

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid [395.1]

STATE CAPITOL COMMISSION BOARD Photograph Collection

Abstract: TYPE HERE

Extent: TYPE HERE

Physical Description: Photographs; Negatives

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks; Vault

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: TIFFs and JPEGs

Access Restrictions: None

Publication Restrictions: None

Preferred Citation: [Item description, including photographer], [date]; *State Capitol Commission Board Photograph Collection*, Record Group 395.1; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: TYPE HERE

Processing Information: Initial processing by LJ, date unknown. Scans of the Capitol Construction Photograph series were made in 2008.

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

TYPE HERE

Timeline

02/05/1911	Capitol building in Jefferson City struck by lightning and burned
03/24/1911	(Original) State Capitol Commission formed
1917	Capitol Decoration Committee formed
10/06/1924	New Capitol Day celebration

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Related Collections

MS006 Edwin William Stephens Collection
MS013 Theodore Lacaff Diaries
MS027 Thomas Garfield Cooper Photograph Collection
MS066 Peter Herman Rackers Photograph Collection
MS111 Ralph Miller Capitol Fire Photograph Collection
MS369 Bob Priddy Collection
MS376 Colonial Dames of America Collection
MS433 Dr. Joseph Summers Photograph Collection
MS441 Alfred A. Speer Capitol Collection
RG395 State Capitol Commission Board
RG395 State Capitol Commission Board Photographs
RG395.2 Missouri State Capitol Commission
RG396 Capitol Decoration Commission

Ball, Jeffrey L. The Missouri Murals: A History of the Decorations for the State Capitol. University of Missouri-Columbia Dissertation: 1997. Call No. R 725.11 B2101

Edelman, Nancy. The Thomas Hart Benton Murals in the Missouri State Capitol: A Social History of the State of Missouri. Jefferson City: Missouri Department of Natural Resources, 1978. Call No. R 759.13 Ed276

The Missouri State Capitol: A Collection of Information about Its Architectural Design. Jefferson City: Missouri Senate, 1979. Call No. R 725.11 M6918

Summers, Joseph S. Jr. The Day the Capitol Burned. Jefferson City, MO: CeMoMedServ Publications, 1986. (On the Cole County shelf in Reference.)

Additional External Resources

Priddy, Bob and Jeffrey Ball. The Art of the Missouri Capitol: History in Canvas, Bronze, and Stone. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2011.

CAPITOL CONSTRUCTION PHOTOGRAPHS, 1913-1917

Extent: 1 cubic ft.

Arrangement: The prints are arranged by subject and thereunder chronologically where possible.

Scope and Content

Of the 137 photographs in this series, 124 detail the construction of the present State Capitol Building, including the Capitol Powerhouse. The photographs are the work of Thomas Garfield Cooper (1882-1950), a Jefferson City commercial photographer. Of this group of construction photographs, all except nineteen have the date taken, sequential number and general description of the view superimposed over the lower right corner. Eleven of the photographs in this latter group carry no descriptive data. The remaining eight indicate only the date taken.

Included in this series is a single photograph by Peter Herman Rackers, another local photographer, illustrating the removal of the columns of the destroyed Capitol.

Two severely damaged photographs of the plaster architectural model of the capitol building are also included and are the work of New York photographers Frances Benjamin Johnston and Mattie Edwards Hewitt.

The remaining ten photographs are the work of another local photographer, Carl Deeg of Jefferson City. Deeg was commissioned by the Board to take photographs of the architectural plans. Nine of these photographs are included in this series. The remaining photograph by Deeg is of the ceremonial "turning over of the keys" of the new Capitol Building to the State Capitol Commission Board.

All photographs are black and white prints from glass plate negatives, a few of which have survived and are in separate repositories. Rackers's photograph and Deeg's "turning over of the keys" are mounted on hardboard. The photographs of the plaster model and the architectural plans are not mounted or backed. All remaining photographs are backed with linen. The prints vary in size but most fall within the 6" x 10" range.

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are the work of Thomas G. Cooper.

Thomas Garfield Cooper, the photographer of the Missouri State Capitol, was born in Jefferson City on January 2, 1882. His father, Albert, was a laborer whose family had migrated from Ohio sometime in the mid-nineteenth century. His mother, Anna, was the daughter of German immigrants.

Although he had no formal training, Cooper became a highly skilled photographer. His primary interest was in landscape work. In 1912, he was advertising himself as a commercial photographer who specialized in "interiors and exteriors of homes, factories, offices and show windows or photographs of any kind required for illustrated purposes."

Cooper became involved with the Capitol Commission Board (CCB) in the latter part of 1912. In the files of the CCB, the only record of Cooper's employment is a letter written by the Board's Secretary, J. Kelly Pool, to the Advisory Architect, L. Baylor Pendelton of St. Louis. The letter, dated November 13, 1912, mentions the cost of the photos and the Secretary states, "You will find this a better set of photographs than the other and at just half the price." Although there was no formal contract between the CCB and Cooper, the recollection of his widow is that two of the Commissioners came to their home to pay him.

The photographs were taken over a period of approximately seven years and from various angles. The most common perspectives are the front and south views of the building. Some of the photos include close-ups of the detail work on the columns and sculptural wall friezes. They are backed with linen, which has helped preserve them and show Cooper's concern for his work.

Along with his interest in photography, Cooper was an expert machinist and gunsmith. This type of work brought him into contact with many professional people. Cooper enjoyed hunting and fishing, playing the violin, writing poetry, and making his own wine. In the early 1940s, he gave up his photography business and became a full-time machinist until his death in October of 1950.

All photographs from boxes 1-2 have been digitized as JPEGs and placed on Missouri Digital Heritage for public viewing under the name Capitol Construction Photographs: https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh_splash/default.asp?coll=capitol. (Note: Deeg's key ceremony photo is not included.)

Three-hundred dpi TIFF images of boxes 1-2 are available in-house on the Z Drive. (Note: Deeg's key ceremony photo IS included.)

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Date	Contents
				<i>Old Capitol</i>
	1	1	ca. 1913	Removal of the columns of the old capitol – P.H. Rackers
				<i>Missouri State Capitol</i>
	1	2	1 Jun 1913	Site preparation
	1	3	1 Jul 1913	General View, north
	1	4	1 Aug 1913	General View, north
	1	5	1 Aug 1913	General View, northwest
	1	6	1 Sep 1913	General View, north
	1	7	1 Oct 1913	General View, north
	1	8	1 Oct 1913	General View, north
	1	9	1 Nov 1913	General View, north
	1	10	2 Feb 1914	General View, north
	1	11	16 Feb 1914	General View, north

1	12	16 Feb 1914	View showing derrick for handling steel from the railroad tracks
1	13	1 Mar 1914	View showing steel handling tracks
1	14	1 Mar 1914	General View, north
1	15	1 Mar 1914	General View, northwest
1	16	16 Mar 1914	General View, northwest
1	17	1 Apr 1914	General View, west
1	18	15 Apr 1914	General View, west
1	19	15 Apr 1914	General View, northwest
1	20	1 May 1914	General View, northwest
1	21	1 May 1914	General View, south
1	22	15 May 1914	General View, north
1	23	30 Jun 1914	General View, north
1	24	15 Jul 1914	General View, north
1	25	15 Aug 1914	General View, north
1	26	1 Aug 1914	View of the dome
1	27	15 Sep 1914	General View, north
1	28	1 Oct 1914	General View, north
1	29	15 Oct 1914	General View, north
1	30	16 Nov 1914	View of sample wall
1	31	1 Dec 1914	View looking north of Senate chamber
1	32	1 Dec 1914	General View, north
1	33	15 Dec 1914	General View, north
1	34	1 Jan 1915	View showing stonework
1	35	1 Jan 1915	General View, north
1	36	15 Jan 1915	General View, north
1	37	15 Jan 1915	General View, south
1	38	1 Feb 1915	General View, north
1	39	1 Feb 1915	View looking west from north side of capitol
1	40	15 Feb 1915	General View, north
1	41	15 Mar 1915	General View, northwest
1	42	1 Apr 1915	General View, northwest
1	43	15 Apr 1915	General View, northwest
1	44	15 Apr 1915	General View, south
1	45	15 May 1915	General View, northwest
1	46	15 May 1915	View of section "F"
1	47	31 May 1915	General View, northwest
1	48	31 May 1915	View of northeast corner

1	49	31 May 1915	View of northwest corner
1	50	31 May 1915	View of southeast corner
1	51	15 Jun 1915	General View, north
1	52	15 Jul 1915	General View, northwest
1	53	1 Aug 1915	General View, northwest
1	54	15 Aug 1915	General View, north
1	55	1 Sep 1915	General View, north
1	56	30 Sep 1915	General View, north
1	57	30 Sep 1915	View of north portico, looking west
1	58	15 Oct 1915	View of north portico, looking west
1	59	15 Oct 1915	View of driveway arch
1	60	15 Oct 1915	General View, north
2	1	1 Nov 1915	General View, south
2	2	15 Nov 1915	East View
2	3	15 Nov 1915	West View
2	4	15 Nov 1915	General View, north
2	5	15 Nov 1915	General View, south
2	6	1 Dec 1915	General View, north
2	7	15 Dec 1915	General View, north
2	8	1 Jan 1916	General View, north
2	9	1 Jan 1916	General View, south
2	10	15 Jan 1916	General View, south
2	11	15 Jan 1916	General View, south
2	12	1 Feb 1916	General View, south
2	13	1 Feb 1916	General View, northwest
2	14	15 Feb 1916	General View, north
2	15	15 Feb 1916	General View, south
2	16	1 Mar 1916	General View, south
2	17	1 Mar 1916	General View, north
2	18	15 Mar 1916	General View, south
2	19	15 Mar 1916	General View, north
2	20	15 Apr 1916	General View, north
2	21	15 Apr 1916	General View, south
2	22	15 May 1916	General View, north
2	23	15 May 1916	General View, south
2	24	1 Jun 1916	General View, south
2	25	1 Jun 1916	General View, north

2	26	15 Jun 1916	General View, north
2	27	15 Jun 1916	General View, south
2	28	1 Jul 1916	General View, south
2	29	1 Jul 1916	General View, north
2	30	15 Jul 1916	General View, south
2	31	1 Aug 1916	General View, north
2	32	15 Aug 1916	General View, north
2	33	15 Aug 1916	General View, south
2	34	1 Sep 1916	General View, south
2	35	15 Sep 1916	General View, looking north
2	36	15 Sep 1916	General View, looking south
2	37	1 Oct 1916	General View, looking south
2	38	15 Oct 1916	General View, looking south
2	39	1 Nov 1916	General View, looking south
2	40	15 Nov 1916	General View, looking north
2	41	1 Dec 1916	General View, looking south
2	42	1 Dec 1916	Interior View, historical museum
2	43	1 Jan 1917	General View, looking north
2	44	n.d.	Column capitols, model ?
2	45	n.d.	Column capitols, model ?
2	46	n.d.	Column capitols, model ?
2	47	n.d.	Models (?) of various interior & exterior detail
2	48	n.d.	Models (?) of various interior & exterior detail
2	49	n.d.	Models (?) of various interior & exterior detail
2	50	n.d.	Models (?) of various interior & exterior detail
2	51	n.d.	Models (?) of various interior & exterior detail
2	52	n.d.	Models (?) of various interior & exterior detail
2	53	n.d.	Models (?) of various interior & exterior detail
2	54	n.d.	Plaster model of capitol, north side (partial: top right diagonal missing)
2	55	n.d.	Plaster model of capitol, south side (partial: large tear, east half missing)
			<i>Capitol Powerhouse / Power House</i>
2	56	1 Oct 1913	General View, early construction
2	57	20 Apr 1914	Stonework, looking north
2	58	20 Apr 1914	Stonework, northeast
2	59	1 May 1914	Foundation, general view, looking north
2	60	1 May 1914	Foundation, near view of stone

	2	61	1 Jun 1914	General View, northeast
	2	62	1 Aug 1914	General View, northeast
	2	63	1 Sep 1914	General View, north
	2	64	1 Oct 1914	View looking east showing progress of tunnel
	2	65	1 Nov 1914	Progress of tunnel
	2	66	1 Nov 1914	Progress, view looking north
	2	67	1 Dec 1914	General View, northwest
				<i>Miscellaneous</i>
	3	1	13 Sep 1917	“Turning over the keys” to the Commission Board – DEEG
				<i>Architectural Plans</i>
	3	2 –12	n.d.	Photos of the actual plans – DEEG THESE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE CLOSED
				<i>Copies of Boxes 1-2</i>
	45			Capitol Construction copy negatives
	45			Capitol Construction copy prints