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WASHINGTON STATUE DESTROYED IN BLAZE

First State House Razed By Fire

This is the second part of an article on North Carolina's first two State Houses, a subject made timely by the opening of the state's third and largest State House or "Leg-islative Building" this year. The first part appeared last week. Writer of the feature is Paul C. (Pete) Butler, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Butler of Midland Road. To graduate next week from the University of North Carolina with a degree in history and political science, he wrote this item in connection with a journalism course at the University.

By. PAUL C. BUTLER, JR.

The State House of 1794 was by no means the prettiest seat of state government in America. It lacked symmetry and a sense of creativity. It did, however, possess one unique feature.

In 1815 the legislators decided ing liberal-minded, the legislatory of Henry Clay, John C. Caltory of Henry Clay, John C. Ca Washington to decorate the per day before his job was com- A. Douglas, and Andrew John- married and has a six-year-old Jefferson recommended Antonio pleted. Canova, famous sculptor of that Not Easy Task ceriod.

at a price of \$10,000. Completed quired, he found himself acting ered over the "old State House," idation of the two high schools. in 1821, it was shipped to Wil- as supervisor, superintendent, the most striking example be-mington and then to Fayetteville. bookkeeper, and paymaster. the most striking example be-ing on April 14, 1865, when for-The statue was then moved by wagon to Raleigh, creating as much excitement to curious onlookers as did the recent arrival of the "Mona Lisa" in the United States.

Destroyed by Fire The enthusiasm of Tar Heels over their new State House was short-lived. On June 21, 1831, the cry of "Fire!" broke through the early morning dawn. Lacking the adequate equipment for combatting the fire, the Raleigh citizens could merely stand by and watch while the flames turned the marble structure white hot, engulfed the wooden beams, and filled the summer sky black with smoke and ashes.

The public records of the State were saved, but the State Library, housing numerous valuable books and manuscripts, was destroyed. Also, the statue of Washington was destroyed beyond restoration.

The fire could not have happened at a more unfortunate time. During the period from 1815-1835 North Carolina had acquired the nickname "Rip Van Winkle State," meaning that she had fallen asleep in the face of her responsibilities.

Plaguing the State at this time was wide-spread illiteracy and disease, impassable roads and bridges, inefficient government and the need for constitutional reform. Therefore, we could illafford the cost of a new State

Numerous Protests The aftermath of the fire gave

to keep the same site for the re- Mc-Pheeters. building of a new State House.

Seawell from Wake aimed at the every enlightened stranger." tect to design it.

and the term "Capitol" substi- dents in the Raleigh area.

his trip down from New England. proud and sad moments. His salary was \$3 per day, but be-

rise to numerous protests con-| The cornerstone was laid on in the "old State House" could apcerning the re-location of a new July 4, 1833, by Governor David ply to that building, and still link State House. And once again, L. Swain. The Governor was ac- the "new State House" and peo-Fayetteville was in the middle of the fight. After eighteen salute and a sunrise service at "May a thousand years find these months of bitter name-calling, the Presbyterian Church, con- halls occupied by freemen legisthe lawmakers reluctantly voted ducted by the Rev. Dr. William lating for a free and happy peo-

Completed in 1840, the Capitol Meeting in November, the Leg-islature was asked to consider a Buidling was "an object of just pride to every liberal mind in Brendell Named bill sponsored by Senator Henry the State, and the admiration of

re-building of a new Capitol. The The cost of the new structure bill was passed, and the legisla- was \$531,684. One item holding tors eagerly looked for an archi- down costs was the stone, which has served for the past year as It is interesting to note that the miles from the building-today School, has been appointed printerm "State House" has now been that rock quarry has achieved cipal of Aberdeen High School, revived, as it had been general-the distinction of being a good to succeed C. Wade Mobley who ly abandoned after around 1831, "parking place" for college stu- resigned to become superinten-

The Capitol Building-today County. The designer agreed upon was termed the "old State House," a Scotsman named David Paton. since we moved into the "new Paton was given \$45 to pay for State House"—has had both Appalachian State Teachers Col-

Anguish and Sorrow

The statue was carved in Italy one. Lacking the skilled labor re- anguish and sorrow have hov- Plans are being made for consol-

mer Governor David L. Swain surrendered the building to General William T. Sherman.

It is fitting that the following statement by John Motley Morehead, the first Governor to serve

To School Post

John R. Brendell, Jr., who was quarried one and a half principal of West End High dent of education in Montgomery

A native of Boone, with bachelor's and master's degrees from lege, the 35-year-old educator Its halls have rung with the or- was principal of Central High daughter, Lynn.

West End and Aberdeen are Paton's task was not an easy At times, however, clouds of both schools of the county system.

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