



TEXAS  
CAPITOL  
RESTORATION  
CELEBRATION  
APRIL ★ 1995



RESTORATION CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

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Former Governor Ann W. Richards, Honorary Chair

Mrs. George W. Bush, Chair • Mrs. Bob Bullock, Vice Chair • Mrs. James E. "Pete" Laney, Vice Chair

*D*ear Fellow Texans:

*Welcome home, Texas! It is my great pleasure to invite you to celebrate the success of the Texas Capitol Restoration. This extraordinary achievement offers an opportunity to take special pride in our State and our magnificent Texas Capitol.*

*George joins me in congratulating Governor Clements, Governor Richards, and the State Preservation Boards they chaired on this remarkable achievement. Their foresight and commitment have produced one of the finest restorations in the nation. We salute all of the contractors, architects, preservationists, and interested citizens of Texas whose perseverance and sense of Texas heritage made this project a reality.*

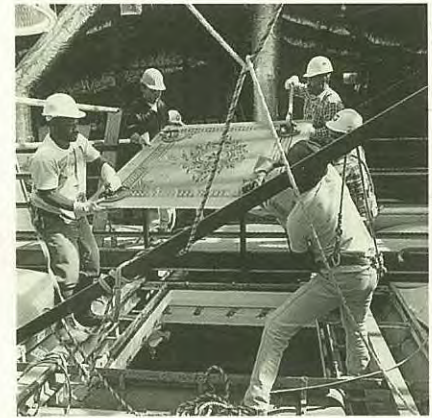
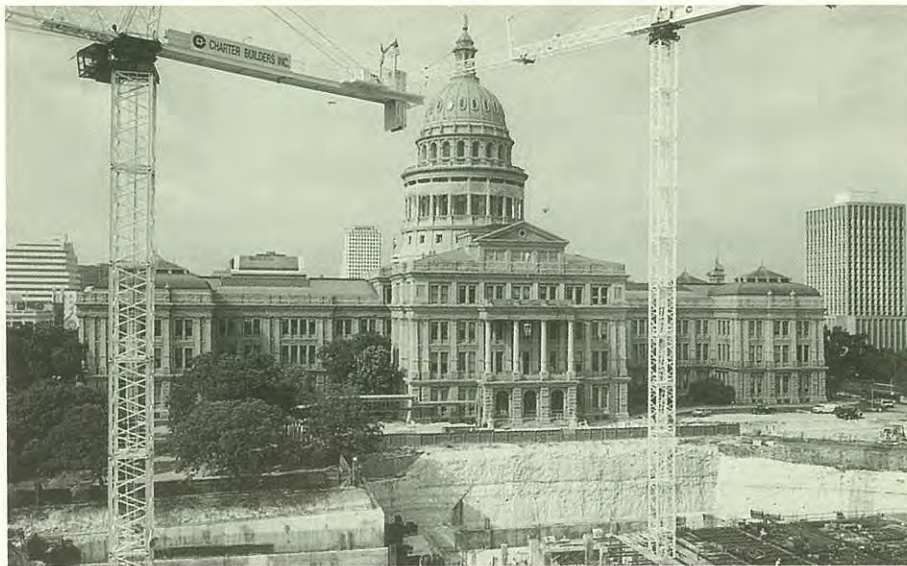
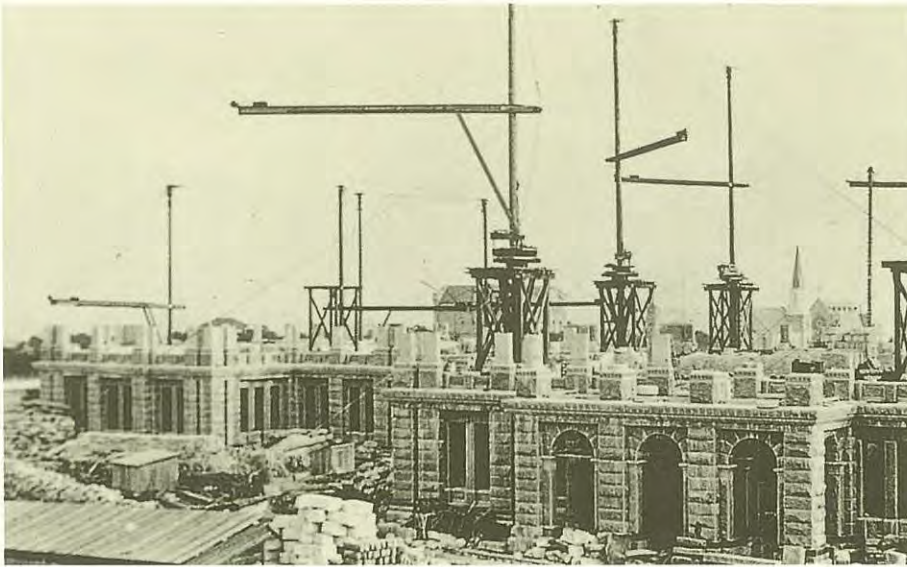
*On behalf of the Restoration Celebration Committee, I thank you for participating with the State Preservation Board in formally rededicating the Texas Capitol.*

*This grand structure represents the strength and beauty that is Texas, and it has now been carefully preserved as the seat of democratic government in Texas for generations to come.*

*Laura Bush*

First Lady of Texas

*Capitol Construction Begins 1880's*



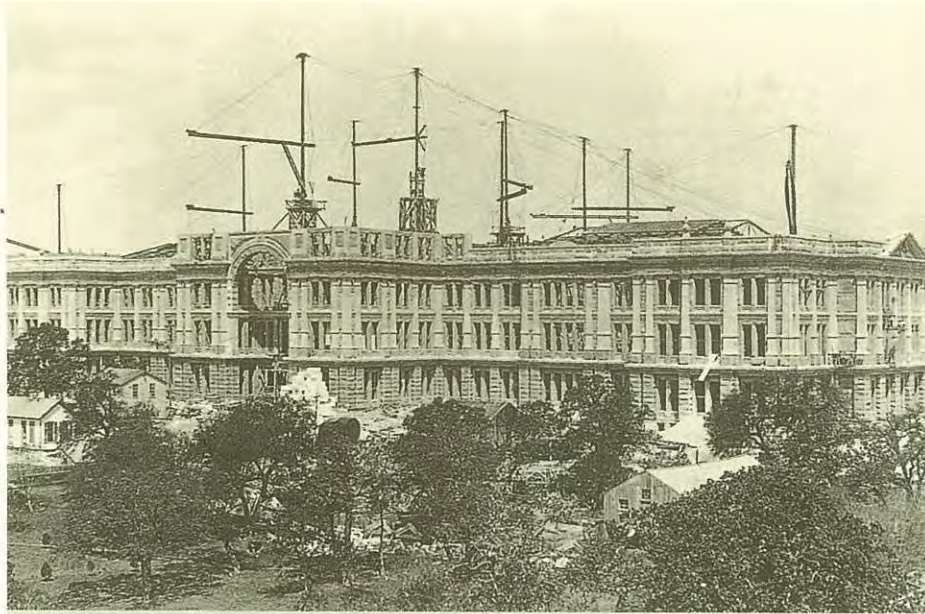
*Capitol Construction Begins 1990's*

The Texas Capitol, which stands majestically before us today, is the design of Elijah E. Myers, who won the nationwide design competition for the project in 1881. Mr. Myers, who also designed the Michigan and Colorado Capitols, was paid \$1,700 for the initial plan. The Capitol he designed replaced the first, rather plain limestone structure which had been built on the site in 1853. The 1853 Capitol burned to the ground in a dramatic fire as plans were underway for the grand new Capitol.

The Texas Legislature, in drafting the new State constitution in 1875, had set aside three million acres of public land in the Panhandle of Texas to fund the new Capitol. A syndicate based in Chicago was formed to build the Capitol and to develop the Panhandle lands that

were given in exchange. This acreage would become the famous XIT Ranch, portions of which the syndicate began selling in 1901.

Construction on the Texas Capitol began in February 1882. Capitol Architect E.E. Myers had agreed to several design changes, notably a switch from a square tower with a Mansard roof to a cast-iron dome similar to the dome on the National Capitol, which had been completed in the 1860's. The State had specified a fireproof building, which in the late 19th century usually meant a wrought-iron or cast-iron structural system covered in masonry. Myers specified limestone or sandstone for the exterior of the building, as the State wanted as much of the material as possible to come from Texas. When the limestone selected from a quarry southwest of Austin was found



*Capitol Construction 1880's and 1990's*

to discolor easily, the decision was made to use “sunset red” granite from what is now Marble Falls, Texas. Myers had to simplify many of the original details of his Renaissance Revival design since the softer limestone would have been easier to carve. Contractor Gus Wilke was eventually forced to import stonecutters from Scotland to cut and set the granite when a labor dispute arose.

The Texas Capitol is an impressive building by any measure. When the 360,000 square foot building was completed in 1888, it was claimed to be the seventh largest building in the world. Some 1,000 men worked every day for four years at the height of the project. The product of their labor stood 311 feet tall from the ground to the toes of the Goddess of Liberty; covered 2 1/4 acres; contained 392

rooms, 18 vaults, 924 windows, 404 doors, 4,000 railroad cars of granite, 11,000 railroad cars of limestone and other materials; and cost \$3,744,600 to build. It was also said to be taller than the National Capitol, although a carefully measured comparison has yet to be made.

When the Capitol opened to the public on San Jacinto Day, April 21, 1888, the departments of government were housed in the building, including the State Treasury, Comptroller, Agricultural Department, Geological Department, Department of Education, Capitol Police, Adjutant General's Department, Attorney General, Appellate Court, Supreme Court, and State Library. The new building was grand in its





*Capitol Construction 1880's and 1990's*

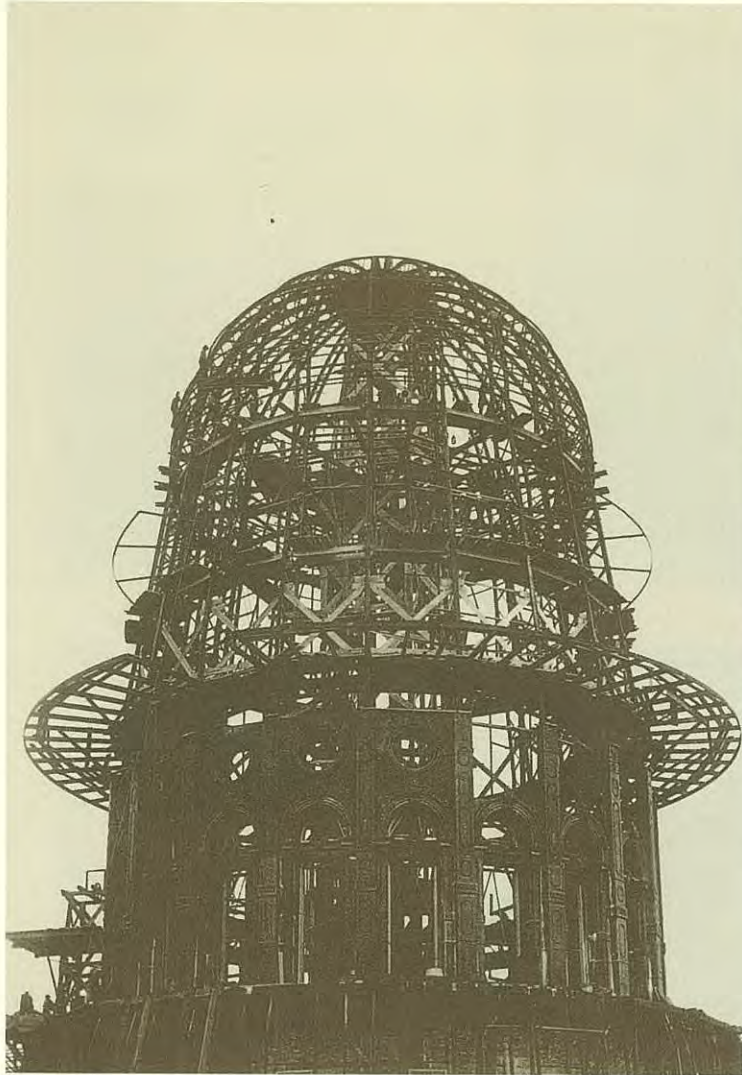
vision and design, but it was also capable of supporting the governmental functions needed at the time.

As the State and the government grew over the next century, the need for more people and more offices in the Capitol increased. Through the years, solutions to these problems developed in piecemeal fashion. The addition of walls, partitions, and mezzanines to divide many of the large spaces, as well as false ceilings to hide wiring and ductwork for electricity and air-conditioning, created safety and design problems in the building. The Capitol lost much of its interior grandeur and became structurally unsound, overcrowded, and threatened by the very real danger of fire.

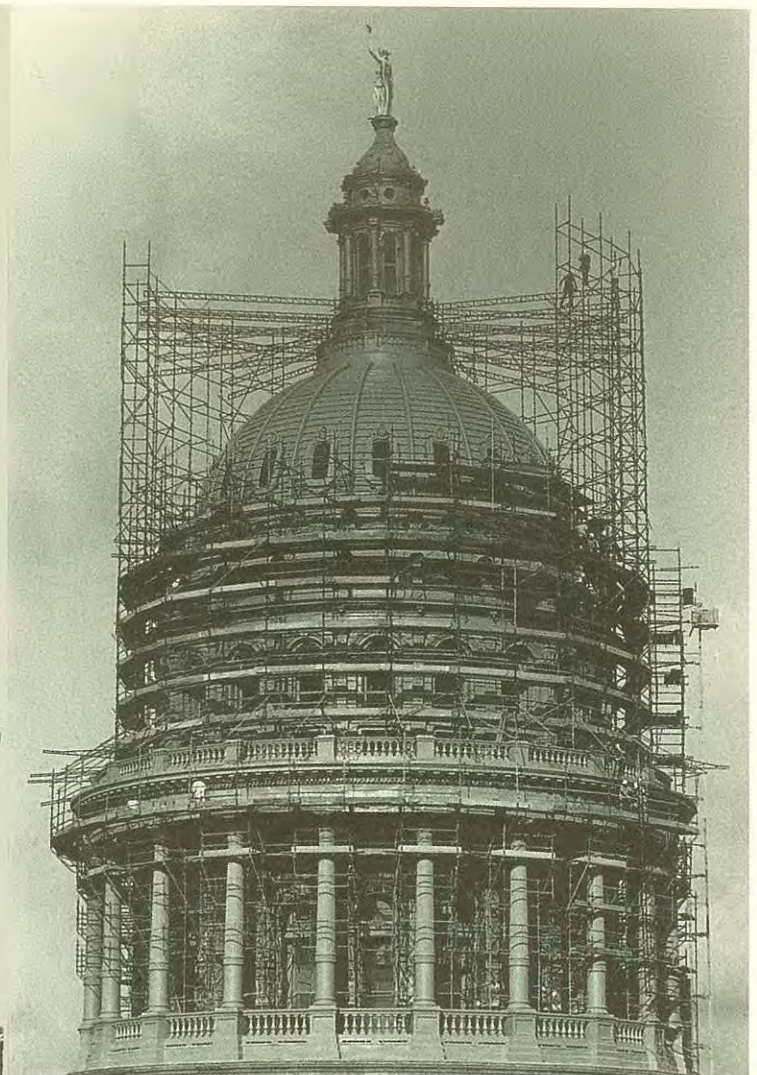
In February 1983, that danger became a reality. A fire in the East Wing focused attention on the many deficiencies that existed in the Capitol's mechanical, electrical, and fire safety systems. Fortunately, the Legislature recognized the unique architectural and historical qualities of the building. In 1983, the 68th Legislature created the State Preservation Board to "preserve, maintain, and restore the Capitol, General Land Office Building, and their contents and grounds."

One hundred years after the Capitol opened in 1888, the State Preservation Board, chaired by Governor William P. Clements, Jr., began developing the Texas Capitol Master Plan. The Master Plan included the concept of meeting the space requirements with an underground building to the north and of restoring the Capitol as





*Dome Construction 1880's*



*Dome Construction 1990's*

closely as possible to its original 1888 design. The 71st Legislature appropriated funds to support the project in 1989.

The Texas Capitol Preservation and Extension Project involved four different phases. In 1990, construction began on the new 620,000 square foot underground Capitol Extension, which opened in January 1993 and adds two floors of office and meeting space as well as two floors of parking. The restoration of the Old General Land Office Building began in 1990, was completed in 1993, and opened to the public in the spring of 1994 as the newly created Capitol Complex Visitors Center. In 1991, new Board Chairman Ann Richards and the State Preservation Board approved the plans for restoration of the Capitol exterior. Work began in May and was com-

pleted in the spring of 1993. As this work progressed, the State Preservation Board turned its attention to the comprehensive restoration of the Capitol interior. The Board contracted for the Capitol Interior Preservation Project and work began in August 1992.

To restore the entire building, the Capitol Restoration necessitated moving all occupants and eventually closing the building to the public from August 1993 to October 1994. All non-original walls, mezzanines, and lowered ceilings were demolished; asbestos and lead paint were removed; and original openings and finishes were restored. All systems, including mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection, and data, were updated and hidden in walls, in furniture-like room partitions, and above ceilings, allowing the original architecture to





*Capitol Construction Crew, 1880's (left)  
Contractors 1880's (right)*



*Construction Managers, 1993 (left)  
Capitol Construction Crew, 1993 (right)*



again be prominent. The project was completed on time and within budget.

The Capitol continues to function as the seat of government, housing the Governor, Senate, House of Representatives, Secretary of State, Texas Legislative Council, as well as the Legislative Reference Library. Ten Historically Significant Spaces were identified in the Master Plan for their historical and architectural importance to the building. Focusing on the period 1888 when the building was completed to 1915 when the first major remodeling began, the State Preservation Board curatorial staff has recreated these spaces using original Capitol furnishings and exact reproductions, as well as lighting, window treatments, and floor coverings of the period.

The 74th Legislature convened as scheduled on January 10, 1995, in the magnificently restored Texas Capitol. The Capitol is the most important building in Texas, important for its architecture, its history, and its function as the center of Texas government. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1986 for its "significant contribution to American History." Today, as Texans celebrate the successful restoration of their historic Capitol, they can take pride once again, as they did in 1888, in its beauty and grandeur. The Texas Capitol is a true Texas treasure that belongs to us all.



CAPITOL PRESERVATION & EXTENSION PROJECT  
1988 - 1995

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*David Stauch, Project Manager*  
*Bonnie Campbell, Curator*  
*Laurie Limbacher, AIA, Project Architect*  
*Darlene Marwitz, Historian/Furnishings Manager*  
*Charlynn Doering, Move Coordinator*  
*Walter Brown, Construction Manager*

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3D/International, Inc., and  
Ford, Powell & Carson, Inc.,  
A Joint Venture

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

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Spaw-Glass, Inc.  
Constructors & Associates, Inc.  
Charter Builders, Inc.

*Governor Mark Wells White developed the concept of a State Preservation Board in 1983. The State Preservation Board was created by action of the 68th Legislature. The Texas Capitol Restoration was funded in 1989 by the 71st Legislature, with additional funds appropriated in 1991 by the 72nd Legislature.*





SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TEXAS CAPITOL RESTORATION CELEBRATION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19TH

ALL DAY

“BUILD THE CAPITOL CONTEST”

The ten winning seventh grade Texas History classes visit the Capitol for a special day of activities.

*Sponsored by the State Preservation Board and Southwest Airlines.*

THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH

ALL DAY

RETURNING MEMBERS DAY

Former members of the Texas Legislature visit the Legislature and the Texas Capitol.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21ST

12:00 Noon

TEXAS CAPITOL REDEDICATION CEREMONY  
SOUTH CAPITOL GROUNDS

WELCOME	First Lady Laura Bush <i>Restoration Celebration Chair</i>
OPENING PRAYER	The Reverend John R. Pitts <i>Chaplain to the Senate</i> <i>Rector, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Austin</i>
“STAR SPANGLED BANNER”	Rhonda Harmon
REMARKS & INTRODUCTION	The Honorable Bob Bullock <i>Lieutenant Governor of Texas</i> <i>Vice Chairman, State Preservation Board</i>
REMARKS	The Honorable William P. Clements, Jr. <i>Restoration Celebration Honorary Chair</i>
REMARKS & INTRODUCTION	The Honorable James E. “Pete” Laney <i>Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives</i> <i>Vice Chairman, State Preservation Board</i>
REMARKS	The Honorable Ann W. Richards <i>Restoration Celebration Honorary Chair</i>
REDEDICATION SPEECH	The Honorable George W. Bush <i>Governor of Texas</i> <i>Chairman, State Preservation Board</i>
“TEXAS OUR TEXAS”	Rhonda Harmon

HONOR GUARD: *Texas A&M Ross Volunteers*    MUSIC: *The University of Texas Longhorn Band*



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TEXAS CAPITOL RESTORATION CELEBRATION

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FRIDAY, APRIL 21ST

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AFTERNOON ENTERTAINMENT

- 1:30 P.M. Susan Grisanti • *Capitol Rotunda*  
2:30 P.M. Austin Scottish Dancers • *Open Air Rotunda*  
3:00 P.M. Lee High School Brigadiers • *Great Walk*

7:30 P.M. TEXAS MUSIC NIGHT AT THE CAPITOL  
SOUTH CAPITOL GROUNDS

The Guadalupe Dance Company  
The Dallas-Fort Worth Mass Choir  
*Texas, A Musical Romance of Panhandle History*  
Terry McBride and The Ride

SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND

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10:00 A.M. CAPITOL REDEDICATION PARADE  
CONGRESS AVENUE THROUGH THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

12:00 NOON - AFTERNOON ENTERTAINMENT  
SOUTH CAPITOL GROUNDS

The Boerne Village Band  
The Austin Banjo Club  
The Lone Star Kids

8:00 P.M. THE AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN CONCERT  
SOUTH CAPITOL GROUNDS

Finale with laser light show and fireworks  
*Underwritten by The Chevron Companies*

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.  
Food and souvenirs available on the Capitol Grounds  
Capitol tours 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.





“*T*EXAS STANDS PEERLESS AMID THE MIGHTY, AND HER BROW IS CROWNED WITH BEWILDERING MAGNIFICENCE! THIS BUILDING FIRES THE HEART AND EXCITES REFLECTIONS IN THE MINDS OF ALL.”

SENATOR TEMPLE HOUSTON, YOUNGEST SON OF SAM HOUSTON - MAY 16, 1888





## CAPITOL DEDICATION CEREMONY

EXCERPTS FROM SENATOR TEMPLE HOUSTON'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

MAY 16, 1888

The greatest of states commissions me to say that she accepts this building, and henceforth it shall be the habitation of her government. When the title to the noblest edifice upon this hemisphere thus passes from the builder to Texas, reason ordains a brief reference to the deeds and times that eventuate in this occasion. Texas has changed the site of her government oftener than any other state in this union, or any nation on this side of the globe. Prior to the transfer to this building the site of government of Texas has been changed eleven times. She (Texas) has a history all her own, wild, romantic, heroic. Minstrel's lay never told of deeds more daring than her sons have wrought, nor ever in castle hall hath harp or bard hymned praise of purer faith than that her legends bear. Child of storms, the nursling of revolutions, the twilight of her history made her soil the battlefield of freedom, her children the crusaders of liberty. Situated at a remote angle of the gulf, mid way between the Aztec empire and the valley of Mississippi, she for a while felt neither that spirit of Spanish conquest which laid in the dust at a blow the throne of Montezuma and the empire of the Incas, nor that gentle spirit of colonization which marked the footsteps of France and Britain upon this continent.

The people of Texas are indebted to United States Senator Charles B. Farwell and his brother John V. Farwell, of the firm of John V. Farwell & Co., of Chicago, and Colonel Abner Taylor, not only for the best statehouse in the United States, but more especially for bringing our public lands into worldwide notice, by agreeing to build the house for the 3,000,000 acres set aside for that purpose. The syndicate, because they have obtained 3,000,000 acres of the best land in Texas, and will in due time cover them with prosperous farmers and increase the wealth of the state by hundreds of millions of dollars, instead of leaving them for the free use of foreign cattle companies whose earnings would not have remained in the state.

Every true and honest Texan must rejoice that the Farwells have found a way to turn our previously useless land into such a state monument as we are this day dedicating, and that they must from self-interest—if no other motive—cover these lands with farmers, as soon as railroads have opened them up. From every point of view, therefore, I say emphatically, as a true friend of Texas, whatever may have been thought by critics, that we have but done better than any of us thought, and the Farwells are justly entitled to our thanks, and this celebra-





*Capitol Dedication, 1888*

tion by this vast concourse of our citizens is the best expression of our feeling toward the men who have made it possible. This magnificent building will speak of their skill thousands of years after we have ceased to speak.

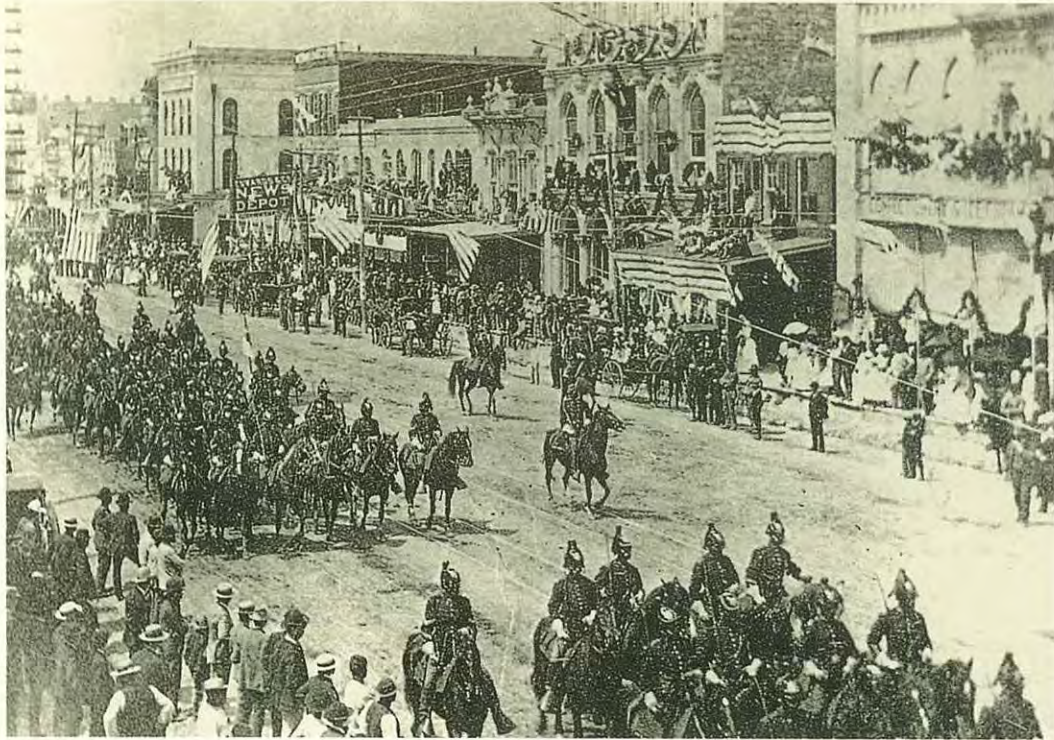
In 1852, by the sale of her title to New Mexico, Texas occupied the capitol which was destroyed by fire in 1881. Let us not pass lightly by that old structure. Its halls knew so much of the grief and glory of Texas, so much of her splendor and her sorrow, and so often saw her destinies alternately flit between triumph and ruin. Within the walls of that old capitol, whose buried foundations rest yonder, the government of Texas was administered for twenty-eight years. Beneath its roof were assembled thirteen legislatures and four constitutional conventions.

Let the fiends who wait upon the lost hiss their hate and shriek their curses in the ear of him who would plot the dismemberment of Texas. Today is an era in our history: The survivors of the early struggles who view this building realize that all which they did was not in vain. Texas stands peerless amid the mighty, and her brow is crowned with bewildering magnificence! This building fires the heart and excites reflections in the minds of all. It stands alone the haughtiest type of modern civilization.

In other lands the hand of man hath reared walls as stately as these and pierced the sky in prouder heights. The architecture of a civilization is its most enduring feature, and by this structure shall Texas transmit herself to posterity, for here science has done her utmost. The quarry has given its granite and marble, and the mines have yielded their brass and iron, and an empire has been passed as an equivalent for this house. All that enlightenment and art could do has been done. Were I to repress the reflections that occur to me now, I would be untrue to my convictions and to this occasion. It would seem that here glitters a structure that shall stand as a sentinel of eternity, to gaze upon passing ages, and, surviving, shall mourn as each separate star expires. Were we to feel thus, precedent would justify us. Those who builded the Pyramids thought the Egyptian empire eternal; those who reared the Colosseum boasted that it was a pledge that Rome was everlasting. More solemn lessons are taught at our own doors. Great races have swept o'er this continent like waves o'er the bosom of the deep, and left traces almost as faint.

What is the date, the origin, the fate, of those mysterious civilizations that have vanished forever in the forests of Mexico and Central America, and that flee from the searcher like those illusive lights that flash and fade above the silent tomb? They were our predecessors.





*Capitol Dedication Parade down Congress Avenue, 1888*

Shall oblivion fling her darkening pall over us? Ah! we are but one of the vast procession of races which it was decreed should pass across this hemisphere. We have no right to say that our own is the first or the last of those civilizations whose impress it was ordained this continent should feel.

More than once the world has lost and resumed civilization. If our civilization possesses the elements of perpetuity it differs from any of its predecessors. If the lessons of the past have not been taught in vain, they tell us that the future holds in hand an hour when the curious antiquarian shall wander through the roofless chambers amid the shattered arches and fallen columns of all their imperial magnificence, and ask when were these walls reared—was this edifice, palace or prison, tomb or temple? Does it seem impossible? The destruction of public virtue caused the decline of other civilizations, but does our civilization carry with it the means of its perpetuation? Under certain conditions it may. It possesses characteristics that mark none of its predecessors and particularly can this be said of the state of Texas.

The civilization of Texas, of which this proud capitol is one of the voices that shall speak to after ages, is beneficent. The form of our government is the creation of an expressed wish of the people whom it affects. The officers are elected and are the servants, not rulers, of the people. We have no obligatory form of worship, our rights of free speech have no limitation; before our laws all men are equal; our government is a subject of criticism, not of hideous dread. Our armies and fleets are for the protection, not oppression, of the people. Our institutions enjoin an education of the masses and assume that the government is not the heritage of one man, but the property of the people. Texas says to whomsoever casts his home within her benignant realms, she tenders his offspring an education without money and without price. This education is given to whatever child that abides within her border.

This noble edifice is a fit seat for such a government. It and the features of our civilization are all we can leave our posterity, and even should they prove unworthy of our bequest, we can at least pass from life's stage with the proud reflection that we leave behind us a purer civilization and a nobler edifice than has been bequeathed to us by preceding ages.



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CAPITOL RESTORATION PROJECT

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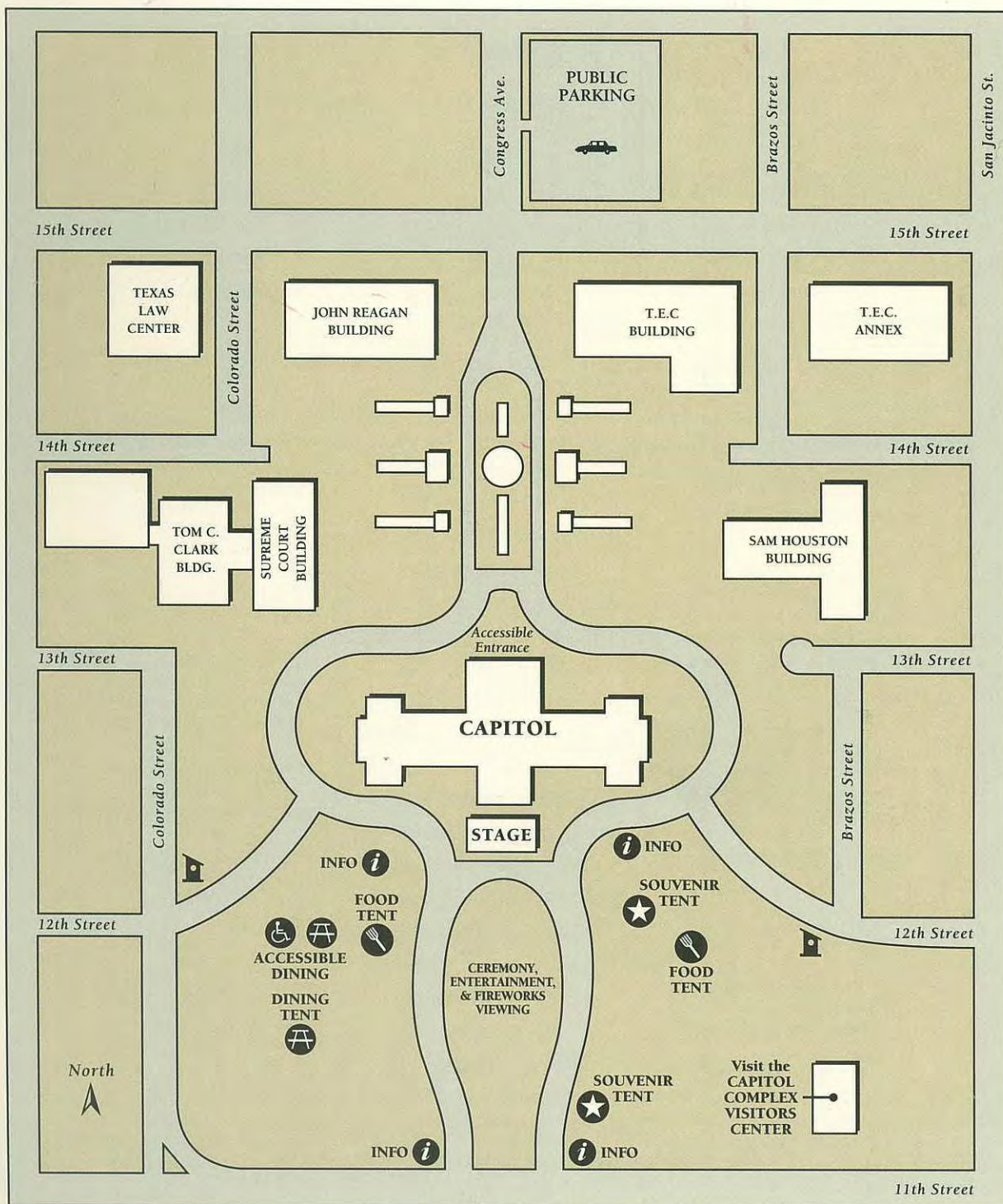
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*The State Preservation Board gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Major Donors to the Capitol Restoration Project. Their donations made possible the restoration of the interiors of the Historically Significant Spaces, as well as educational programming and the Endowment for Future Preservation.*

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