

NEWS RELEASE

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June 15, 2006

History Channel to Air Program Featuring Virginia's Capitol Restoration Project ~ Documentary Explores Thomas Jefferson's Architectural Achievements ~

RICHMOND, VA – The restoration of Virginia's Capitol building will make its primetime world debut premiering in a documentary this weekend on The History Channel.

Airing on Saturday, June 17, at 8:00 p.m. the Virginia Capitol Restoration and Extension Project will be featured in a documentary entitled "Jefferson's Other Revolution." Hosted by Steve Thomas, formerly of "This Old House," the documentary will examine the private versus the public Jefferson as reflected through his architectural achievements. Part of the *Save Our History* series, it will highlight the Virginia State Capitol's massive renovation, Jefferson's first public building designed while in Paris in 1785; Poplar Forest in Bedford County, Jefferson's hideaway retreat; and the University of Virginia, Jefferson's last major architectural endeavor designed in 1817.

The History Channel visited Virginia in February and filmed for two days at the Virginia Capitol. Filming at the Capitol included the interior and exterior renovation, construction of the 27,000 square foot underground extension, and a series of interviews about the design concepts applied by the Commonwealth to enhance and preserve this historic building.

Designed by Thomas Jefferson and first occupied in 1788, the Virginia State Capitol is a National Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This \$98.9 million renovation 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 newly renovated Capitol, scheduled for completion in late 2006, will have new mechanical and electrical systems; a new roof, elevators, stairwells, and legislative meeting space; full accessibility for the disabled; the original color and décor of the time period in the legislative chambers and Rotunda; a new visitor entrance at Tenth and Bank Streets; and a new visitor center providing educational and museum exhibits.

Premiering on The History Channel at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 17 "Jefferson's Other Revolution" will have an encore presentation at 12:00 a.m. and on Sunday, June 18 at 9:00 a.m. The documentary is part of the *Save Our History* series which is a national history and preservation initiative that raises awareness and support for preserving local heritage.

For more information about the Capitol Restoration and Extension Project go to www.VirginiaCapitol.gov. For more about the *Save Our History* series go to www.SaveOurHistory.com.

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