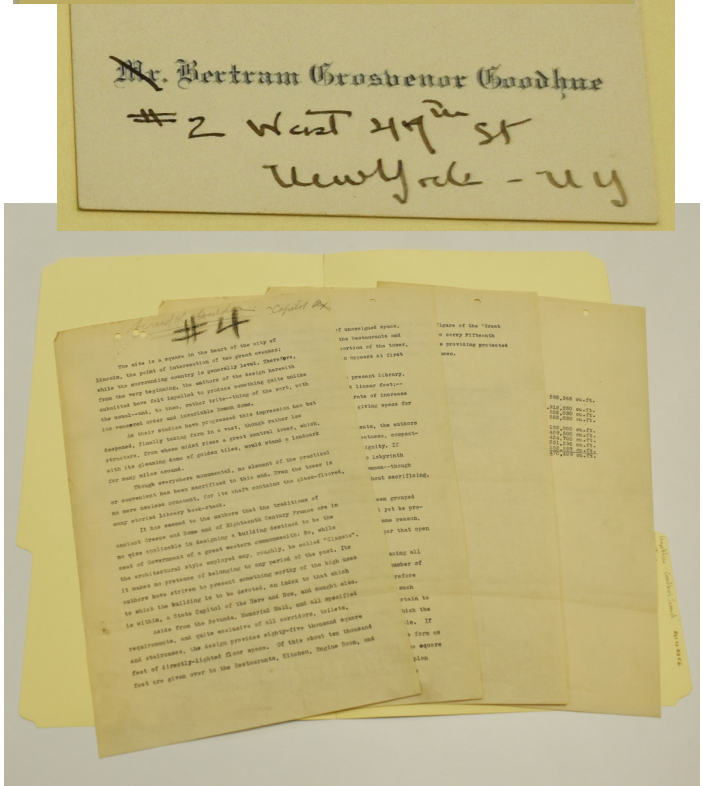
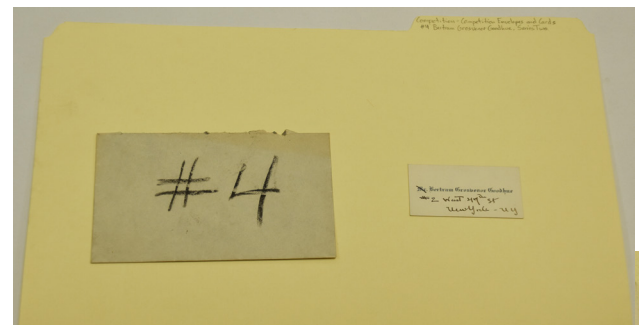
Then after eliminating one of these three designs, the Jury decided that between those remaining the author of the design marked with the identifying number 4 should be the architect to design the new Capitol of Nebraska.

Above, the initial Report of the Jury discusses their thought processes and considerations for choosing architect #4.

Below, in the final Record of the Jury to the Nebraska Capitol Commission, Jurors Waddy B. Wood, James Gamble Rogers and Willis Polk presented the daily activities of their time in Nebraska and named architect #4 as Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue.



Below, the historic competition designs and documents associated with Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue were tagged with the number 4. The envelope held Goodhue's business card. Bottom, Goodhue's Screenshot discussing his design process and plan for the Capitol, part of the archival material, is a valuable tool for Capitol staff interpreting the building for visitors and scholars.



CAPITOL EVENTS

100 Years Ago

*Minutes of the Meeting
of the
CAPITOL COMMISSION
June 24, 1920*

Meeting of the Capitol Commission in the Governor's Mansion.

Members present:

*S. R. McKelvie, Governor,
Mr. W. E. Hardy,
Mr. Geo. E. Johnson.*

Commission met with Messrs. Waddy B. Wood, James Gamble Rogers, and Thos. R. Kimball, Advisory Architect, for the purpose of seeing that the drawings presented in the final competition were properly opened.

After all drawings were opened, numbered, and hung, and the envelopes containing identifications of the drawings numbered and placed in the hands of the Secretary of State, the Commission adjourned until June 25, 1920, 9 A.M.

June 25, 1930. 9 A.M.

Mr. Willis Polk arrived to assist Messrs. Wood and Rogers as Jurors.

The three jurors and Mr. Kimball, with the three members of the Commission held informal session, and devoted the day to reading the ten descriptions and studying the drawings. At six o'clock session adjourned, until June 26.

June 26, 1920.

Mr. Walter Head arrived at 3:30 P.M., and a further informal study of the plans were made. After dinner the Jurors went into executive session and at 9 P.M. rendered a report to the Capitol Commission recommending the Architect who had furnished plans designated as No. 4.

On receiving the report, the Commission again went over all of the plans and received the envelopes containing the numbers and names of the architects competing.

Moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hardy, that we accept and confirm report of the Jurors, recommending author of plans No. 4, as architect selected, and that the Secretary be instructed to record the report of the Jurors on the minutes.

On Roll call, all members voted in the affirmative. Motion declared carried.



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JUN 2020

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Capitol Architect
Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, 1869-1924

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Guided Tours are offered Monday-Friday hourly from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except at noon. Saturday and Holidays from 10:00 a.m. 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.nebraska.gov

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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Courtyard Landscape Restoration Begins

The restoration of Landscape Architect Ernst H. Herminghaus' original planting plan for the Nebraska State Capitol's Courtyards began in late April with the installation of floor and wall protection inside the building. So far, the landscape contractors have removed sod in three of the courtyards, installed the irrigation and drainage systems in the southwest courtyard and begun edging installation to outline planting beds. Flowers and shrubs will follow soon.

Construction of the exterior square base of Bertram Goodhue's Capitol took place with the second Capitol standing in the center. Once offices were moved to the newly completed sections, the second Capitol was demolished. As a result, during trenching, contractors found stone rubble left after demolition of the second Capitol in 1925. As much of the rubble as possible is being removed to improve the quality of the planting beds.



Above, Capitol Administrator Bob Ripley, left, leads the landscape contractors past floor protection explaining the importance of protecting the Capitol's surfaces from any potential damage their equipment, such as the trencher, right, might cause in the Capitol.



Left, rubble from the second Capitol was found during installation of the irrigation and drainage system in the courtyards. Below, the metal edging outlining the planting beds brings the project one step closer to shrub and flower planting.

