

Four sets of drawings of the Capitol (755.44 Z1 1904, folder 52).

Diazo prints with pencil notations on four sheets, illustrating the plans of the Commission to Study Improvements to the Capitol. The drawings show departmental assignment of interior spaces with offices marked for the House stenographers and the Boxing and Wrestling Commission (755.44 Z1 1951, folder 53).

ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS, 1904–1905

Column Cap (755.44 Z1 1904–1905, folder 54).

Column Caps around Elevator Well (755.44 Z1 1904–1905, folder 54).

Detail of Stone and Terra Cotta for Frieze and Cornices (755.44 Z1 1904–1905, folder 54).

Detail of Stone Cornices (755.44 Z1 1904–1905, folder 54).

Main Stairways (755.44 Z1 1904–1905, folder 51).

Terra-Cotta Column and Pilaster Caps (755.44 Z1 1904–1905, folder 54).

BEHIND THE SCENES, 1904–1905

Basement under the Rotunda (755.44 Z1 1904–1905, folder 51).

Channel Iron Supports for Exterior Angles of Cornice (755.44 Z1 1904–1905, folder 51).

Flag Poles, Braces, and Bases (755.44 Z1 1904–1905, folder 51).

Framing for Sheve Beams in Attic (755.44 Z1 1904–1905, folder 51).

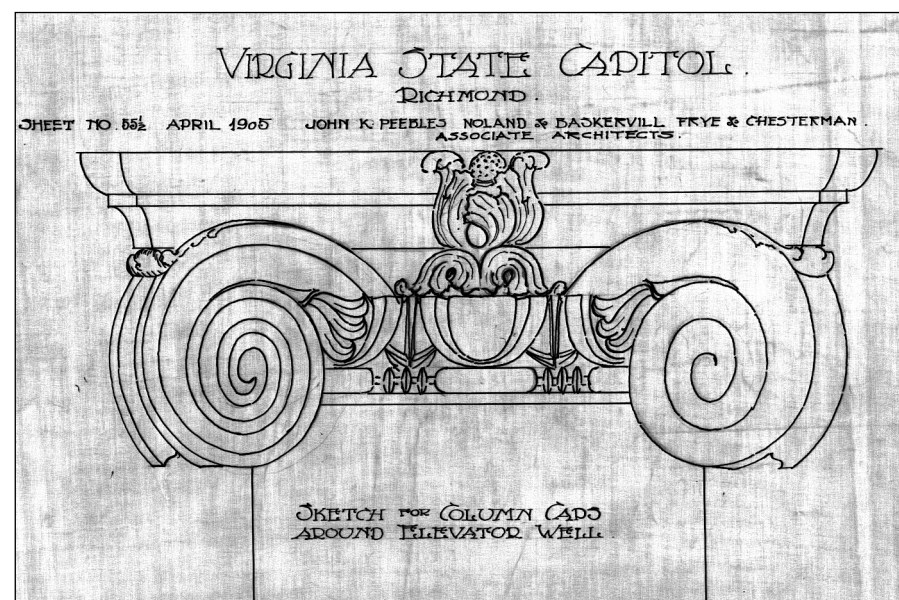
Irons for Flag Poles on Capitol Wings (755.44 Z1 1904–1905, folder 51).

Light, Heat, and Power Plant (755.44 Z2 1905, folder 56).

Power House (755.44 Z2 1905, folder 55).

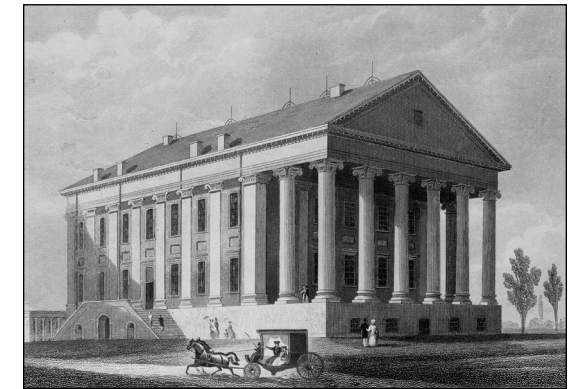
Telephone Conduits (755.44 Z1 1904–1905, folder 50).

Compiled by Mary Dessypris and Jennifer Davis McDaid.
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THE VIRGINIA CAPITOL

AN AMERICAN ARCHITECTURAL MILESTONE



RECORDS & RESOURCES AT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

In 1785, while serving as minister to France, Thomas Jefferson drew up plans for Virginia's new capitol at the request of the commonwealth's director of public works. The former governor and future president was inspired by the Maison Carrée, a Roman temple in Nîmes, France, and hoped his design would introduce "into the State an example of architecture in the classic style of antiquity." Completed in 1792, the capitol of Virginia was the first neoclassical building in the United States. It broke the tradition of Baroque and Palladian styles, adhered to the Greek and Roman ideals that were sweeping the western world in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and set the standard for the neoclassical style in the United States. In 1906, the building acquired the look it has today with the addition of two wings to accommodate the growing needs of the General Assembly. A second major renovation took place in 1964.

Selected titles concerning the Virginia State Capitol available at the Library of Virginia are listed below. On the Library's Web site, researchers may search the online catalogs and consult "Virginia History and Culture Resources on the Internet."

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alexander, Robert L. "Maximilian Godefroy in Virginia: A French Interlude in Richmond's Architecture." *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 69 (1961): 420–431.

"'Befoformed on a Study of Antient Models': Virginia's Capitol Is America's First Monument of the Classic Revival." *Virginia Cavalcade* 29 (Spring 1980): 148–149.

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- . "Thomas Jefferson and the First Monument of the Classical Revival in America." *Journal of the American Institute of Architects* 3 (September 1915): 371–381; (October 1915): 421–433; (November 1915): 473–491.
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- Strother, Warren. "Restoring the Capitol: Behind Mr. Jefferson's 1785 Walls, an Interior for 1964." *Commonwealth* 30 (February 1963): 21–25.
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- Wooton, James E. "Jefferson's Capitol and Capitol Square: An Edifice of First Rate Dignity." *Virginia Cavalcade* 51 (Winter 2002): 16–23.

SELECTED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

- "Mr. Jefferson's Capitol Will Get a Facelift," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 27 June 2004.
- "Renovation Concept for Capitol Approved," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 13 December 2002.
- "Renovation Set to Return Virginia Capitol to its Old Glory," *Virginian-Pilot*, 31 December 2003.

VIDEO RECORDINGS

- Virginia. General Assembly. House of Delegates. Clerk's Office. *The Virginia General Assembly: A View From the House*. Richmond: House of Delegates, 1993. 1 VHS videocassette (30 min.).

ON THE WEB

- To locate information on the Capitol, visit <http://legis.state.va.us/homepage.html>. For information on tours of Capitol Square during the renovation, go to http://legis.state.va.us/cap_tours/tour_info/tour_info_small.html.

THE CAPITOL IN DRAWINGS AND PLANS

Beginning in 1895, every governor's annual message to the General Assembly included a plea for improvements in Jefferson's building. "The condition of the Capitol," Governor Andrew Jackson Montague bluntly observed in 1902, "is a reproach to the State." The landmark, he argued, had not weathered the nineteenth century well, and badly needed to be fireproofed and refurbished. The General Assembly finally agreed and appropriated \$100,000 for interior and exterior repair and renovation. Despite the recommendations of the five-member Capitol Building Commission, work did not begin on the project until 1904, when the Assembly set aside another \$250,000 for renovations, which now included adding wings to the building.

Once the Jefferson structure was gutted, only the exterior masonry walls and columns were left standing. Workers installed new ventilation flues, rebuilt interior staircases, installed structural steel, and added an elevator. Old windows and doors were replaced; outside, craftsmen replaced the stucco, repaved the portico in marble, added broad steps, and enlarged the bases and capitals of the building's familiar columns. Norfolk architect John Kevan Peebles defended the addition of the new Classical Revival-style wings, arguing that "Mr. Jefferson himself, if he were present, would approve it."

The renovations took sixteen months and ultimately cost \$244,752.75. Records in the architectural drawings and plans collection at the Library of Virginia document the Capitol's renovation, from the installation of telephone lines to the design of the new stairways. Older drawings also provide a view of the building before its dramatic refurbishing. A guide to the General Architectural Files Collection, arranged by drawing title, is available in the Map Research Room. Drawings are also described in detail in the online Archives and Manuscripts catalog. For additional information on the collection, consult Archives Research Note 13. Drawings and plans are served in the Map Research Room, where special rules governing use and reproduction apply.

Researchers may wish to consult the *Capitol Square Data Records*, arranged in four series—Buildings, Grounds, Statues, and the Superintendent of Public Buildings. Detailed descriptions of records and drawings, as well as collection guides, may be found in the online Archives and Manuscripts catalog by searching the title "Capitol Square Data." These records represent an artificial collection of documents compiled from the Auditor of Public Accounts, Governor's Office, General Assembly, Land Office, and other state agencies. Note that not all documents relevant to Capitol Square, especially late-nineteenth and twentieth-century records, are located in this collection. Researchers should also consult the records of other state agencies for additional materials, and visit the exhibit on the Library's Web site, *Jefferson and the Capitol of Virginia* (from the site index, select Exhibitions), for images of the Capitol model, archival sources, and links to related resources.

THE CAPITOL MODEL

- A scale model in plaster of the Capitol attributed to Jean-Pierre Fouquet, 1785–1786.

PLANS OF THE VIRGINIA STATE CAPITOL

- Sketch of the Capitol and the Governor's Mansion, drawn very lightly in pencil (755.44 Z1 1815–1826?, folder 47).

- Drawings in pencil, ink, and colored ink wash on thirteen sheets, documenting the configuration of the Capitol before the 1904–1906 modifications (755.44 Z1 1858, folder 46).