

history of our State. The stream of immigrants to the far West, that had begun before the Revolution, continued in increased volume. In sheer desperation the people were abandoning their fields and making new homes in the wilderness—the population of the State was at a standstill.

Such was the condition when the Assembly met in 1831. Members were distracted, rent asunder by factions. There were five parties represented, fighting among themselves about issues regarding the rebuilding of the Capitol and alteration of the constitution. After a two day discussion, the Assembly of 1831 refused to rebuild.

A year passed, and the ruins of the old State-house still marked the site of the former Capitol. The Legislature could not meet in the Governor's Mansion, as that was outside the city limits. To move the capital a convention was necessary, and the Legislature was not favorable to a convention.

At the session of November 1832, the Assembly, by a vote of 35 to 28 in the Senate and 73 to 60 in the House, resolved to rebuild on the old site, and \$50,000 was appropriated for that purpose.

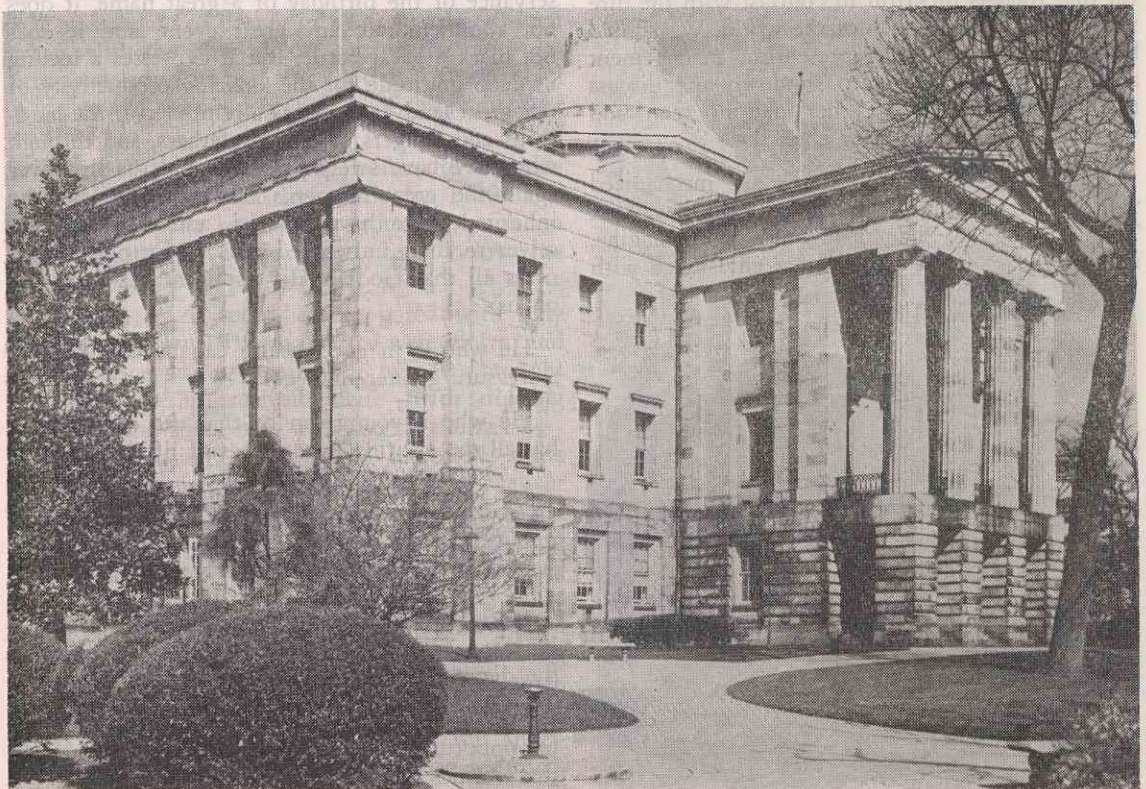
After the foundations were laid, the work progressed more slowly, and it was so expensive that the appropriation was exhausted. The legislature at the next session appropriated \$75,000 more. To do the stone and finer work many

skilled artisans were brought from Scotland and other countries. The Building Commissioners contracted with David Paton to come to Raleigh and superintend the work. Mr. Paton had come from Scotland the year before. He was architect, designer and builder of the Capitol.

The Legislature was compelled to make appropriation for the work from time to time. Much money was saved in the construction, because the State-owned quarry furnished all the stone for the building.

In the summer of 1840 the work was finished. At last, after more than seven years, the sum of \$531,674.46 was expended. As large as that sum was at the time, when the State was so poor and when the entire taxes for State purposes was less than \$100,000, yet the people were satisfied. The building had been erected with vigorous economy, and it was an object of pride to the people.

One hundred and ten years have left this building with undying memories. It was finished the year Henry Clay was set aside as the Whig leader and his place given to General Harrison. Four years later Henry Clay spoke from the western portico; but like Webster and Calhoun, the presidency was denied him. The voices of other great men have also been heard within this Capitol. Here, too, our great jurists—Gaston, Ruffin, Pearson and their associates—held their sessions and brought fame to North Carolina.



The North Carolina State Capitol finished in 1840.