

June 22, 2015

AIA Nebraska  
335 North 8th Street, Suite A  
Lincoln, NE 68508



Members of the Harry F Cunningham Gold Medal Award jury:

Nebraskans of all ages have been positively affected by Robert C. Ripley's passion for public service, architecture and particularly by his passion for the conservation and preservation of the Nebraska State Capitol. Bob has been the caretaker, the steward, and the guardian of Nebraska's history as depicted and beautifully contained within the walls and grounds of Bertram Goodhue's monumental Capitol.

Bob's passion for preservation of the Capitol is unmatched in the history of the building. As soon as Bob arrived a few decades ago, the building started to restore itself as if by magic: office cubicles disappeared from its corridors, original furniture returned from warehouses or private owners, plywood walls and plywood doors were removed to reveal magnificent spaces, drop-in ceilings disappeared, murals regained their original colors and detail, cracks and mold disappeared from the limestone exterior, the Sower regained its bright patina, and Nebraskans regained the architectural masterpiece given to them by their ancestors.

Born and raised in Lincoln, educated in Lincoln Public Schools and the University of Nebraska College of Architecture, Bob's passion and efforts have served to educate thousands of school children on the importance of architecture and history and has provided thousands of adults the great pleasure of experiencing the beauty of the state's architectural masterpiece in its original condition. As a public servant and through his extensive community service, Bob has positively impacted the average Nebraskan. Through lectures, books, tours, and informal chats, Bob has shared with all of us his understanding of Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue's vision for Nebraska's Capitol and the history contained within.

Architecture in Nebraska hasn't had a louder voice than that of Bob Ripley's. For all of Bob's service and passion for architecture, it is our great pleasure and our great honor to submit for your consideration the nomination of Mr. Robert Crain Ripley, FAIA for the distinguished Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal Award.

Dan Worth, AIA

Fred Zarate, AIA

## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

### ROBERT C. RIPLEY, FAIA

Capitol Administrator/Licensed Architect  
Office of the Nebraska Capitol Commission  
Nebraska State Capitol, 7th Floor  
Mail: c/o P.O.Box 94696  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4696  
402-471-0419, fax 471-6952



### ACADEMIC TRAINING - REGISTRATION

Lincoln Public Schools, 1966

Bachelor of Architecture, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1972

Licensed Professional Architect, State of Nebraska, A-1313, 1976

National Council of Architectural Registration Boards Certification, No 23,730, 1980

### POSITIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Draftsman - Aitken, Hazen, Hoffman & Hull, Architects & Engineers, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1970

Draftsman - Davis/Fenton/Stange/Darling, Architects & Engineers, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1971-1972

Graduate Architect - Davis/Fenton/Stange/Darling, Architects & Engineers, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1972-1974

European Study Tour - Architectural photo-documentation tour through ten countries, 1974

Graduate Architect - Bahr, Hanna, Vermeer & Haecker, Architects Ltd., Lincoln, Nebraska, 1974-75

Architect II - State of Nebraska, Department of Administrative Services, Building Division, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1975-1977

Project Architect - Unthank & Unthank AIA, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1977-1979

Architect/Partner - Ripley & Chilese, Architects, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1979-1981

Architectural Consultant - Robert L. Hanna, Architect, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1981

Project Architect/Marketing Representative - InnerSpace Studios Ltd/Keogh Inc., Lincoln, Nebraska, 1981-1983

Manager, Capitol Restoration & Promotion/Architect, DAS State Building Division, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1983-2004

Historic Preservation Consultant/Project Coordinator-Washington Monument Restoration Project-Phase III, Washington DC, for Project Corporate Sponsor TARGET Stores, Minneapolis, Minnesota in association with the firm of Michael Graves Architect, Princeton, New Jersey, 1997-2000

Capitol Administrator, Office of the Capitol Commission, Lincoln, Nebraska, 2004-Present

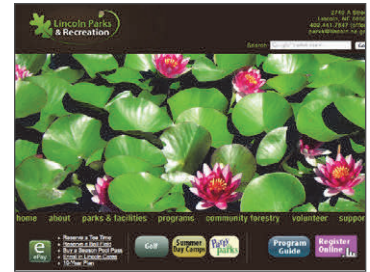
### PUBLIC SERVICE

Ripley has shared his expertise far beyond the confines of his position, being actively involved in a wide variety of community organizations over his career:

- City of Lincoln, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 2001-Present, Chair 2002-2004
- Nebraska State Capitol Environs Commission, Ex-Officio Member and Staff, 1987-Present
- Association for Preservation Technology, Member, 1983-Present
- National Trust for Historic Preservation, Member, 1990-Present
- The Society of Architectural Historians, Member, 1995-Present
- Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Member, 1986-Present
- Preservation Association of Lincoln, Board of Directors, 1993-2013

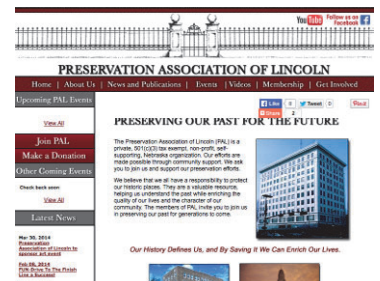
## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

- City of Lincoln, Historic Preservation Commission, 1990-2011; Chair 2000-2011
- Lincoln Parks Foundation Board, 2002-2007
- Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation, Board of Trustees, 1998-2005
- Nebraska Art Association, Board of Trustees, 1994-2002; President, 1998-1999
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Botanical Garden and Arboretum Board, 1994-1995
- Mayor's Urban Form Task Force for the Comprehensive Plan, 1993



Ripley serves the profession through dedicated and hands-on service as a member of the Nebraska AIA since 1983, with leadership responsibilities in a variety of positions:

- American Institute of Architects, member, 2001-present
  - AIA Nebraska Board of Directors; 2013, Immediate Past President
  - AIA Nebraska Board of Directors; 2012, President
  - AIA Nebraska Board of Directors; 2011, Vice-President
  - AIA Nebraska Board of Directors; 2010, Treasurer
  - AIA Nebraska Board of Directors; 2009, Secretary
  - AIA Nebraska Board of Directors; 2008, Member
- The Society of Architectural Historians, Member, 1995-Present
- Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Member, 1986-Present
- Preservation Association of Lincoln, Board of Directors, 1993-2013
- City of Lincoln, Historic Preservation Commission, 1990-2011; Chair 2000-2011
- Lincoln Parks Foundation Board, 2002-2007
- Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation, Board of Trustees, 1998-2005
- Nebraska Art Association, Board of Trustees, 1994-2002; President, 1998-1999
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Botanical Garden and Arboretum Board, 1994-1995
- Mayor's Urban Form Task Force for the Comprehensive Plan, 1993
- National Endowment for the Arts, Museum Program Panel (National), 1992
- Community Congress to Update County-City Comprehensive Plan, 1991-1992
- Nebraska Capitol Mural Commission, Staff, 1987-1996
- Nebraska State Capitol Foundation, Board of Directors, President, 1985
- Mayor's Committee for the Arts-Lincoln, 1985
- Nebraska Arts Council, Member 1983-86, Vice-Chairman, 1984-1985
- Nebraska State Building Advisory Commission, 1983-1986
- Nebraska Wesleyan University Arts Council, 1975-1983, President 1983



### Ripley sets new benchmarks for historic preservation

For more than 32 years, Ripley's core job has been to restore and preserve the Nebraska State Capitol, a National Historic Landmark. He has exceeded all expectations, including the creation of a legacy Capitol Master Plan that will guide conservation of this national treasure for hundreds of years to come.

### Ripley ensures the preservation of Goodhue's Nebraska State Capitol

1976 – Submits Capitol for National Historic Landmark Designation

As a graduate architect, Ripley, on his own initiative, originated the written request to the US Department of the Interior to evaluate the Nebraska Capitol for designation as a National Historic Landmark, this designation was granted in that same year.

1977 – Ripley Begins His Work on the Capitol

Entering into private practice upon becoming licensed in 1976, Ripley, already known for his interest in the Capitol, was commissioned by the Nebraska State Building Division to develop contract documents for the second renovation/restoration (the first in 1953-55) of the Nebraska Capitol's four tower elevators, this work was completed from 1977-79.

1983 – Hired as Manager of Capitol Restoration and Promotion

Bob begins his 30-year tenure as a state government employee tasked with preserving the Capitol. Ripley has guided all restoration and public outreach work on the Capitol since that time and was elevated to Capitol Administrator in 2004, by appointment of the Governor, when the Office of the Capitol Commission was established, due in great part to Ripley's efforts.

1983-86 – Early Period of Capitol Renovations

Ripley developed a multi-faceted program of restoration and promotion for the Nebraska Capitol and its environs. Starting with the renovation of individual office suites in the Capitol, a standard process was developed for renovating the specific finishes and infrastructure needs unique to the building. This work continued on an agency demand basis until a broader vision for the entire building could be funded in 1989.

1989 – Large-scale Interior Renovations

The largest (\$4 million) interior renovation of the Capitol was undertaken commissioning a private architecture and engineering consultant to develop contract documents based on the interior finish and infrastructure renovation standards developed by Ripley and his staff. This work was completed in a phased manner coordinating with on-going sessions of the Legislature and Supreme Court with project completion in 1993.

1993 – Construction Specifications Institutionalized

The renovations over the previous decades led Ripley to develop a complete set of Capitol-specific construction specifications to guide all future renovations. These Nebraska State Capitol Construction Specifications include building-specific architectural details and finishes from millwork and paint colors to a data-phone floor-port wiring network and other building-wide infrastructure requirements.



## STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

### 1998-2010 – 12-year Exterior Restoration

Ripley led the process from consultant selection through project completion for the 12-year \$57.5 million Exterior Masonry Restoration of the Capitol and the replacement of the 2.5 acre 20 oz. copper roof. Previous quick-fix attempts at masonry and roofing restoration had proven ineffective and left open the opportunity for irreparable damage to this National Historic Landmark. Ripley's approach, on a wide variety of steps ranging from seeking legislative appropriations to conservation-level quality control measures, assured that the Capitol was preserved not just for decades but for hundreds of years to come.



### 1996 – Completion of Memorial Hall Murals

Although proposed for completion in the 1920's, the Depression stopped execution of this important part of the building's original thematic program. Ripley assembled a team of scholars and curators to resolve and update thematic issues and supervise a nationwide contest to select a muralist. In 1996, the murals were installed under Ripley's direction in the 70-foot tall, tile-domed, marble-lined octagonal chamber atop the Capitol's 400 ft tower, with a public dedication in the Capitol rotunda, on Veteran's Day that year.

### 2000 – Creation of Master Plan for Capitol Conservation and Restoration

Ripley wrote the first Master Plan for the Conservation and Restoration of the Nebraska Capitol, a document which provides comprehensive, prioritized guidelines for the on-going preservation, restoration and enhancement for the building and grounds.

### 2007 – Restoration-Renovation of Capitol Elevators

Ripley and his team of Capitol Artisans, along with consultants Alvine and Associates, BVH Architects and VDA of Minneapolis, completed the renovation and restoration of the four tower elevators in 2014. This was the third renovation of the elevators since the building's completion in 1932.



### 2014 – Authorization for Fountains

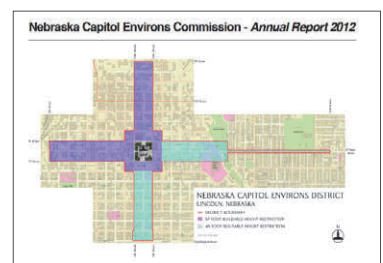
Determined to complete the final remaining element of Goodhue's original vision, Ripley worked with former and current members of the Nebraska Legislature to secure a \$2.5 million appropriation to complete four eight-foot diameter bronze fountains to be placed at the center of each of the Capitol's four courtyards. Work is currently underway on the contract documents for the fountains.

## Ripley leads in planning and urban design

Beyond his mandate to preserve the Capitol, Ripley has guided the process to execute the vision of the Capitol's original design team for the surrounding environs, a 64-block area around the Capitol. This creates and preserves Capitol Views with a focus on beautification and land-use regulation.

## Ripley elevates the role of architect in public service

Serving under five governors and ever-changing political and economic tides and though his extensive participation in governmental process, community activism, education, and communications, Ripley has changed the way his community thinks of architectural preservation; now the architect is an essential part of civic historic preservation.



# STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

## Outstanding contributions to the profession and AIA

From his many years in Nebraska AIA culminating as president, his extensive community education and activism, his broad expansion of the role of the preservationist, Ripley makes the achievements of architects more visible while advancing the profession of architecture and the goals of the AIA.

## Ripley created the Capitol artisan team

Ripley realized that reliance on State maintenance staff or specialized subcontractors was inadequate to meet his standards for excellence and conservation approach to renovations. He has created and empowered a team of skilled craftspeople dedicated solely to preservation of the Capitol.

## Ripley pioneered preservation legislative activism

Rather than wait for the State legislature to act on his recommendations, Ripley proactively drafted legislation and built coalitions leading to the passage of bills which greatly expanded Nebraska's commitment to the preservation of its State Capitol and surrounding environs; he institutionalized the conservation process.

## Ripley has built a nationally recognized historic archive

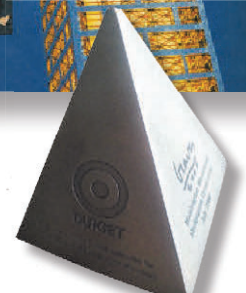
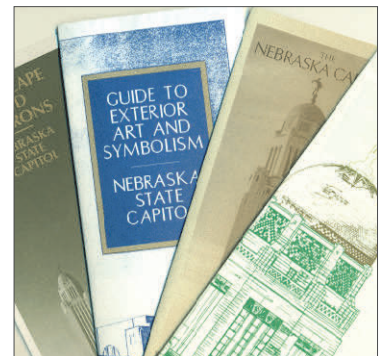
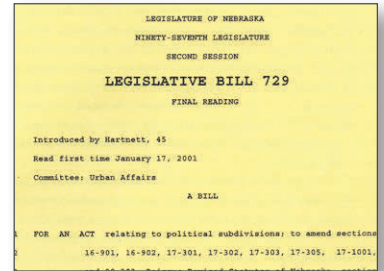
Rescuing original design documents and creating extensive new documentation, Ripley has fashioned a detailed archive recognized as one of nation's finest. It will serve as an inspiration and treasure trove to architectural historians, scholars, and preservationists for generations to come.

## Ripley expands civic communications

Understanding the value of community and governmental support, Ripley has created a team of communication specialists which, under his guidance, publish a website, newsletter, annual report, Twitter feed, blogs and more. All this work promotes the Capitol and the appreciation of architecture and the profession.

## Ripley guides Washington Monument restoration

Ripley's national reputation, innovation and success in challenging preservation projects led to his three-year stint as the Historic Preservation Consultant and Project Coordinator for the Phase III restoration of the Washington Monument.



## MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL

Over the years, Ripley has proactively shared many of the Nebraska State Capitol's historic, architectural, social, political and environmental features and benefits. It's his mission to assure all Nebraskans and those from all over the world who visit the Goodhue masterpiece understand the significant historic value and importance of this building.

### RECOGNITION

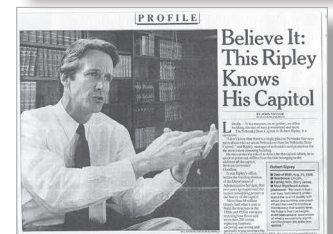
- **Ripley, Robert. Primary contributor.** *Nebraska's Capitol Masterpiece*. 60-minute documentary was initiated and sponsored by The Architectural Foundation of Nebraska and produced by Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET). 2013. Broadcast, Emmy Award winner.
- **Ripley, Robert. Primary contributor.** *The Nebraska State Capitol Murals*. Documentary produced by Michael Farrell of NET tracks the three-year process of commissioning, creating and installing the 14th floor Capitol Murals. 1996. Broadcast.
- **"Lincoln men help restore monument."** Article about the Ripley connection to the restoration of the Washington Monument. Hired as consultant to work alongside Michael Graves & Associates, Target Stores Mpls., and the National Park Service. 2000.
- **"Believe It: This Ripley Knows His Capitol."** *Omaha World-Herald*, 1996. Article that articulates to Nebraska readers Ripley's passion for and knowledge of the Nebraska State Capitol.
- **"Towering Over the Prairies."** *Lincoln Journal-Star*, 1998. Article that discussed Ripley's knowledge of the building "as a 3-D textbook of Nebraska history."
- **"Saving the Landmark to Cost Millions."** *Omaha World-Herald*, 2000. Article lays out the issues involved with the ultimate \$57.5 million, 12-year exterior restoration of Nebraska State Capitol. Ripley explains the rationale behind the multi-million dollars restoration.
- **"Capitol may get its fountains."** *Lincoln Journal-Star*, 2002. Article discussed the challenges in completing the final area of the Goodhue Capitol, still yet unfinished.

### COLLECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Ripley, Robert. Originator and administrator. Nebraska Capitol Collections (Archive). A collection of over 200,000 unique items of historic material which were either used to construct the Capitol or developed for conservation or repair projects. Both two-dimensional and three-dimensional materials have been collected, conserved, and documented in a searchable electronic database for the purposes of preserving the original construction documents from the 1920s and 1930s, to document all conservation and restoration projects since that time, and to provide interpretation and promotion of the building as an architectural, cultural and historic landmark. 1992 to present.

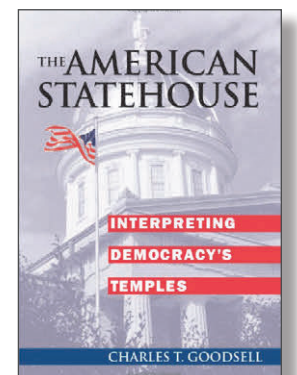
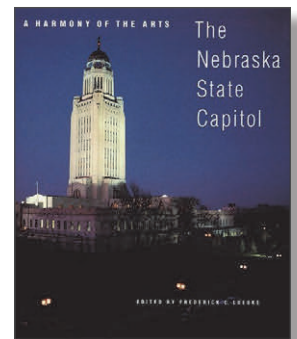
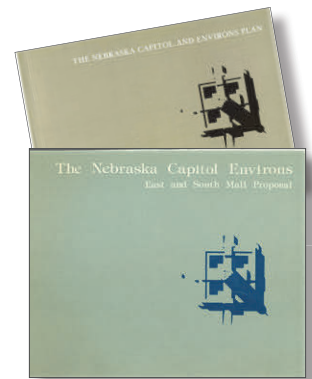
### AUTHORED LEGISLATION

- Ripley, Robert. Co-author. Nebraska Legislative Bill LB962. Legislative bill which resulted in the creation of the Capitol Environs Commission. 1988. Legislative Bill. Ripley-initiated amendments: LB271, 1993; LB 729, 2002; LB450, 2009.
- Ripley, Robert. Co-author. Nebraska Legislative Bill LB439. Legislative bill which resulted in the creation of the Nebraska Capitol Commission, 2004.



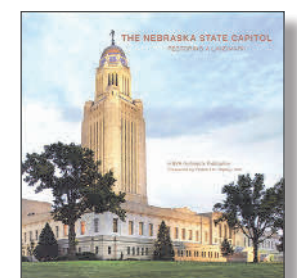
## AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS

- Ripley, Robert. Research contributor. *The Nebraska State Capitol and Environs Plan*. Published with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Architecture. 1975.
- Ripley, Robert. Author. *Master Plan for the Conservation and Restoration of the Nebraska State Capitol*. Master Plan defining projects and process to preserve, restore, and update all aspects of the Nebraska Capitol and its site. Published initially in 2000 by the State Building Division and subsequent editions by the Office of the Capitol Commission.
- Ripley, Robert. Co-author. *Design Standards and Guidelines for the Capitol Environs District*. Published by the Lincoln City and Lancaster County Planning Department. 1992.
- Ripley, Robert. Contributing professional. *The Nebraska State Capitol Environs-East and South Mall Proposal*. Published with grants from the Lincoln Community Foundation; the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Architecture; and the Department of Administrative Services, Building Division. 1984.
- Ripley, Robert. Chapter Seven author. *A Harmony of the Arts, The Nebraska State Capitol*, Frederick C. Luebke, editor. University of Nebraska Press. 1990.
- Ripley, Robert. Book review author. *The American Statehouse: Interpreting Democracy's Temples*, Charles T. Goodsell, University Press of Kansas, 2001. For the Great Plains Quarterly, Winter 2004; Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. 2004.
- Ripley, Robert. Forward author. *The Nebraska State Capitol: Restoring A Landmark*, BVH Architects Publication, Omaha Books Division of Eventive Marketing, LLC, Omaha, Nebraska. 2013.



## AUTHORED PRESENTATIONS

- Ripley, Robert. Lecturer/author. Nebraska Capitol, Pioneer High-Rise. Midwestern Student Chapters of the Society of Professional Engineers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1975.
- Ripley, Robert. Lecturer/author. The Nebraska State Capitol: Preservation 2000 Program. An on-going program offered to the general public upon request. 1983-2004.
- Ripley, Robert. Lecturer/author. The Nebraska Capitol Landscape Plan: A Design by Ernst H. Herminghaus. Presented to the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Annual Conference, Lincoln, Nebraska. 1984.
- Ripley, Robert. Lecturer/author. Nebraska Capitol: Preservation Update. Updates on the Capitol and its architectural, preservation and environs given more than 350 times in over 30 Nebraska communities to over 10,000 people, 1984-2014.
- Ripley, Robert. Lecturer/author. The Site Development of the Nebraska State Capitols. Presented as part of "The Evolution of a Capitol" speaker series funded by the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities. 1985.
- Ripley, Robert. Lecturer/author. The Making of a Monument. Funded by the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Nebraska State Capitol Foundation presented initially to civic groups in six cities across Nebraska. 1986.





## MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL

- Ripley, Robert. Lecturer/author. Landscape Restoration of the Nebraska State Capitol Grounds – Phase 1. Presented to the annual international conference of the Association for Preservation Technology, Austin, Texas; 1986.
- Ripley, Robert. Lecturer/author. The Evolution of Nebraska’s Capitols. Keynote speech to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Centennial of Architectural Education, Wick Alumni Center, Lincoln, Nebraska, January. 1994.
- Ripley, Robert. Lecturer/author. The Nebraska State Capitol: Data Base Applications. Presented to the annual international conference of the Association for Preservation Technology, Winnipeg, Manitoba. 1996. Abstract published as part of the conference summary.
- Ripley, Robert. Lecturer/author. Nebraska Capitol Interior Renovation/Restoration. Presentation made to AIA Nebraska Annual Conference, Lincoln, NE, 1998.
- Ripley, Robert. Lecturer/author. Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, Architect & Master of Many Arts. Presented to the Society of Architectural Historians “Goodhue’s New York” seminar & tour, New York, New York. May 2004.
- Ripley, Robert. Lecturer/author. The History of Nebraska’s Capitols. Five-week Lecture-series for the Osher Life-long Learning Institute, Adult Education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, given in 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2014.

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND PUBLICITY

One of the key aspects of Ripley’s responsibilities are public relations and special events that engage the public as well as the mass media. Publicity for the Nebraska State Capitol is key to citizen involvement and understanding. Ripley has wisely built strong relationships with local and regional media professionals who contact him regularly for comments, updates, responses and new information about the Capitol and its preservation efforts.

- Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony. Ripley has advanced Capitol grounds restoration by establishing a yearly event on the Arbor Day holiday for chosen classes (students, teachers and the students’ parents) in Lincoln Public Schools. Each school has taken a year to raise enough money to plant a special tree on the Capitol yard according to the Capitol Grounds Master Restoration Plan.
- Goodhue Boulevard Dedication Ceremony, 2007. Invitations were sent to more than 200 dignitaries in the public and private sectors, plus statewide media outlets to celebrate the very first actual public visual commemoration of Capitol architect, Bertram Goodhue. In addition, Goodhue’s surviving relatives were on hand to greet the audience, the Governor and media. Ripley was responsible for this Goodhue Boulevard street name-change. He worked for three years with local government, city council and neighbors on the street to assure a smooth transition for the street name change.
- The 100 Year Celebration of the Abraham Lincoln monument, 2012. Anchoring the west side of the Capitol, this important sculpture by Daniel Chester French was commemorated with a special presentation and reading of the Gettysburg Address by Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice Mike Heavican. Re-enactment soldiers participated in the ceremony. Attendees included political leaders in city and state government, plus the public.



## CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Fourth Grade Public Schools Nebraska History Curriculum Development. Ripley and his OCC team, in collaboration with educators across the state, have developed an interactive segment on the capitol.org website that provides students and teachers unique ways to incorporate the Nebraska State Capitol into school curriculum.