

Spring 2007

# Anthemion

North Carolina State Capitol Foundation

## *Capturing the Art of Architecture*

*By Terra Steinbeiser*

John Hall knows architecture. He studied it as a student, created it as an architect, and now makes his living capturing the built environment on film. As a fine art photographer specializing in architectural, interior, and garden photography for numerous publications, architects, and designers, John Hall's profession has taken him all over the world. Last month, his work brought him back to his home state of North Carolina to photograph the State Capitol.

Foundation President Ed Davis became familiar with Hall's work after seeing his photos of the Capitol in Dr. Roger Kennedy's book, *Greek Revival America*. "Knowing that he loved the building and often comes to photograph it when he is visiting his family, Ray [Beck] and I asked if he would like to photograph it for our use," Davis said. "He agreed and he is doing this work, which would cost us in excess of \$10,000 for one day's shoot, at cost." The photographs will be used to produce books, postcards, and marketing materials for the Capitol.

Though he presently resides in New York City, Hall grew up between Hillsborough and Roxboro in the town of Hurdle Mills. As a young man, he left the family tobacco farm to study architecture at North Carolina State University. After completing his degree, he relocated to Manhattan to begin his career as an architect. "What I found when I got there was that I didn't love being an architect," Hall said. "I wanted to get out and explore more." This precipitated his move to Europe, where, as he puts it, he fell in with "art folks" who recognized his talent and encouraged the one-time architect to explore photography as a creative outlet.

*Continued on page 4*

*View of the House  
Chamber gallery.  
Photo by John Hall*



*Edward T. Davis*

The year is still young and already it has proven to be very eventful for the Capitol. We were privileged to welcome John Hall to the Capitol to photograph the building and are grateful for his artistry. While the results of his efforts will provide us with elegant images to use as postcards and note cards, we also anticipate hosting an opening of an exhibition of his work. We continue to solicit donations for the Barbara H. Boney Publication Fund which will underwrite many of our printing costs.

The Capitol has been awarded \$600,000 for the rehabilitation of the sidewalks on the south side of Union Square by the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Department of Administration. The current walkway system, designed by the Olmsted Brothers in 1928, is in disrepair and is not fully accessible to the disabled. The new sidewalks will be handicapped accessible and will have the same appearance as the current walkway system but with less exposed aggregate. This project will partially restore the plaza around the statue of Washington, as designed by sculptor William J. Hubard and landscaper William Henry Hamilton, circa 1856. The restoration of the brick-paved plaza will provide a "stage" facing the newly opened Fayetteville Street. It is anticipated that the design phase will wrap up this fall, with construction beginning next spring. This project will make the grounds safer and will provide a formal location for events to occur on Union Square and into Morgan and Fayetteville Streets.

Many "Friends of the Capitol" will travel to Richmond, Virginia, on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> for a private tour of the new Visitors' Center, exhibition space, and the restored Capitol. We will enjoy a lecture on the history of the Virginia Capitol by Virginia's senior architectural historian, Calder Loth, prior to our tour. The tour will be led by the Virginia Capitol's historian, Mark Greenough. I am grateful to Board member Kristy Lee, who will host a party for us Saturday evening. The trip will conclude on Sunday morning with brunch in the rotunda of the legendary Hotel Jefferson. This should prove both a valuable learning experience and an opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of friends.

Initial (and exciting) conversations have taken place between the General Manager of WTVD-TV in Durham and the State Capitol Foundation concerning future July 4<sup>th</sup> plans, both on Union Square and on Fayetteville Street. We are very hopeful that arrangements will proceed with this television station, the City of Raleigh, and other corporate sponsors in hosting a major event in the years to come.

Finally, we all owe our sincere thanks to Board member Jerry Traub. Jerry has provided plans for an elegant reception area which will replace the current collage of furnishings that visitors encounter as they enter the Capitol. The designs are based on the rostrums in the House of Commons and Senate Chambers. We will all benefit from Jerry's talents once the furnishings are completed. These are exciting times and I am so grateful for the support the Capitol continues to garner.

*This newsletter made possible by the Barbara H. Boney Publications Fund*

## *Anthemion*

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*Anthemion* is published quarterly by The State Capitol Foundation to provide information about and build support for North Carolina's State Capitol. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please contact *Anthemion* editor & designer Terra Steinbeiser at 919-715-3962 or via e-mail: [terra.steinbeiser@ncmail.net](mailto:terra.steinbeiser@ncmail.net)

For more information about the State Capitol, visit our Web site at [www.ncstatecapitol.org](http://www.ncstatecapitol.org), or call 919-733-4994.



## State Supreme Court Adjourns at the Capitol...Again

By Terra Steinbeiser

For the first time in nearly two years, the executive branch will be the lone arm of state government housed in the State Capitol. Since April 2005, the Capitol has hosted the Supreme Court of North Carolina while the Court's normal venue, the Justice Building on East Morgan Street, underwent extensive renovations. For three days nearly every month, the seven justices of the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the Senate Chamber before returning to their temporary offices



From Left: Assoc. Justices Patricia Timmons-Goodson, Edward Brady, Mark Martin, Robert Edmunds, Chief Justice Sarah Parker, Assoc. Justices Paul Newby & Robin Hudson. Photo by T. Steinbeiser

on nearby Fayetteville Street to deliberate and write their opinions for each case. With the Justice Building now complete, the Court has returned to its regular headquarters.

The Court's use of the Capitol marked a homecoming, for when the Capitol was completed in 1840, the state Supreme Court was located on the third floor. In early 1843, the Court and its law library relocated to the northeast suite on the first floor. Records do not indicate the reason for the move, but the long climb to the third floor may have been too strenuous for the judges. The Court moved to a separate building in 1888 and into the Justice Building in 1940.

Historically, the Senate Chamber was the scene of several significant legal proceedings, so it proved a fitting site for the Court's most recent stay at the Capitol. The impeachment trial of Governor William W. Holden before the full Senate was held there in 1871, with the Supreme Court's Chief Justice presiding. Holden was convicted and removed from office. In 1905, the unsuccessful impeachment trials of Chief Justice David Furches and Justice Robert Douglas were held in the Senate Chamber as well. The room remains virtually unchanged from the time of those trials and the fifty original Senate desks were rearranged to accommodate the modern Court's configuration.

## Furniture Restoration Project Nears Completion

By Tiffianna Honsinger

After nearly eleven years, the restoration of the Capitol's House of Commons and Senate Chamber furnishings nears completion. Since 1996, the SCF has sponsored the repair and refurbishment of the Senate and House desks, chairs, and rostrums.

The rostrums were constructed by contract carpenters between 1838 and 1840. Unlike the desks in the Senate and House Chambers, which originally cost \$25 and \$35 apiece and were intended to be both durable and inexpensive, the rostrums were made of substantially more expensive materials furnished by the commissioners supervising the Capitol's construction. They chose southern yellow pine timbers for the bodies of the desks, which carpenters finished with deep red-brown veneers made of now extinct Santo Domingo mahogany. William Thompson, the craftsman who constructed 170 of the House and Senate legislative

See *Restoration*, pg. 6



Volunteers from *The Healing Place of Wake County* unload one of the rostrums and move it into the shop at Heritage Strip and finish for restoration and conservation.

## With Gratitude

The State Capitol Foundation gratefully acknowledges the generosity of those individuals, organizations and corporations who have made contributions to the Foundation. Gifts appearing here were received between November 2006 and January 2007.

**Barbara Boney:**

*Gift of \$100 to the Barbara H. Boney Publications Fund, in honor of Frances Ardelia Farrior Buford*

**Betsy Buford:**

*Gift of \$100 to the Barbara H. Boney Publications Fund*

**The Caswell-Nash Chapter of the DAR:**

*Gift of \$25 for Capitol projects and educational programs*

**Holly Fuller:**

*Donation of fabric to reupholster the reception area's Empire-style sofa*

**Jim Herrmann:**

*Gift of \$250 in honor of Karen Herrmann*

**The John William Pope Foundation:**

*Gift of \$5,000. Holly and Chuck Fuller and Joy Pope, chair of the Pope Foundation, recommended the gift. A portion of the gift will go into the Barbara H. Boney Publications Fund for new postcards and note cards*

**Sprint Foundation Matching Gift Program:**

*Gift of \$100 to match membership donation of Thomas A. Morrow*

## Art of Architecture *Continued from cover*



*John M. Hall*

Hall returned to New York in the early 1980s and began photographing interiors for publications such as *House & Garden* magazine. "I love architecture enormously and it was a really great time to be doing what I was doing in New York. People were becoming so interested in interior design and so many art magazines were started at this time," said Hall. "You could still submit photographs to magazines and build a career that way." From that point, Hall's freelance photography career took off. Over the past few decades, Hall has produced an impressive body of work, which can be seen in books such as *Adventures With Old Houses*, *Living With Art*, and *Antiques at Home*. Hall's photographs have graced the pages of numerous magazines, including *Architectural Digest*, *House Beautiful*, *Vogue Decoration*, and *The New York Times Magazine*. Finally, Hall has also contributed to exhibitions at the Salon Exhibition (Paris), the American Embassy (Mexico), and the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (Winston-Salem).

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*"Beautiful light inspires me.  
There's an inherent sense of  
good fortune to be around  
beautiful architecture..."*

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John Hall's extensive knowledge and passion for fine architecture are unmistakable when he speaks about what motivates his art. "Beautiful light inspires me," said Hall. "There's an inherent sense of good fortune to be around beautiful architecture, to see good architecture." He first photographed the Capitol twelve years ago while working on the aforementioned book, *Greek Revival America*. "I love the proportions of the [Capitol]. I love the austerity in the depth of the window boxes... the stairs and the floors are so simple, so pure. It truly is the best of what architecture is," Hall recalled. "People can get carried away trying to make things so fancy, but the beauty is in the lines and simplicity."

The Foundation will hold an opening in the coming months to unveil Hall's most recent work at the Capitol. Viewers can expect to see a mix of artistic abstract photographs that play up the contrast of shadow and light, and documentary pictures of the chambers, rotunda, and the building's other unique architectural elements.

*John Hall took the photographs at right last December in preparation for the photo shoot this spring.*





*John Hall Photographs the Capitol*



## Restoration *Continued from pg. 3*

desks and had a cabinet shop across from the southeast corner of Capitol Square, is thought to have supervised the design and construction of the benches.

Last May, the House Chamber rostrums left Union Square for the first time since their construction over 160 years ago. Volunteer movers from The Healing Place of Wake County offered their services to remove the massive structures and transport them to Heritage Strip and Finish in Apex. Professional furniture restoration specialist Earl Yerby and his team of highly trained professionals then went to work to restore the pieces' original finish and luster. In addition to refinishing the rostrums, Mr. Yerby repaired their many broken, chipped, and missing parts. Most remarkably, his team successfully repaired a large structural fracture induced by improper installation and heavy stress after the House Chamber carpet was replaced more than 30 years ago. On their return, a crane was used to lift them to the west portico where they were transported back to the House Chamber and re-installed by the Healing Place volunteers. Once the desks were in place, Capitol Historian Raymond L. Beck found that the speaker's desk was missing the "shoe molding" at its base. To make the piece match that of the Senate

Chamber, Mr. Yerby fabricated this missing detail, soon to be installed on that desk.

In April 2005, Sue Donathan White, to honor of her father Marshall J. Donathan, sponsored the restoration of

the speaker's rostrum in the Senate Chamber. From 1840 to 1868, the Senate Speaker presided from this desk. After 1868, the Lt. Governor, as President of the Senate, used it through the last regular legislative session in the State Capitol in 1961. The Chief Justice of the state Supreme Court presided at this desk during the impeachment trial of Governor William Holden in 1871. As their predecessors before them, the NC Supreme Court used this rostrum while the Justice Building underwent renovations. This year, both Senate rostrums will be removed to undergo the same meticulous conservation as those of the House Chamber did last year. As the Senate speaker's rostrum has already been conserved, Mr. Yerby plans to re-tint it to match the other three large pieces.

For additional information about the rostrums, to make a donation, or to sponsor the conservation of one of the 1840 desks, please contact Collections Manager Tiffianna Honsinger via e-mail, [tiffianna.honsinger@ncmail.net](mailto:tiffianna.honsinger@ncmail.net), or at 919-733-4994.



*Furniture Specialist Deborah Gingras and Raymond Beck examine a House rostrum before work begins. Photos by Terra Steinbeiser*

## Capitol Seeks to Expand Downtown July 4<sup>th</sup> Events

*By Raymond L. Beck*

On January 17, State Capitol staff members Raymond Beck, Diana Mauney, and Terra Steinbeiser, accompanied by Foundation President Ed Davis, met with the President and General Manager of WTVD-TV, Mr. Bernie Prazenica, and that station's Director of Broadcasting Operations and Programming, Ms. Angela Jaramillo, at the downtown Durham broadcasting center. The meeting centered on discussion of a "partnering opportunity" for WTVD to expand and enlarge the downtown Raleigh July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration--especially since that station opened a Raleigh broadcast center three blocks south in mid-2006 (in the building that, for decades, had housed the Hudson-Belk department store). With the reopening of historic Fayetteville Street to vehicles and the day-long downtown celebration in late July 2006, the Capitol's staff envisioned an expanded July 4<sup>th</sup> event as a vehicle to enhance the City of Raleigh's revitalization efforts. Moreover, such an event would create additional excitement in the heart of downtown, with the Capitol as the centerpiece and backdrop for the annual celebration

of our nation's birthday.

The staff envisioned the Capitol's standard "July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration" would take place on Union Square, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., but with a greater emphasis on North Carolina's history. That Historic Sites event would be followed by a 'big name' street concert performance south of the Capitol and the day would conclude with an impressive fireworks display at the southern end of Fayetteville Street. Those follow-up events would be coordinated and co-sponsored by WTVD with either the Downtown Raleigh Alliance or a local corporation.

The meeting with WTVD's executives was cordial and positive and WTVD's leadership expressed an interest in filling the vacuum of last July's "Raleigh Wide Open Celebration." We are awaiting their formal response to our initiatives and ideas to create a larger and a more exciting annual July 4<sup>th</sup> event. The Foundation and Capitol staff foresee a higher visibility presence for the Capitol as downtown Raleigh's redevelopment of Fayetteville Street 'takes hold' as a thriving venue for families.



## *From the Site Manager:* Here History Happens



Raymond L. Beck

In conjunction with the latest marketing initiative of the Department of Cultural Resources and the Division of State Historic Sites, under the banner "History Happens Here," I am pleased to report that the State Capitol will hold several special events in 2007 to coincide with that overall campaign.

We are also tailoring many of our annual events to underscore that overarching theme--to remember our past as well as to inspire the future generations who visit this Greek Revival masterpiece daily on school tours led by our marvelous and knowledgeable docents.

We recently concluded a "History Happens Here" photographic competition and are now displaying all of the entries on the second and third floor. In May, we will exhibit the original Ordinance of Secession in the Old House Chamber (then known as "Commons Hall"), where it was signed on May 20, 1861, as this State severed its ties with the Union. That document was revoked here in late 1865. Our staff is cognizant of the Capitol's past and we all are aware that history, truly, happened here. We continue our work toward many goals that will serve to protect and preserve this landmark.

Plans have been completed for a new "period-look" reception area that will be more visitor friendly and welcoming. Thanks to the efforts of the State Departments of Transportation and Administration, we will be moving toward improving the Capitol's exterior landscape appearance, its walkways, its visitor accessibility, and to reinstate some nineteenth century grounds features. I am pleased to report that our staff is making great strides toward many common goals and 2007 holds great promise for several of our initiatives.

The State Capitol has hosted North Carolina's Supreme Court, and, since April 2005, has served as its temporary residence. Our site and staff has, during the past two years, proudly renewed our historical ties to the judicial branch of state government and its rich history that, for forty-seven years (1841-1888), happened here. One of our long-range goals is to better interpret the Court's history and historical presence at this site. We have been honored by the Court's presence and its tenure here, while the Justice Building was undergoing renovation.

In a future column, I hope to report that many current projects are well on their way to realization and that several other initiatives are making sure and steady progress. Please contact us with any ideas or suggestions regarding ways that this staff might be of assistance.

## Calendar of Events

### History Happens Here Photo Contest Display & History Happened Here: The Capitol in Pictures

**Exhibits close April 27**

All entries from the Capitol's first photo contest will be on display on the second floor. In conjunction with the contest, an exhibit featuring historical photos of the Capitol from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries will be on display on the third floor.

### Tryon Palace Fife & Drums Corps Performance

**April 11**

Traveling all the way from New Bern and the site of our state's first capital, the Tryon Palace Pipe & Drum Corps will perform at North Carolina's "new" Capitol. These middle and high school-aged musicians will bring a little colonial flavor to downtown Raleigh as they march on Union Square in authentic Revolutionary costume while playing period music. Catch one (or both) of their two 20-minute performances on the south plaza. Music is scheduled to begin at approximately 10:30 and 11:30 am. Call 919-733-4994 to confirm performance times.

### History Happens Here: The Ordinance of Secession Returns to the Capitol

**May 18-20, during the Capitol's regular hours**

Many North Carolinians supported the Union as late as 1860, but the firing on Fort Sumter in April 1861 created strong feelings of allegiance to the Southern cause. A specially elected convention met at the Capitol on May 20, 1861, and voted to adopt an ordinance of secession, launching North Carolina into the Civil War. North Carolina's original Ordinance of Secession, along with several other documents relating to the state's entry into the war, will be on display for three days in the House Chamber near the table on which it was signed.

### Memorial Day Observance

**May 28, 10 am- 4 pm**

A military encampment representing three centuries of military tradition will be set up on the Capitol grounds. A wreath-laying ceremony in honor of those North Carolinians who served during times of war will take place at the Veterans' Monument.

Correction: In the Winter 2007 Anthemion, new board member Betty Ray McCain's profile contained some incorrect information. Ms. McCain is a four-term member of UNC Board of Governors, but has never served on the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees. We apologize for the error.

# *Become a Pillar of Society: Doric, Ionic, or Corinthian*

## State Capitol Society Membership & Donation Form

Membership benefits include a handsome cast-metal State Capitol pin, yearly membership card, subscription to *Anthemion* quarterly newsletter, reduced rates for annual history excursions, reduced admission to Capitol social events, invitations to public programs, & special tours by request for your organization or company.

### *Levels of Membership*

- Senior/ Student Membership      \$10
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(corporate 2 years, individual 3 years)
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(corporate 3 years, individual 5 years)

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