

## Capitol Elevator Modernization

2021

Modern systems in the historic Capitol require maintenance as well as the historic material. Elevators in the 1888 Capitol and 1993 Capitol Extension were recently modernized to current code.

While much of the work remains largely hidden from the public in machine rooms, visitors will now enjoy updated controls and modern features such as audible floor announcements for people with visual impairments, as well as improved wayfinding elements. Modern motors will be more durable, energy efficient and easier to maintain.

Along with the equipment, the cab interiors were replaced after 25 years of use. The opportunity was taken to add a new decorative and interpretive feature in the elevators off the Capitol Rotunda: an actual-size replica of the glass seal in the oculus of the Capitol North Façade pediment. While still in place, the original glass seal is very far from viewing locations at ground level, and has been protected with a backing that renders it no longer transparent, making it even less visible. At its construction, both the north and south Capitol facades featured decorative glass in their oculi, which were piped for gas fixtures to backlight them at night.

