



TEXAS
CAPITOL

RESTORATION

CELEBRATION

APRIL ★ 1995

EVENTS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

A CELEBRATION OF TEXAS

STUDENTS: Ten winning seventh grade Texas History classes of the "Build the Capitol" contest will be brought to Austin for a day at the Capitol.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

Former Members of the Texas Legislature return to celebrate the Capitol.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

CAPITOL REDEDICATION

CEREMONY: Formal rededication of the Capitol 107 years after the Capitol first opened to the public, San Jacinto Day 1888.

TEXAS MUSIC AT THE CAPITOL:

An evening of Texas music will be held on the Capitol Grounds.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

THE CAPITOL PARADE: Parade up Congress Avenue to the Capitol. Food booths and entertainment will follow on the Capitol Grounds.

AUSTIN SYMPHONY CONCERT:

An evening of "pops" and patriotic music on the Capitol Grounds.

Exact times and details of events to be announced.

THE TEXAS CAPITOL in Austin is every

Texan's second home. The magnificent pink granite structure first opened to the public on San Jacinto Day 1888, and the first major renovations to this late-Victorian masterwork began in 1915. ★ In 1983, the Texas Legislature established the State Preservation Board to preserve, maintain and restore the Capitol, the 1857 General Land Office Building, their historical contents and their grounds. ★ In 1989, a Master Plan identified the most historically significant spaces in the Capitol. In 1991, the Capitol Historical Furnishings Plan was developed to further the detailed restoration of ten of these spaces by recreating the interiors to their original 1888-1915 appearance. ★ Today, the State Preservation Board has utilized original bid documents, archival photographs, newspaper descriptions and other documentation to recreate these early interiors. The Board has restored hundreds of pieces of original furnishings and art in the Capitol's Historical Artifact Collection and returned them to their historic locations. Expert craftspeople have created exact reproductions of original furniture to replace pieces that were no longer in the Capitol Collection. Carpeting, draperies and lighting have been faithfully reproduced to complete the interiors. ★ The Texas Capitol's return to its original splendor is the most comprehensive restoration of its kind in the country — a fitting tribute to the architects, engineers, contractors, craftspeople, corporate and individual supporters, and all the fine citizens of Texas who made this historic event possible. ★ The time has come for all Texans to revisit, or perhaps visit for the very first time, their rightful second home in Austin. Come join the Texas Capitol Restoration Celebration, April 19-22, 1995, throughout the Capital City. ★ Welcome home, Texas.



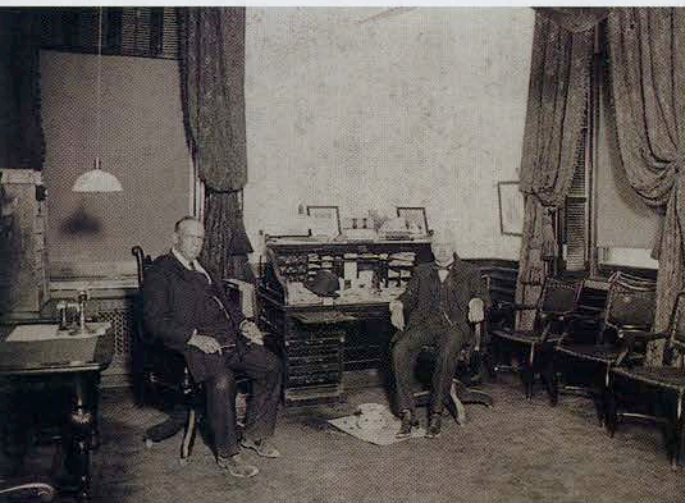
Governor's Office



Officials recently found this original 1889 mahogany Governor's desk at the Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historical Park and restored it to its original Capitol location. The desk retains most of its original brass hardware, its carved drawers and its hidden pull-out mirror.



Restored to its c. 1910 appearance, one of the room's most striking features is the spiral-patterned carpet, an exact reproduction of the original 1889 wool version. The pattern appears modern, yet such designs were popular a century ago.



The original Governor's Office on the Capitol's first floor was furnished sparsely, but beautifully. Today, this room has been meticulously restored. Around 1935, Governor James V. Allred moved the official Governor's Office to the second floor, directly above the original space. In 1963, Governor John Connally moved the office to its present location on the second floor.

Legislative Reference Library



When the old Capitol burned in 1881, the fire destroyed most of the State Library collection, leaving few books for the new State Library in 1888. Today, many of the early Library furnishings still survive, including the double-stack shelving as well as several tables, oak bookcases, magazine stands and display cases.



All of the Capitol's original wood furniture was supplied by A.H. Andrews & Co. of Chicago for a grand total of \$50,000. Capitol officials ordered several five-foot-wide, 92-inch-tall bookcases, like the one pictured here, for use in the Library.



The large shuttered windows and a light well in the ceiling once again allow light to filter into the c. 1915 restored Library. A central section of glass block flooring in the room helps illuminate the corridor below. Four original brass chandeliers provided the only source of artificial light in the historical space. They were faithfully reproduced for the restored room.

Treasury

The Treasurer's Business Office originally functioned as the State Bank of Texas. Vaults at the north end of the room (visible in this photograph) housed the monies, securities and other legal tender.



This large, cast-iron perforator is original to the Treasury. Its sole purpose was to validate a check by punching the paper with the appropriate dollar amount.

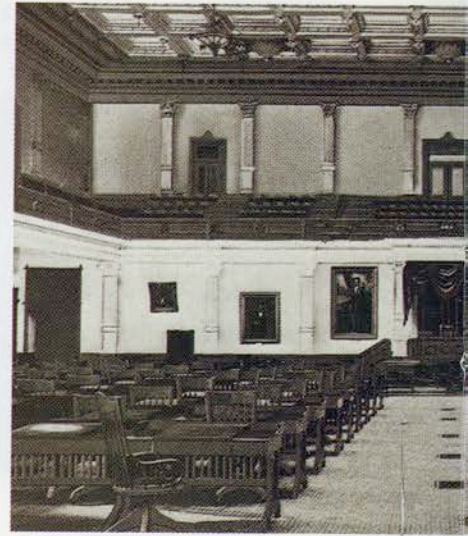


The most unusual features of the c. 1910 restored Treasurer's Business Office are the reproduction steel bar partition, or teller's screen, and the matching window bars.



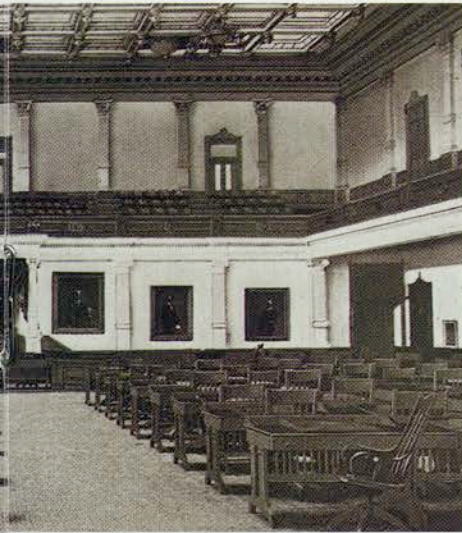


The
restored remains of the
original 1835
San Jacinto silk battle flag,
the oldest artifact
in the Capitol Collection,
hangs behind
the Speaker's desk.



The House Chamber, restored to the c. 1910 era,
boasts some of the Capitol's oldest paintings, including
portraits of Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston.

Chamber



In 1889, the House Chamber housed only 106 representatives. By 1910, it accommodated 133 members, and membership reached the present-day total of 150 in 1923.



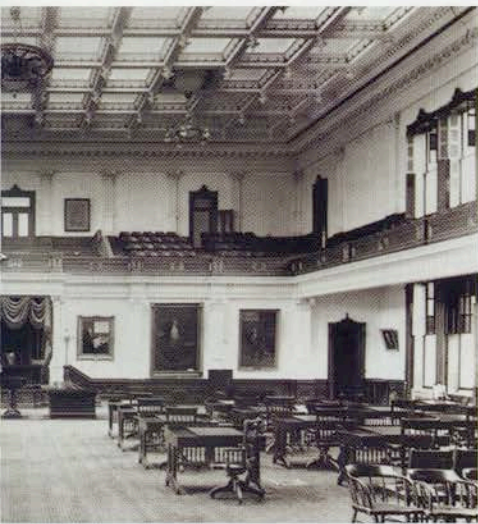
Officials have restored this original House member's oak swivel chair to its 1889 appearance, with black leather upholstery and edges trimmed with brass daisy-head nails. Chairs of this style remained in use until the 1940s, when more comfortable chairs replaced them.

The
original 1888 wall clock,
made by the
Ansonia Clock Company
of New York,
has hung in the Chamber
since the Capitol
was first dedicated.

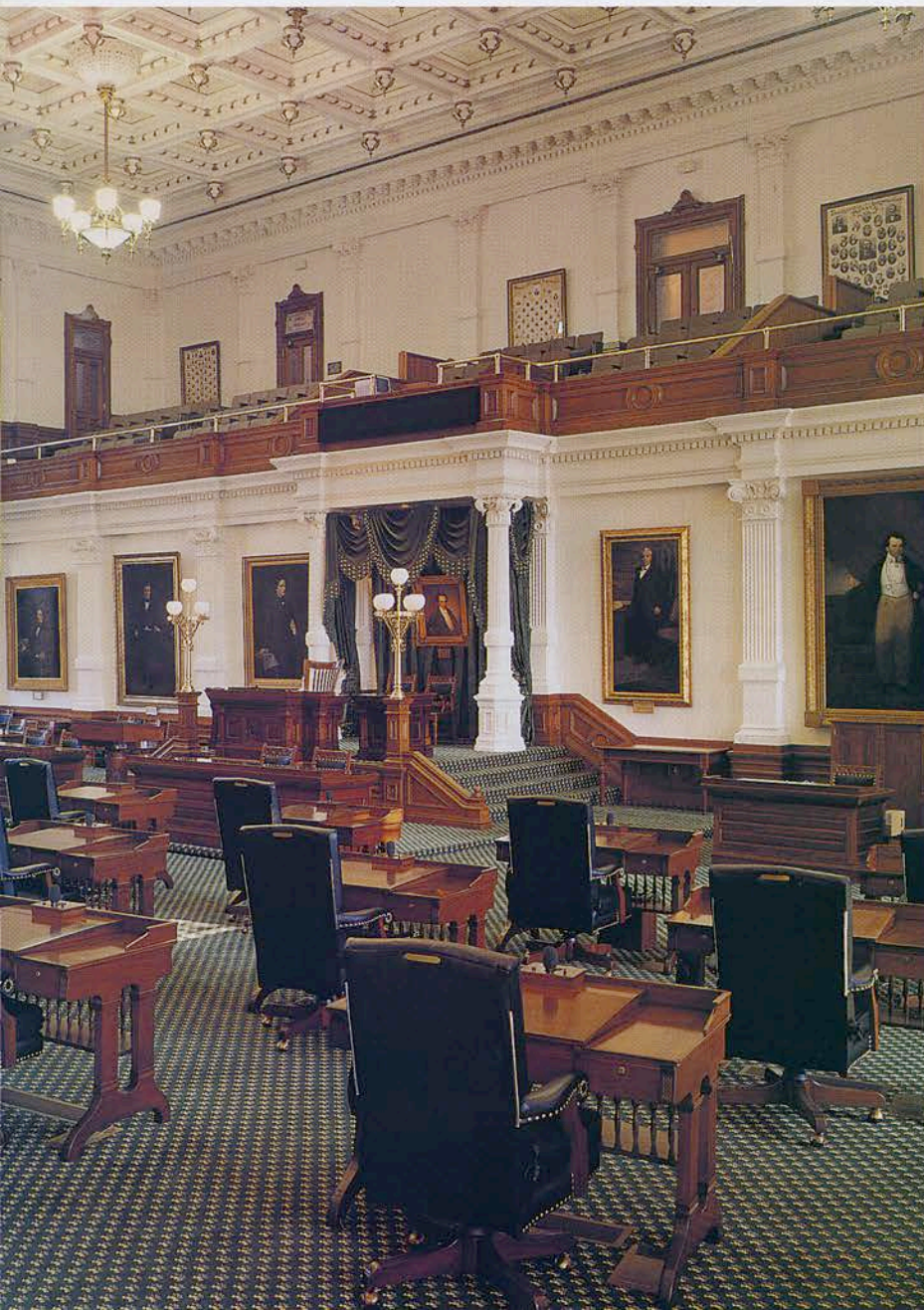


The c. 1910 restored Senate Chamber includes the
original walnut desks used by the Lieutenant
Governor, senators and clerks. Officials restored
the room's original pressed metal ceiling and
reproduced the ceiling's original glass panels.

Chamber



In 1910, the Senate Chamber had a green, geometric-patterned carpet as well as elaborate draperies and light fixtures at the Lieutenant Governor's dais, all of which have been very meticulously reproduced.



Both

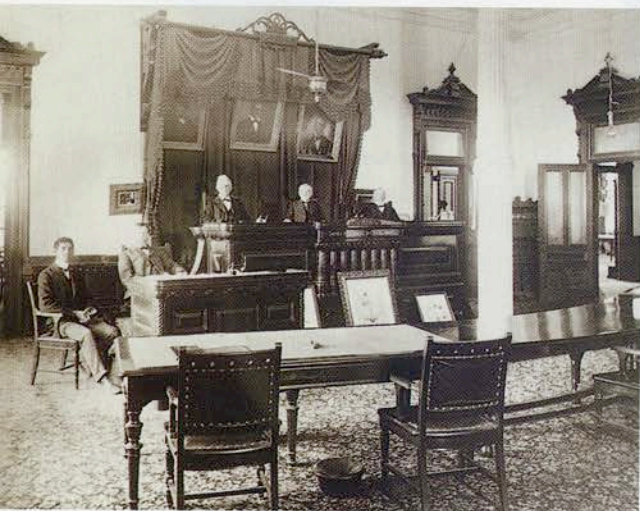
Chambers retain their original 1889 members' desks. The Senate desks are crafted from walnut, while the House versions are made of oak.

Supreme Court

The Courtroom's original walnut bench is the Capitol's largest and most elaborate furniture piece.

It was recently restored to its original length and location (officials had extended and moved it to the room's south side in the 1930s).

The bench bears the Latin inscription in gold leaf: "Sicut Patribus, Sit Deus Nobis" (As God Was To Our Father, May He Also Be To Us).



This 1905 photograph of the Supreme Court Courtroom provided the furnishings team with a wealth of information for returning the room to its historical appearance.

This reproduction of an 1889 Supreme Court justice's walnut swivel chair was based upon the only surviving Capitol justice's chair, a very similar oak version which was originally used in the Court of Criminal Appeals Courtroom.



Public Corridors

The South Foyer features the monumental paintings DAVID CROCKETT and THE SURRENDER OF SANTA ANNA. White marble statues of Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston by Elisabet Ney, as well as their surrounding gold-painted fences, were restored to match their original c. 1902 appearance.

The decorative paint scheme of the 1888-1915 era once again graces the Capitol's dramatic rotunda dome.



CAPITOL FUND DRIVE

The State Preservation Board gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Major Donors to the Capitol Fund Drive. 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.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Houston Endowment Inc., Southwestern Bell Corporation, The Eugene McDermott Foundation, The Meadows Foundation, Exxon U.S.A., The Honorable and Mrs. William P. Clements, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Decherd, GTE, Mrs. and Mrs. David Herndon, Houston Lighting & Power Company, T.L.L. Temple Foundation, USAA Federal Savings Bank, Hunt Oil Company, TU Electric, *Texas Monthly*, Lomas Mortgage, USA, Shell Oil Company Foundation, Gibson D. (Gib) Lewis Speaker's Day Proceeds, Enron Corp, *The Dallas Morning News* - WFAA Foundation, Chevron, Abell-Hanger Foundation, Central and South West Corporation, Electronic Data Systems Corporation, NationsBank, Philip Morris U.S.A., Southwest Airlines Company, Texas Association of Realtors, The Cockrell Foundation, GSD&M Advertising, Sibley/Peteet Design, and A Friend of the Capitol





*Southwest Airlines
salutes our newly restored Texas Capitol with
a high-flying tribute to the indomitable
spirit that makes Texas a true state of mind.*

*Welcome home, Texas.
And welcome aboard Lone Star One.*

