

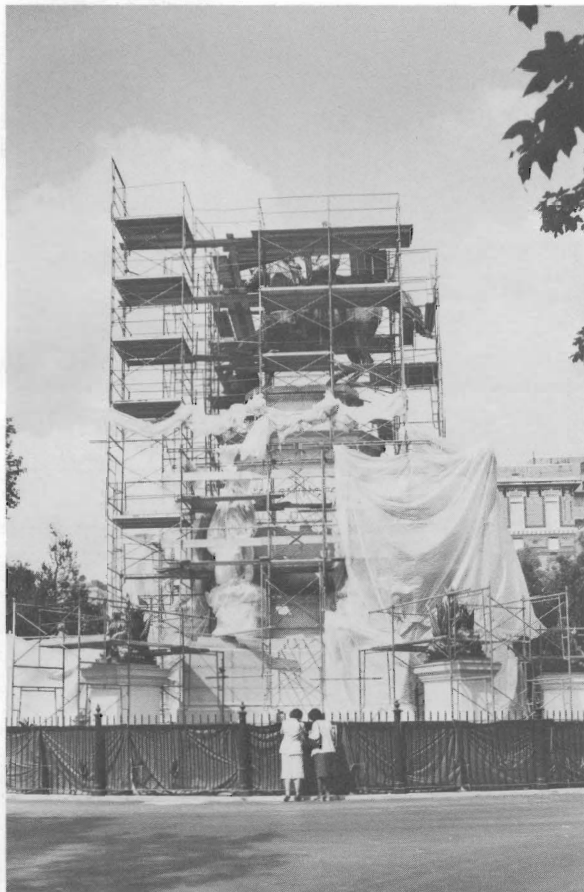
State Undertakes Rehabilitation of Landmarks in Capitol Square Area

Several prominent state-owned landmarks in the Capitol Square area are currently undergoing rehabilitation, giving a new look to the neighborhood. Most conspicuous of the projects is the cleaning and restoration of the **Washington Monument** in the square itself. The monument, the masterpiece of sculptor Thomas Crawford, was inspected by metallurgists two years ago who found its bronze statues to be suffering serious corrosion. Metal loss in some areas had extended to a depth of an eighth of an inch. An unfortunate side-effect of the corrosion was the disfiguring blotchy green and black coloring the statues had acquired. On the advice of Ray Lindberg, a retired metallurgist from Reynolds Metals Company, the General Assembly appropriated funds for the cleaning and repatinizing of the statues. The work is being conducted by a team of conservators from Washington University Technical Associates of St. Louis under the direction of Phoebe Dent Weil. Restoration consists of removing the green corrosion and repatinizing the metal using a process that will give the statues the original golden brown color intended by the artist and noted in contemporary

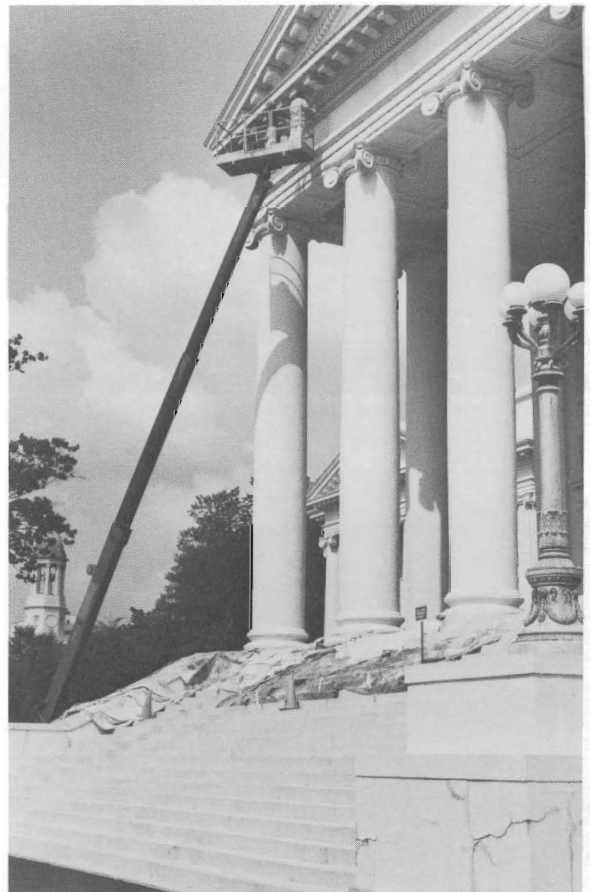
descriptions. The same treatment was given to the smaller statues in Capitol Square a year ago. Included in this year's project is the restoration of the equestrian statue of **Robert E. Lee** on Monument Avenue which is also owned by the state. All of the statues have been placed on an annual maintenance schedule by the Division of Engineering and Buildings to prevent further corrosion. The Washington Monument contains thirteen separate sculptures including the famous equestrian statue of Washington, and is regarded as one of the nation's most important works of American art.

Immediately adjacent to the Washington Monument, the **Virginia State Capitol** designed by Thomas Jefferson, is having its stuccoed walls repaired and repainted. The project, directed by local architect James Scott Rawlings, will eliminate the unsightly cracks that have developed in the wall surface. In the repainting, the color is being changed from the pale battleship gray that the Capitol has had for many years to a warmer buff color that more closely resembles a natural stucco.

Corroded bronze statues of the Washington Monument undergo cleaning and repatinizing.



The State Capitol's stuccoed walls are being repaired and repainted.

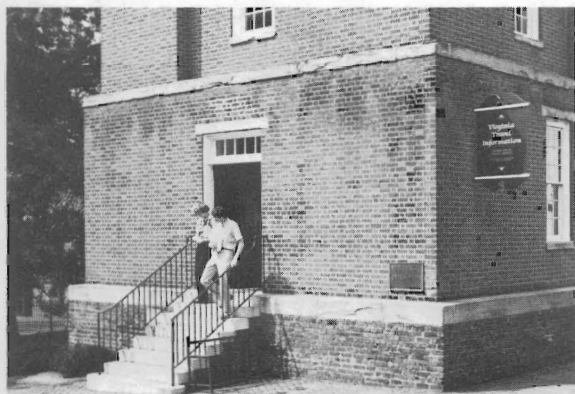


A small-scale project, but one that is significant for the many visitors to Capitol Square, is the remodeling of the interior of the **Bell Tower** of 1824 which stands in the southwest corner of the square. Previously, the Bell Tower had served as a temporary office for the Lieutenant Governor but is now being used as the Virginia State Travel Service information center. In its new role, the tower is being visited by scores of tourists weekly where they receive material on Virginia's many historic, scenic, and recreational attractions. The interior design work was provided by Jack Thompson of Richmond.

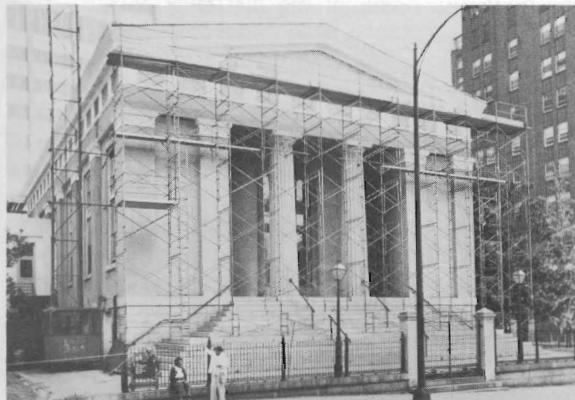


After being threatened with demolition for over a decade, renovation has finally commenced on the **Old First Baptist Church** located one block from Capitol Square on Broad Street in the Medical College of Virginia complex. The church, designed by the nationally prominent architect, Thomas U. Walter, ranks among Virginia's outstanding examples of the Greek Revival style. Funds authorized for the building's demolition were diverted to its renovation when it was decided not to use the First Baptist site for a new pharmacology building. Phase one of the renovation is in progress and consists of exterior and structural repair only. Phase two, which will probably begin next year, will restore the interior as a student center with an upgraded cafeteria on the ground floor. Except for the pews, most of the original interior architectural features survive and will be preserved. The architects of the project are SWA of Richmond.

The Bell Tower now serves as the Virginia State Travel Service information center.



The exterior of the Old First Baptist Church is being restored.

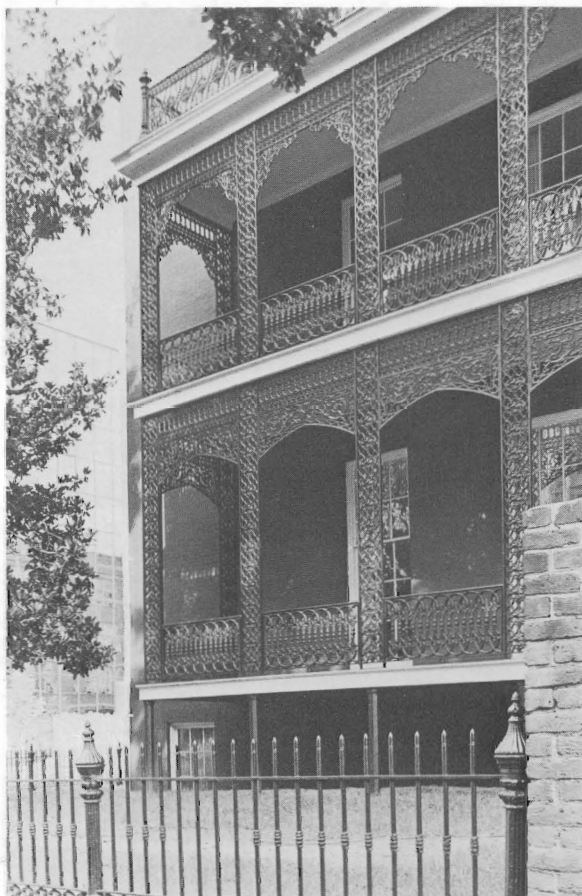


An interesting project, also in the Medical College complex, is the recently completed restoration of the **Putney Houses**, two very fine Italianate townhouses erected in 1859 at the corner of Marshall and 11th Streets. The corner dwelling, graced by an exceptionally ornate two-tiered cast-iron veranda, now houses administrative offices as well as the offices of the MCV Foundation. In the restoration of the house next door it was discovered beneath layers of paint and wallpaper that the walls of the large first-floor parlor were originally decorated with *trompe l'oeil* painted architectural panels. Because the original paint was too disfigured to restore, it was decided to repaint the panels exactly and have the parlor serve as a conference room rather than to divide it into offices. The painting was executed by artisans of the firm of Lewis E. Ferguson & Son of Richmond; the architectural work was done by SWA also of Richmond. For this restoration project, Virginia Commonwealth University (of which the Medical College is a Division) was given the Historic Richmond Foundation's 1982 Preservation Award.



The Putney House parlor has its original trompe l'oeil panels repaired.

Famous cast-iron veranda on the corner Putney House gets repairs during recent restoration.



Our Cover

The picture on the cover, dated January, 1858, is the earliest known photograph showing Crawford's equestrian statue of Washington in place at Capitol Square. Cast in bronze from Crawford's plaster model at the Royal Bavarian Foundry at Munich, the eighteen-ton statue has just been hoisted onto its marble pedestal and anchored into place under the supervision of Captain Charles Dimmock, Engineer. The men on the scaffolding have ascended to their lookout above the approving spectators by way of an interior spiral staircase, also of Crawford's design. The unknown photographer apparently climbed to the roof of the Capitol in order to capture this image of the monument, looking west toward the intersection of 9th and Grace Streets.

Clearly visible in the far left background is St. Peter's Church, erected in 1834 as the first cathedral of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. Directly behind the Washington Monument is the St. Clair Hotel complex, a 19th-century hostelry demolished in 1902 to make way for the Hotel Richmond, which now serves as the Commonwealth's Ninth Street Office Building. The three-story, five-bay, brick structure standing on the present site of the General Assembly Building was the residence of Mann S. Valentine, father of the founder of the Valentine Museum.

Earlier that winter, a team of some 500 men and boys pulled the crated bronze figure to the Square all the way from the city dock at 17th Street, mounting the steep hill by 9th Street to Broad, then east to 10th and south to the monument site. Only the statues of Henry and Jefferson were in place at the official dedication on February 22, 1858. Mason arrived in June, 1858. Crawford's Marshall was stored in Europe during the Civil War and put in place, with Randolph Rogers' bronze figures of Nelson and Lewis, in June, 1867, when the iron fence was also erected. In August, 1868, the monument was completed by the addition of allegorical figures beneath each of the secondary statues.

Photograph from the Library of Congress, courtesy of the Valentine Museum. See article on pp. 18-19.



Virginia's Coat of Arms

Beginning with this issue of *Notes*, the title page will be illustrated with Virginia's official coat of arms, formally granted to the Commonwealth by Queen Elizabeth II during her visit to Virginia in July, 1976. The design of the coat of arms is based on that used by the Virginia Company of London in the early 17th century.



Archaeology Staff Moves to Yorktown

Careful readers of the title page will have noted a new address for the Commission's Research Center for Archaeology. Last September the Commission's archaeologists left the campus of the College of William and Mary and moved into newly renovated space at the State's Victory Center in Yorktown.

In addition to office space, the Victory Center quarters provide ample room to store artifact collections and to operate a laboratory. The Victory Center also provides an opportunity to mount archaeological exhibits for the touring public: currently there is an exhibit on the York River Shipwreck Project on display.

The Commission looks forward to a continuing association with the Victory Center.



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