



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol

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In the large central alcove at the west side of Emancipation Hall, workers last month installed a bronze cap piece over a 3,000-pound steel base that will serve as the new home for the plaster model of the Statue of Freedom. The model was used for the final bronze casting of Freedom that stands proudly atop the Capitol Dome. The plaster model, however, is currently in the cellar rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building. It was completed by sculptor Thomas Crawford in his studio in Rome in 1857. Crawford died that year so his wife oversaw the transportation of the model (in six crates) to the United States. The final piece of the 15,000-pound bronze statue – the head of Freedom – was placed on December 2, 1863, during the height of the Civil War.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 6/9/08 through 6/13/08

- Throughout the CVC, technicians continue final acceptance testing on the facility's complex fire and life-safety systems. This process is still on schedule to be completed this summer.
- Painters, carpenters, plumbers, masons, electricians, cleaning crews and other professionals continue to address punchlist items throughout the facility. In particular, workers can be seen in many areas completing grout work between some of the 46,000 pieces of sandstone that cover nearly 200,000 square feet of walls throughout the facility.
- Audio-visual systems and interactive stations are being tested in the CVC Exhibition Hall. Designers are also making adjustments to lighting components (see photo above).
- Landscape restoration work continues in the South "Egg" as crews continue to prepare the grounds for plantings and sod placement later this summer.
- Door installation crews continue adjusting doors and thresholds to achieve the precise separations necessary for the testing of the CVC's smoke purge and air pressurization systems.
- Carpet installation was completed in the House Hearing Room and the area is being prepared for inspections.
- Terrazzo work continues in the LOC tunnel.
- Audio-visual technicians continue adjusting the projection systems in the North and South Orientation Theaters and the Congressional Auditorium.



Landscape work on the East Capitol Grounds will continue through the summer. The East Capitol Street Extension is lined with 36 Tulip Poplar trees (foreground center) which serve to frame the center approach to the Capitol and focus attention on its majestic dome.

Next Week – 6/16/08 – 6/20/08

- Technicians will continue the final testing process for the CVC's complex fire and life-safety systems. This work will continue into the summer.
- Punchlist work will continue throughout interior spaces as millwork, wall stone, floor stone, grout lines, painted surfaces, ceiling panels, plaster work, doors, and other finish materials are inspected and deficiencies corrected.
- Audio-visual technicians will continue testing the monitors, interactive stations and sound systems in the CVC Exhibition Hall. Also in the Hall, work will continue to seal the Wall of Aspirations to ensure a specialized fire suppressant gas is adequately contained within the wall.
- Masons will continue grout work and other stone detail work at the Rotunda and Gallery levels in the East Front of the Capitol while grout-line touch-up continues throughout the facility.
- Metal workers will continue setting exterior bronze wall panels adjacent to the North and South Entrance doors while another crew makes adjustments to the bronze panels that line the escalator on the south side of Emancipation Hall.
- Work to adjust the terrazzo stair treads in the Senate stairwell atrium will continue.
- Outside, landscape crews will continue to prepare the grounds for sod placements and tree and shrub plantings.

For additional information about the CVC project, contact the project communications officer, Tom Fontana, at fontana@voc.gov or visit the project web site at www.voc.gov. Be sure to click on the "Capitol Visitor Center" link on the homepage.