



DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2004

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### **Archeologists Note Historical Significance in Finding State Capitol's Original Foundation ~ Virginia Makes Efforts to Preserve State Capitol's Past ~**

RICHMOND, VA – Starting Monday morning on June 21 the Virginia Department of General Services (DGS) will work with The Louis Berger Group, Inc. to uncover the original foundation of the Virginia State Capitol. There will be an excavation area approximately five feet deep located at the northwest corner of the building with the expectation of locating some of the building's original footings.

In 1785, building began on the Virginia State Capitol before Thomas Jefferson's original plans arrived. The political environment influenced the early initiation of constructing the foundation prior to receiving Jefferson's plans and as a result the foundation was not consistent with Jefferson's design for the structure. Therefore, the original foundation was rebuilt to support today's present Capitol building. Archaeologists believe some or part of the original building foundation can be located and preserved.

"DGS is taking great care to make sure that this irreplaceable archeological resource is not lost," said Charles LeeDecker, Principal Archeologist and Project Manager.

During the excavation for the building's foundation archeologists will also look for other notable items. Since this area was occupied by Native Americans and Colonial settlers there is a possibility of finding other historical artifacts such as ceramics or stone tools.

"It is our [DGS] job to make sure this renovation project meets the Commonwealth's needs," said James T. Roberts, Director of the Department of General Services. "But it is just as important to make sure we preserve historical artifacts. That is exactly what we are doing by bringing in archeologists to find the original footings of this building."

**(MORE)**

Throughout the renovation and restoration of the Capitol The Louis Berger Group, Inc. will be monitoring and investigating the construction site to ensure the appropriate steps are taken should any historical artifacts be discovered. The Louis Berger Group, Inc., an international consulting firm, offers professional services in the areas of engineering, program management, planning, environmental sciences, cultural resources, information services, economics, policy and management analysis, and construction management and support. Originally founded in 1953 The Louis Berger Group, Inc. has an international reputation with offices across the nation and throughout the world.

If you would like more information about the Capitol Restoration and Extension Project or more information about the other renovation projects in Capitol Square log on to [www.dgs.virginia.gov](http://www.dgs.virginia.gov).

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