LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Best known for the Nebraska State Capitol landscape, Ernst H. Herminghaus was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1890. He attended Lincoln High and then studied horticulture

at the University of Nebraska. Continuing his education at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, he studied under Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and in 1915 received a Landscape Architecture degree. Returning to Lincoln with a Beaux-Arts sensibility, he became Nebraska's first practicing landscape architect designing residential landscapes, including the Woodsshire and Rathbone subdivisions. Herminghaus enhanced Lincoln's park system, designing Pioneers Park and Pinewood Bowl. Later he was on the faculty of the University of Nebraska Architecture College teaching landscape history and design. Herminghaus served in both World Wars. planning and designing military facilities. Throughout his life he was involved with landscape design across the United States and overseas. He traveled in his later years and died in Connecticut in 1965.

LANDMARK STATUS



In 1997, the National Park Service added Ernst H. Herminghaus' historic landscape to the Registered National Historic Landmark designation for the Nebraska State Capitol.

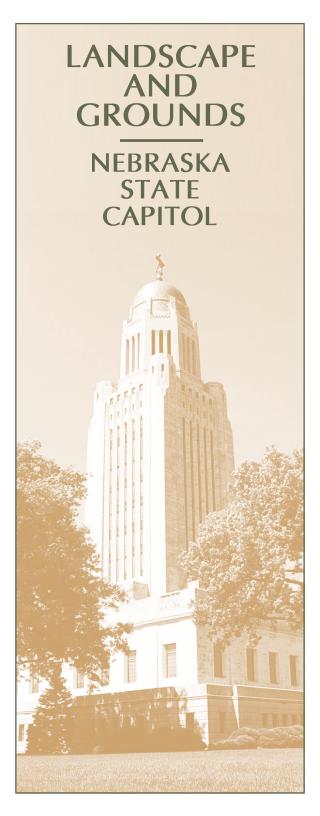
Buildings remain functional for generations and gain historic importance. Landscapes change with the seasons and the growth cycles of the plant material. Few historic landscapes survive intact. The Park Service's inclusion of the grounds in the Landmark designation recognized the need to protect the historic landscape as it enhances Bertram Goodhue's monumental building and plays an important role in its history and interpretation.

CAPITOL ENVIRONS



Conceptually, Capitol architect Bertram G. Goodhue saw his building "in the heart of the city of Lincoln, at the intersection of two great avenues." In the future Goodhue envisioned

harmonious structures set around the Capitol's "pleasant tree shaded space...and a main avenue of approach... widened and parked" leading to his building. Goodhue's architectural vision in 1920 became the founding concept behind the creation of Centennial Mall in 1967 and the creation of the Nebraska Capitol Environs District in 1987. The Capitol Environs Commission oversees architectural, landscape and urban design issues impacting the District and preserves vistas of the Capitol in the skyline.



HISTORY



Once the Nebraska State Capitol was completed in 1932, Nebraska's first landscape architect Ernst H. Herminghaus was commissioned to prepare and complete

the landscape plan that would become the setting for architect Bertram G. Goodhue's jewel of a Capitol. Understanding Goodhue's landscape ideas and the visual requirements of the site, he used his knowledge of Nebraska's climate and plant material to create a landscape that contributes to the interpretation and appreciation of the building. Significantly, Herminghaus addressed Goodhue's concern that the Capitol not appear too large for its site by planting a border of oak trees around the Capitol on the opposite side of the street from the building, thereby visually enlarging the site. At the north and south entrances Herminghaus graduated the height of the fir trees flanking these entrances, with the tallest trees near the street and the shortest near the building. This arrangement creates a false perspective, and visually elongates these entrance approaches.



Original 1934 drawing by E. H. Herminghaus

North Elevation



Original 1934 drawing by E. H. Herminghaus

South Elevation

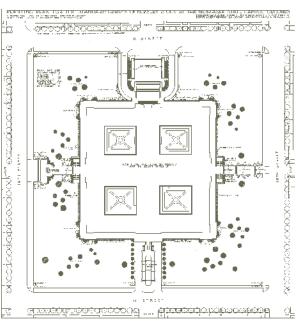
Herminghaus planned to surround Goodhue's "Tower on the Plains" with a lawn mowed at a height of 6" to move in the wind like prairie grasses. The simplicity of the building's exterior ornament and uniform color required that the landscape not compete for the viewer's attention. Herminghaus chose evergreen trees and shrubs as foundation plants to provide constant year-round color at the building's base. He also varied the arrangement of trees on each side of the grounds, using a mix of deciduous species to provide summer shade and seasonal color and to frame views of the building. In the four interior courtyards, his colorful formal designs delighted staff and visitors in the Capitol.

MASTER PLAN



Following the Capitol's affiliation with the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum in 1984, landscape architect Richard Sutton, FASLA, was commissioned to create the first Capitol

Grounds Restoration Master Plan. Sutton amended the Herminghaus plant list to include new disease-resistant and drought-tolerant cultivars of Herminghaus original plant species. In 2005, John Royster of Big Muddy Workshop updated the Landscape Master Plan to include the court vards. This current Master Plan enables the State to properly restore and better maintain the original Herminghaus landscape design. Restoration work includes planting or replacing trees and shrubs on all sides of the building. Especially notable are the replanted fir trees flanking the North Entrance and the replanted fir trees and shrub beds at the South Entrance. Nebraska's school children helped with fundraising to restore the evergreen plantings around the 1912 Lincoln Monument on the west side of the Capitol. Individuals and groups have donated funds to restore trees to the grounds as memorials and to celebrate special events. including Arbor Day. Both Herminghaus' original plan and the new Master Plan address the life cycle of plant material and the need for proper maintenance, as well as for replacement when conditions or size demand.



Original 1934 drawing by E. H. Herminghaus

1934 Capitol Grounds Landscape Plan

COURTYARD FOUNTAINS

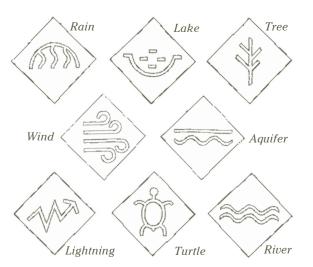
Designed but not realized upon completion of the Nebraska State Capitol in 1932, the courtyard fountains were dedicated in 2017. The fountains were produced according

to the Goodhue Associate's 1933 design and cast in bronze. Fountain installation required the excavation of underground vaults to contain the system's infrastructure. Shallow pools ringed with granite contain the water that cascades from the fountain's bowl.



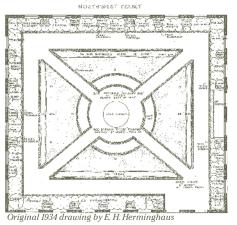
Original drawing by Goodhue Associates

As the focal point of these gardens, the cast bronze fountains provide shimmering sunlit color and the sound of cascading water. Encircling the exterior face of each fountain bowl at compass points are eight diamond panels depicting icons for water created by Nebraska's First Peoples. Inspired by Capitol thematic consultant, Hartley Burr Alexander, PhD., Native American symbolism plays a significant role throughout the building. The colorful red, blue, yellow and white Venetian glass tiles lining each bowl were made possible by an anonymous Nebraska donor. Nebraska's First Peoples often associate these colors with the four seasons or the cardinal directions.



COURTYARD LANDSCAPE

P LANTING LIST (870 APUR PRINT) ROME 1974* 300 PETUNA "SOLICUP SER" 1360 PEULY "SANKUTER MEMBY 1874* 136

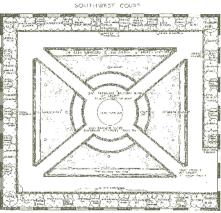




Each 100 X 70 courtyard is circumscribed and crossed by flagstone-paved walkways leading to the central medallion, a 12 fountain. The walkways of red sandstone and black and white stone were

the original sidewalks and floor tiles from the previous Capitol on this site. Initially installed in the 1930's, poor drainage and Nebraska's climate had damaged the walkways. The material was stockpiled during fountain installation as each courtyard's elevation was modified to provide better drainage for plants and paving, improving the long term life of both. Then the original paving was relaid in a durable bedding material. The first step of the landscape restoration installed the irrigation system. Soil testing and the addition of soil amendments were done to provide a proper foundation for the plant material. The installation of plant material was followed by the creation of a maintenance and planting schedule to guide the ongoing care of the courtyard landscapes.

DI MAITIME LIET
PLANTING LIST
1320 A 1908 POPET STAND 0-02/3
28 HYDRANGEA 74 3 30
PIBES ALPINIMA 2-20 I CALITEARTHUS FLORIFUS 3-0*
8 CLETHRA ALHIFOLIA 2-8" 2 ROSA 2UGOSA"SIBBRIAN" 90 II
9 ANTENTION PROFICOSA 2-31 9 GREGOTENBORS 1 ROSES HO 1- 6 SOSARIA SORBIFOLIA 3-41
G SPIREA FROSBELLA 2-25" T DESMODIFICATES PROPERTY PROPER
6 VIBURNUM CAPLEST 2-5"
6 MILADELMINS TEMPINE 5-4
6 ROSA BIRGON, TAMELIA (ENYREGIAE NO.)
8 C/DONIA TARONICA 3-9
6 FOONYMOS ALATOS 3-4"
7 ROSA RUGOSA "HAKSA" HILL
5 KERRIA TAPONICA 2-5" 1 KOSA KUGOSA SIBERIAN NO-1"
6 STAREA ARGUTA MULTIFION 2-25



Original 1934 drawing by E. H. Herminghaus



Capitol landscape architect Ernst H. Herminghaus created the courtyard design based on his Beaux-Arts training and his knowledge of Nebraska-

appropriate plant material. The interior courtyards are the focal points for viewers in corridors and offices. Herminghaus created colorful gardens with flowering shrubs, roses and borders filled with seasonal annuals, tulips and petunias. All aspects of original Capitol construction, including landscaping, were closely followed by Nebraskans. On March 11, 1934, the *Lincoln Star* described Herminhaus' plans for the courtyards:

"An eight-inch square hedge of privet will border all the paths in the courtyard. Around the lead fountains will be four circular beds, in which petunia plants will be set out late in May. Each courtyard will require 340 plants. In each a different color scheme will be worked out—red, pink, blue and dark purple—with all the beds solid masses of color.

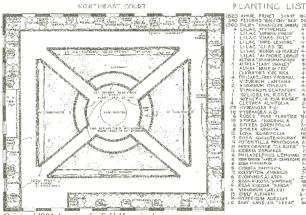
When the petunias die in the fall, 1,360 Darwin tulip bulbs will be planted in the same beds. After they bloom in May, 1935—with colors of pink, lavender and two shades of red—the tops will be cut off and petunias will be set out again. The Capitol Commission wants this plan to be followed annually.

Inside the peripheral path of each courtyard will be four long beds of roses—the baby ramblers, which will bloom all summer long with flowers of varying shades of pink and red.

Outside the path, in the seven foot space between the walk and wall of the building will be a mass of low-growing flowering shrubs. They will be four or five feet high between the office windows and from three to four feet high under the windows.

Many varieties of at least twenty species of shrubbery have been specified for use. Many will bloom in the spring and early summer, while some will not bloom until midsummer. Many will have colored leaves, twigs and berries in the fall."

The original plantings were in place for the summer of 1934, but due to budget and staffing constraints the flowers and shrubs were not maintained. As the courtyard landscape fell into neglect and disrepair, mowed turf became the dominant plant material. Some of the original flowering shrubs in the planting beds along the building remained, although overgrown.

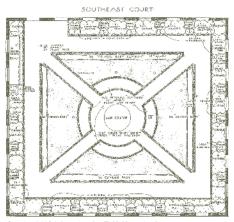


Original 1934 drawing by E. H. Herminghaus



In 2013, Nebraska's Unicameral Legislature appropriated funds to fabricate and install the four courtyard fountains. The fountains were dedicated by the Nebraska Capitol Commission in 2017, to

celebrate Nebraska's 150th year of statehood. That same year, the Nebraska Association of Former Legislators began a private fundraising campaign to restore the courtyards to the original Ernst H. Herminghaus landscape design. With donations from foundations, businesses and many individual Nebraskans, the Association raised funds for the initial landscape restoration and an additional one million dollars for an endowment. Endowment proceeds will be used for annual maintenance and the purchase of future plant material. This important endowment ensures there will be funds available for the ongoing care that will keep the courtyards beautiful for generations to come.



Original 1934 drawing by E. H. Herminghaus

PLANTING LIST

IBBO APPUS BUYCK 3 CANE TO CERROON APPUS BUYCK 1 340 PETURIAS - BUYCK MORN* A MALINELLA SOULAKEESKA VIOUR MILIO BOYCK 1 LILAC - MERINAS LAWN LILAC - SUN SOULAKEESKA LI	No. 1 No. 1
13 TIYORANGEA A.G.	334
O RIBES ALFINUM 1 CLETHEA ALNIFOLIA	2-2%
T CALYCARTINUS FLORIDUS	2-3
AS ROSES CRODIENDEST	H0, 1
2 ROSA EUGOSA SIBERIAN	No. 1
* ROSA RUCCSA"HANSA"	140 -1
	1.3
O VIBURNOM CARLETT	6-3
6 PUTENTILLA FRUTTCOSA	5-2.
6 FUCNYMUS ALATUS	3-4
6 KOLKWITZIA AMANILIS	X4.
G CYBONIA JAPONICA	3-4
8 ROSA HUGONIS	H3 - 1-
6 SPIREA ARGUIA MOLTIPLO	Cf T-2,
6 ROSA RUGOSA AMELIA GENERE 6 SPIKTA FROSBELLA	WAX AD-1
OF THE LOCK PARTY PARTY I A PARTY IN	2-2%
6 PHILADELPHID CLACIER	2-4
& SOTARIA SONS FOLIA	3-4
& KERRIA TAPONICA	2-3"
4 RYPERICUM AUREUM	2-3/
Z ROSA BUBBITOLIA	H2-1