

NEWS RELEASE

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History Channel Films Restoration of Virginia's Capitol Building ~ Capitol Restoration and Extension Project To Be Featured in Upcoming Documentary ~

RICHMOND, VA – On Wednesday, February 22, The History Channel will film Virginia's Capitol building and the restoration and renovation efforts that have been underway for almost three years. The project will be featured on the History Channel in an upcoming episode of the *Save Our History* series, which will focus on Thomas Jefferson's life as an architect.

The almost two days of filming will include the Capitol's interior and exterior renovation, construction of the underground extension and a series of interviews about the design concepts applied by the Commonwealth to enhance and preserve this historic building. Hosted by Steve Thomas, formerly of "This Old House" the documentary will highlight four of Thomas Jefferson's building designs; the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond, his retreat home at Poplar Forest in Bedford County, the University of Virginia, and his home at Monticello in Charlottesville.

First occupied in 1788, the Capitol was designed by Thomas Jefferson. Designated a National Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places this is the first major renovation to the Capitol since the addition of the wings and the steps on the South Portico in 1904 -1906. The Capitol Restoration and Extension Project is part of a series of renovations and improvements that have been made to Virginia's Capitol Square that include the Oliver W. Hill Building and the Patrick Henry Building which is currently serving as the location of the 2006 General Assembly Session.

The \$83.1 million Capitol Restoration and Extension Project includes the renovation and restoration of both the exterior and interior, and the construction of a 27,000 square foot extension under the south lawn. Upon completion in late 2006 the Capitol will have new mechanical and electrical systems; a new roof, elevators, stairwells, and legislative meeting space; the building will be fully accessible and ADA compliant providing many features for the disabled; the legislative chambers and Rotunda will have been restored to their original color and décor of the time period; and there will be a new visitor entrance at Tenth and Bank Streets with a new visitor center in the underground extension providing educational and museum exhibits. The History Channel will be filming in Virginia through March. The documentary is slated to air on June 17th, 8PM, EST on The History Channel. For information about the Capitol Restoration and Extension Project go to www.VirginiaCapitol.gov.

Special Note to Reporters:
If you would like to schedule an interview with the host Steve Thomas he will be available on
Wednesday, February 22 between 12:30 p.m. and 1:15 p.m.
Please call for appointment and location.

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