

Dedication of Blue Book

To the People of Minnesota:

I'm honored to present the 2017-2018 edition of the Minnesota Legislative Manual - also known as the "Blue Book." While the Blue Book is a comprehensive guide to our government in Minnesota, it's far more than just a listing of offices, names, and election results. It also contains information about Minnesota's history, culture, institutions, and identity. Since my days as a student, I've been a regular user of the Blue Book and I hope this edition will continue to be a trusted resource for people all over Minnesota, as it has been since 1874.

I'm proud to dedicate this edition of the Blue Book to the men and women who worked on the historic restoration of the Minnesota Capitol Building. They did a truly outstanding job, working hard under challenging conditions, over a long time, to return our Capitol to its rightful place as one of Minnesota's most treasured places. Their accomplishment and attention to detail will outlive them.

Designed by world renowned architect Cass Gilbert (U.S. Supreme Court Building) and featuring sculptures from Daniel Chester French (Lincoln Memorial) our Capitol has been the center of state government and an architectural jewel since it opened in 1905. But in recent years it was showing its age and was badly in need of a major renovation - both inside and out. The structure of the entire building was in disrepair, marble crumbled, roofs leaked, paint peeled, and artwork faded. In other ways the building was simply behind the times. There was too little space for the public and too little access for people with disabilities.

The renovation project, lasting over three years at a cost of \$310 million, made a great building even greater. The updated Capitol includes a refurbished exterior, many new and expanded public spaces, more elevators, additional restrooms, and meticulously restored works of art. The renovation led to the temporary relocation of the governor, the Senate, and others who call the building home, but the result was well worth it.

The revival of our Capitol was the work of many people, all of whom deserve thanks. First and foremost are the hundreds of laborers who worked on site. They put their hands, hearts, and sweat into the project. Also crucial were staff from the Department of Administration and the Minnesota Historical Society for planning and executing the project. Finally, legislators deserve credit for supporting the project on a bipartisan basis.

As a way to highlight the Capitol renovation, and to give thanks to the people who made it possible, this edition of the Blue Book features a special section of photographs showing various stages of the restoration as well as some photographs from the original construction of the building in the early 1900s which provide the viewer with a unique "before and after" perspective of the Capitol. Special thanks to award-winning Minnesota photographer Tom Olmscheid for providing my office with access to his wonderful visual record.

The best way to pay tribute to the renovated Capitol is to visit it. I encourage all Minnesotans to see the restored building for themselves. The Capitol is the Peoples' House. It doesn't exist just for elected officials. It's there for you. It's a symbol of our democracy, but it's also for public use; for tours, for a piece of history, for celebrations, and for advocacy. We're fortunate to have a Capitol building that is both spectacular and accessible. Elevated and grounded. We're also blessed to live in a state where so many people came together on such an important project of lasting value, significance, and beauty that will continue to serve Minnesotans for generations to come.

Steve Simon
Minnesota Secretary of State



Reader's Note:

Throughout the 2017-2018 Legislative Manual readers will come across historical photos of the construction of the Minnesota State Capitol from 1896 to 1905. These images were discovered by a Minnesotan named Lloyd Jackson, who came across an old photo album in the 1950s in a pile of garbage at Pig's Eye Landfill. Jackson showed the album to his family and then put it in his attic where it sat for decades, according to the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. Jackson died in 2007 and never knew he had “one of the most comprehensive visual records of the [Capitol construction] project in existence.” The album was acquired by the Minnesota Historical Society in 2015 and the 275-photographs were digitized and made available online in December 2016. We decided to publish a sampling of those photos and we hope you enjoy them.

Also in this edition of the Legislative Manual is a collection of photos—taken by photographer Tom Olmscheid—that chronicle the 2013-2017 restoration of the Minnesota State Capitol. A special thanks to everyone who contributed to making this section as visually appealing and informative as possible for readers, including Tom Olmscheid, the Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Department of Administration, JE Dunn Construction, HGA Architects and Engineers, MOCA Systems, and Cost, Planning & Management International (CPMI).

To learn more about Minnesota's Capitol, see these resources:

Minnesota Historical Society: mnhs.org/capitol

Who Built Our Capitol? - University of MN Labor Education Service: whobuiltourcapitol.org

Cass Gilbert Society: cassgilbertsociety.org

CAPITOL RESTORATION

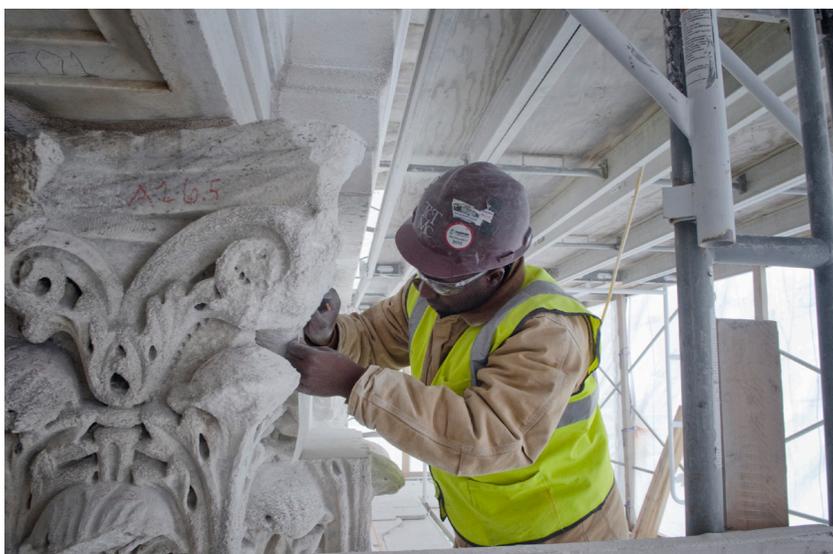


Tom Olmscheid

On May 7, 2016, a 300-ton crane lifted the Quadriga from the roof of the Minnesota State Capitol in order to allow for roofing repairs below. The statues were taken off-site to a nearby warehouse in town where artisans re-gilded the sculpture with 30,000 individual sheets of 23 karat gold leaf, sourced from Italy. Re-gilding is necessary approximately every 20 years. The photo above was taken on November 12, 2016 just before the Quadriga was re-installed on the roof of the Minnesota State Capitol.



Minnesota Historical Society



Tom Olmscheid

Every piece of Georgia marble on the Capitol was evaluated by the design team to determine appropriate repairs. Every stone was cleaned and re-pointed, and many were resurfaced to remove deterioration. Where the deterioration was too extensive, dutchman repairs (replacing part of the deteriorated carved or cut stone with a new piece) were completed. Dutchman replacement stone was carefully fabricated, installed, and blended with the adjacent stone. The stone came from a quarry in Georgia near the same location as the original stone. These repairs were needed after 110 years of exposure to the Minnesota elements including the freeze/thaw cycle. The top photo shows one of the six sculptures done by famous sculptor Daniel Chester French.



Minnesota Historical Society



Tom Olmscheid / MN House of Representatives

The Capitol has three domes, an inner masonry decorative dome, which can be seen from inside the Rotunda; a steel and brick (pictured here from the inside) middle dome that holds up the exterior lantern and gold finial on the top of the building, and a third dome of Georgia marble on the outside. Each is independent of one another. The exterior dome is the second largest self-supporting marble dome in the world.



Tom Olmscheid



Tom Olmscheid

The finial at the very top of the building is supported by a masonry “middle dome” that is not visible from the outside. The top photo shows a close up of the finial as it was re-gilded in 2011.

Restoration, repair, and conservation work was completed on decorative art (paint applied directly on plaster - mostly stencil work) and fine art (artwork painted on canvas) in the Capitol. The bottom photograph shows a decorative painter applying final touches to the decorations next to the large statuary group on the north wall of the House Chamber.



Minnesota Historical Society



Tom Olmscheid

This view of the House Chamber (top) in 1902 shows the block and clay tile walls before plaster was applied to finish the room. The open spaces at the top of the walls are where the public galleries were placed.

New electrical, phone, internet, and voting system cabling was installed for the members' desks in the House Chamber as part of technology upgrades. New carpet was fabricated to replicate historically correct patterns and colors.



Tom Olmscheid



Tom Olmscheid

A total of 57 fine art canvas murals and paintings were restored under the guidance of the Minnesota Historical Society. In the photos above, art movers transfer paintings to storage to allow interior restoration work to begin. These paintings and nine other framed or easel-type paintings were restored by highly skilled and expert conservators.

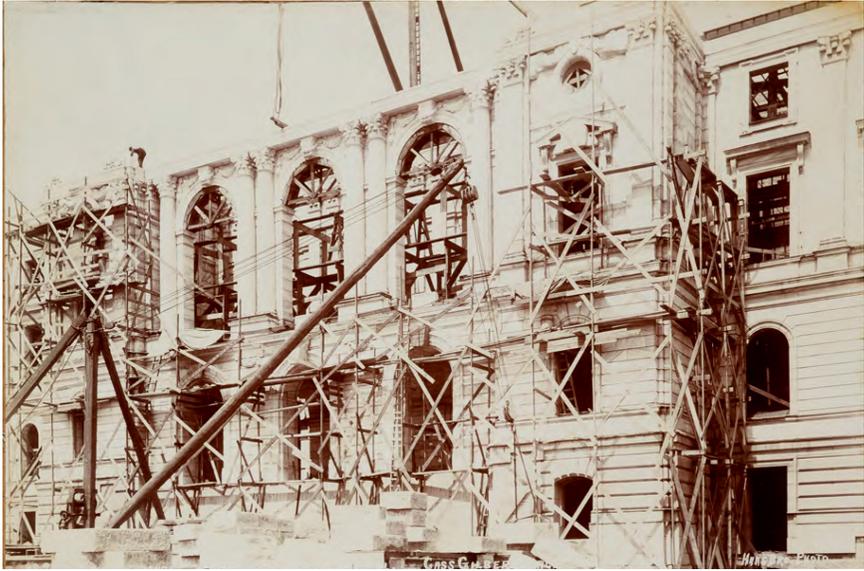


Minnesota Historical Society



Tom Olmscheid

Deterioration of the waterproofing of the building resulted in water infiltration into the Capitol, while crumbling structural walls supporting the steps required extensive repairs. Each solid granite tread on the front, east, and west steps to the Capitol was temporarily removed, stored, and then reinstalled back in its original location after foundation and waterproofing repairs were completed.



Minnesota Historical Society



Tom Olmscheid

Scaffolding was installed on one face of the building at a time to allow for stone investigation, repair, and replacement work. While the materials have changed and safety has improved, the basic concept of scaffolding as the best way to affect exterior repairs remains the same today as it was over 100 years ago. Some records indicate that six people died on the jobsite during the original construction of the Capitol.



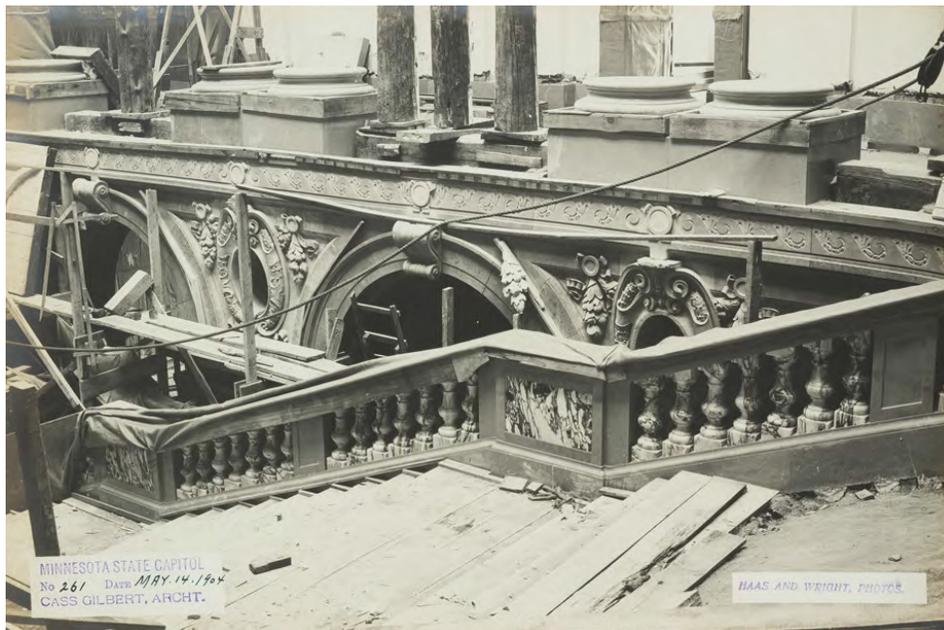
Tom Olmscheid

While construction work was in progress, the House of Representatives in 2015 held a special session in one of the committee rooms in the State Office Building.



Tom Olmscheid

Portions of the building remained occupied during construction. Temporary walls separated the building occupants from the adjacent ongoing construction work. With no other space available, the House DFL caucus met in the hallway outside the House chamber.



Minnesota Historical Society



Tom Olmscheid

In a photo dating from 1904, the Capitol's marble stairways are under construction.

Below, Governor Mark Dayton shakes hands after his 2015 State of the State address, with temporary walls closing off the marble stairway and Capitol rotunda from the House of Representatives.



Tom Olmscheid



Tom Olmscheid

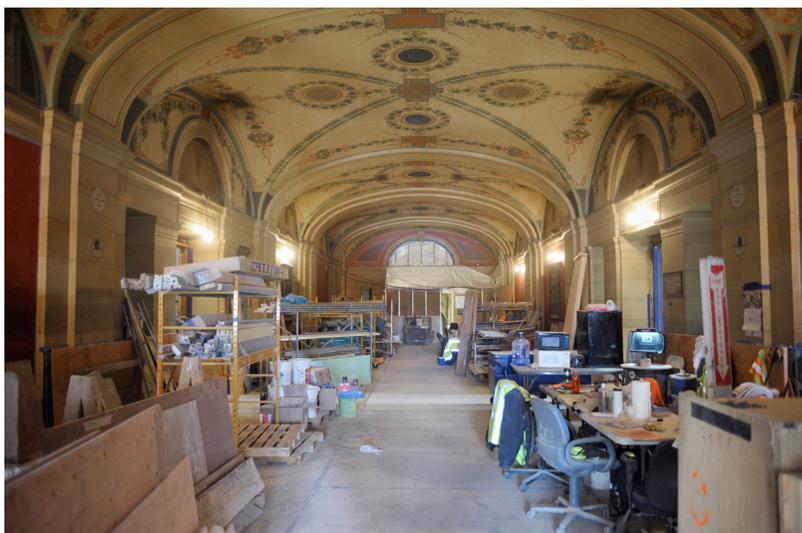
These two views, one looking up to the ceiling of the rotunda (top); and the other looking down to the first floor before repair and restoration work began (below).



Lighting restorers are shown rewiring the rotunda chandelier in 2012. The large light fixture is six foot in diameter, has 92 light bulbs over 48,000 glass beads and weighs approximately a ton. The chandelier is on an electric winch system that allows for it to be lowered for cleaning and maintenance.

Modern LED lighting with a vintage appearance has replaced old-fashioned bulbs throughout the Capitol building, saving energy and labor costs.

Tom Olmscheid / MN House of Representatives



Tom Olmscheid

At the peak of construction, as many as 400 construction workers were on site simultaneously. Shown here is a worker break area and materials storage on the first floor west corridor.



Minnesota Historical Society



Tom Olmscheid

Above, an unfinished Capitol office hallway in 1903. Below, workers have exposed the original hard wood floor of the offices in the Capitol.



Minnesota Historical Society

Shown is the Capitol in its completed state, except for the golden Quadriga. The Quadriga was placed in 1906, one year after the Capitol opened. The lower levels and stairs of the building (darker in color) were made of granite from central Minnesota. The remainder was marble quarried in Georgia and shipped to St. Paul. The photo also depicts Cass Gilbert's original vision, which inspired the Restoration plan, for the pedestrian promenade and landscaping.



Aurora Avenue, the asphalt street, and parking were removed from the south side of the building to create a pedestrian promenade to link the Capitol to the Upper and Lower Mall.

Tom Olmstead / MN House of Representatives



Tom Olmscheid

A view from “Progress of the State,” the Minnesota Capitol’s iconic Quadriga sculpture, designed by Daniel Chester French and Edward C. Potter.

Quadrigas were chariots drawn by four horses running astride one another. Quadrigas were commonly raced in Greece and Rome and in art generally connote triumph.