

A Guide to the Library of Virginia, Capitol Model Project Records, 1797-2002 (1994-2002)

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History

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Title Statement

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2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Accession Number

39668

Language

English

Creator

Library of Virginia

Physical Characteristics

1.75 cu. ft.

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Transferred from the Library of Virginia, Special Collections Branch, 24 June 2002.

Preferred Citation

Library of Virginia, Capitol Model Project Records, 1797-2002 (1994-2002), State government records collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219

Biographical Information

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), after commissioning Charles-Louis Clerisseau (1721-1820) to execute finished drawings of his design for the Virginia State Capitol, hired Jean-Pierre Fouquet (1752-1829) to create a plaster of paris model to be sent to Virginia. The model was intended to be an aid to workmen at the building site.

Following its use as an instructional tool, the model became a historical artifact displayed for the majority of the 19th century in the Executive Mansion. In the 20th century, it was moved to the Rotunda in the newly expanded Capitol building. Because the model received regular additions of paint over the decades, many of the details were lost and there was a pronounced crackling on the surface.

In 1994, the Library of Virginia, in cooperation with Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and others, undertook an extensive analysis of the Fouquet model resulting in the thorough restoration and conservation of the original and the construction of a replica. The project revealed previously unknown information about the historic paint schemes of the Capitol, the 18th century model building process, and the history of the model itself. Ultimately, the project team decided that only limited restoration could be done to the original building model, so in order to illustrate the fine detail encapsulated under layers of paint, the group commissioned a replica. The reproduction was created using three-dimensional computer models attained from X-rays of the original.

Both Fouquet's original model and the replica will be displayed in the Virginia Capitol in 2007, following its extensive renovation and expansion.

Scope and Content

This accession consists of textual and other materials related to the conservation and reproduction of the 18th century model for the Virginia State Capitol building executed by Jean-Pierre Fouquet for Thomas Jefferson.

These records consist of correspondence, reports, drawings, radiographs, photographs, slides, paint and materials samples. The bulk is made up of a multi-section report detailing the procedures and results of this project. The raw materials that went into creating the final report are also included and consist of radiographic X-rays of the original model, written and photographic analysis of paint and materials samples, photographs of the model at various stages of restoration, and historical images of the Capitol Building. Also included are inkjet reproductions of drawings for the Maison Carree, Jefferson's inspiration for the Virginia Capitol and measured drawings for a new display case for the restored model and its reproduction.

Some oversize materials have been separated and appropriate notations have been made in the contents list below. Two small boxes containing individually-bagged samples (paint and materials) from the Capitol and other Fouquet models are housed inside Box 2. Extreme care should be used when handling these materials.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Contents List

Conservation, Side Elevation Samples Data, 2002,

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Conservation, Side Elevation Samples Data, 2002,

Box 1

Folder 2

Conservation, Side Elevation Samples Data, 2002,

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Conservation, Side Elevation Samples Data, 2002,

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Conservation, Side Elevation Samples Data, 2002,

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Folder 5

Conservation, Portico Samples Data, 2002,

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Conservation, Portico Samples Data, 2002,

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Folder 7

Conservation, Base Samples Data, 2002,

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Folder 8

Conservation, Rear Facade Samples Data, 2002,

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Folder 9

Conservation, Rear Facade Samples Data, 2002,

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Folder 10

Conservation, Rear Facade Samples Data, 2002,

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Folder 11

Conservation, SEM and EDX Samples Data, 2002,

Box 1

Folder 12

Conservation, SEM and EDX Samples Data, 2002,

Box 1

Folder 13

Correspondence, 2002,

Box 1

Folder 14

Label (19th Century), n.d.,

Box 1

Folder 15

Maison Carree Inkjet Prints, ca. 2001,

Map-case 4/G/3/6

Folder 1

Extent

10 sheets.

Measured Drawings of Pedestal/Vitrine Case with Electro-Magnetic Lifters, 2001,

Map-case 4/G/3/6

Folder 2

Extent

4 sheets,

Scope and Content

Drawings for exhibit case to display restored model.

Microscope Photography Log Sheet and Negatives, 2002,

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Microscope Photography Log Sheet and Negatives, 2002,

Box 1

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Project Report, Section 1-1.3.2, 1994-2002,

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Project Report, Section 1.3.3, 1994-2002,

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Project Report, Section 2-4.3, 1994-2002,

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Project Report, Section 5-5.8, 1994-2002,

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Project Report, Section 6.1-6.3, 1994-2002,

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Project Report, Section 7-7.3, 1994-2002,

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Project Report, Section 7.4, 1994-2002,

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Project Report, Section 8.1-8.3, 1994-2002,

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Project Report, Section 9.1.1-9.1.3, 1966-2002,

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Project Report, Section 9.2-9.2.3, 1994-2002,

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Project Report, Section 9.2.4-9.2.7, 1994-2002,

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Project Report, Section 11-12.2, 1994-2002,

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Project Report, Section 12.2, 1994-2002,

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Project Report, Section 12.3, 1994-2002,

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Project Report, Section 13-14, 1994-2002,

Box 1

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Project Report, Appendix 1, 1994-2002,

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Project Report, Appendix 2, 1994-2002,

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Project Report, Appendix 3, 1994-2002,

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Photographs, ca. 2001,

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Folder 1

Photographs, CD-Roms, 2002,

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Folder 2

Photographs, Negatives, 2001,

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Folder 3

Radiographs, 2002,

Box 2

Folder 4

Radiographs, 2002,

Box 2

Folder 5

Radiographs, CD-Roms, 2002,

Box 2

Folder 6

Radiographs, Large Format, 2002,

Box 3

Folder 2

Scope and Content

OVERSIZE

Slides, Historical Images, 1797-1865,

Box 2

Folder 7

Slides, Model, 1994-2002,

Box 2

Folder 8

Samples, Paint Cross-Section, ca. 2001,

Box 2

Other 1 (othertype)

Scope and Content

Individual bagged samples housed in a small box.

Sample, Microscope Slides and Samples from Other Fouquet models, ca. 2001

Box 2

Other 2 (othertype)

Scope and Content

Individually bagged samples from other Fouquet models and microscope slides of samples from Capitol model.

Slides, Model (Hanz Lorenz), 2001,

Box 2

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