

# News Release

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## TASK FORCE *on* CAPITOL RESTORATION *and* RENOVATION

FOR RELEASE      Immediately

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### **TASK FORCE SEEKS HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPITOL REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION STUDY**

**CHEYENNE** – The Joint Legislative and Executive Task Force on Capitol Building Rehabilitation and Restoration encourages the public to get involved in a preliminary study to restore and rehabilitate Wyoming’s Capitol. To help during the discovery phase of this project, the Task Force encourages the public to submit old photographs of the interior and exterior of the Capitol.

HDR Architecture, Inc. in association with Preservation Design Partnership, LLC and Plan One Architects will perform a study to identify building needs, develop the scope of the project and a budget for the required work. The study will provide information to lawmakers regarding construction costs for consideration during the 2014 Budget Session of the Wyoming Legislature.

Task Force Co-Chairman Representative Dan Zwonitzer noted that the work being conducted now will help inform decisions about the building in the future. “The public will see an increase in activity around the building as the design team determines what is needed to fix this historic treasure for the people of Wyoming,” he said.

“We are just discovering what is going on in this building and what is needed to fix it,” Tom Whetstone, Senior Project Manager for HDR Architecture, said. “We are collecting information on needs at this point and we are not making any decisions regarding potential solutions, timelines or costs,” he added.

To assist in this preliminary analysis and to ensure future restoration is as historically accurate as possible, the design team is seeking photographs from the beginning of construction in 1886 up to 1980, when the last major building renovation was completed. In particular, the team would like photographs that show the rotunda, monumental stairs, corridors, offices and the House and Senate chambers. The team hopes these pictures will reveal what interior finishes looked like during different periods of time.

Details like the stencil patterns, wood finishes, wall coverings, floor coverings, light fixtures and furniture are especially important. Submission of snapshots in the Capitol of special events or meetings, employees working in their offices, tour groups or family visits are encouraged. Important architectural details may have been captured in these images. The team would also like exterior or interior shots that show close-ups of the original windows, which were replaced in the 1970s. Other useful photographs include interior, exterior and aerial photographs showing either the initial construction or any remodeling or changes in landscaping that has taken place over the years.

The team would like photographs submitted no later than June 7. Additional information about how to submit photographs is available at: [wyoarchives.state.wy.us/Press/CapitolPhotos.aspx](http://wyoarchives.state.wy.us/Press/CapitolPhotos.aspx)

Senator Tony Ross, Co-Chairman of the Task Force, notes that the Legislature has been appropriating funds for this project over the past decade because, “there are serious deficiencies in this historic building, including ongoing problems with outdated electrical, water, HVAC and data systems in the building, as well as the lack of space for the public to meaningfully participate in their government,” he said.

Over the next few months, the members of the HDR / PDP / Plan 1 team will be on site performing a series of tasks related to the study of the Capitol. The effort is organized in cycles, each addressing one of the dimensions of the project. Teams will be on site representing all of the disciplines, including architecture, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection, lighting and code analysis.

The design team is responsible for preparing accurate and comprehensive conditions of the building. The field work will involve two technologies, laser scanning and digital architectural photogrammetry. The laser scanner records millions of measurements from fixed points throughout the building and places them in a three-dimensional model. The digital architectural photogrammetry takes highly accurate high-resolution photographs that can be used to create detailed building elevations.

Contemporary technology will scan the building much like an MRI and reveal hidden conditions to help understand how certain areas of the building were constructed, locate areas of material failures, delineate areas of moisture penetration and saturation and identify potential pathways for building systems. This work should be completed in June.

Examination of the exterior of the dome requires specialized access using a specialty team that repels from the top of the dome down to its base to conduct its evaluation. Vertical Access is a nationally respected entity that specializes in assessing historic buildings and has assessed several domes of Capitols, including the U.S. Capitol. The Vertical Access team will be on site beginning Monday. The design team will also be using high-reach lift equipment that will allow access to the building at a high level. This field work is expected to be completed in mid-June.

As part of the study, the design team will obtain public input about the restoration in the upcoming months. More information will be made available regarding this part of the study at a future date.

The Wyoming Legislature has appropriated funds beginning in 2003 for future restoration and rehabilitation of the Capitol. The Task Force was created during the 2013 General Session through Section 339 of the Legislature’s “Budget Bill.” The role of the Task Force is to begin developing rehabilitation and restoration priorities for the State Capitol.

The Task Force is working in conjunction with the Department of Administration and Information, which was authorized by the State Building Commission to begin a Level I and II study of Capitol restoration in July. This process identifies and selects potential projects to be studied for inclusion in the State’s capital construction plans. Level I is a discovery phase that identifies the need for the project. Level II focuses on feasibility of the project and includes design and cost estimates.

The study will evaluate the existing building conditions and make recommendations for the proper long-term treatment of the building; identify user needs and make recommendations for the long-term use of the building; ensure that the historic and architectural integrity of the building are not affected by any of the proposed improvements; develop a sequence of implementation and schedule and propose a budget for the project. – END –