

**No. R-148. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 150th anniversary of the third Vermont State House.**

(H.C.R.93)

Offered by: Representatives Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Hooper of Montpelier, Clarkson of Woodstock and Johnson of South Hero

Offered by: Senators Doyle, Cummings and Scott

Whereas, the first Vermont State House, a comparatively plain three-story wooden structure, opened in 1808, and

Whereas, by the 1830s, the building proved inadequate to accommodate Vermont's newly bicameral legislature, and a young Vermont architect, Ammi B. Young, designed a new state capitol constructed primarily of Barre granite that resembled an ancient Greek temple featuring a Doric portico and a Roman style dome, and

Whereas, on a cold winter's evening, on January 6, 1857, an overheated furnace ignited a flaming blaze that severely damaged the Second Vermont State House, leaving only the portico reusable, and

Whereas, Boston architect Thomas W. Silloway, a former colleague of Ammi B. Young, was initially selected to design the third Vermont State House, and his desire to construct a temple of democracy conflicted with the goals of adequacy, economy, and fire resistance that clerk of the works and former House Speaker Dr. Thomas E. Powers of Woodstock espoused, and

Whereas, their differences led to Silloway's resignation, and his architectural replacement was Joseph Richards, and Dr. Powers and Joseph

Richards proceeded to see the new and much grander edifice through to completion in 1859, and

Whereas, Julian Scott's masterful battle of Cedar Creek painting, depicting this famous Civil War battle scene, was unveiled in 1874 but was initially hung in the governor's office for lack of an alternative space, and

Whereas, Joseph Richards' new west wing opened in 1886, expanding the increasingly cramped Vermont State House, and it included the supreme court's first permanent chamber and a new state library, enabling the former library space to be transformed into the Cedar Creek Room as a proper home for Scott's painting, and

Whereas, electricity first illuminated the building in the early 1900s, the dome was initially gilded in 1907, in 1910, sculptor Mead Larkin's widow donated one of his busts of Abraham Lincoln, and when the supreme court and state library departed in 1918, their former spaces were reconfigured for legislative and executive branch purposes, and

Whereas, many of the remaining executive branch offices departed in 1949, and, in 1971, the governor's primary working office was relocated to the new Pavilion Office Building, and

Whereas, in the 1980s, a new cafeteria, the speaker's office suite, and legislative council offices were added, and

Whereas, the establishment of the Friends of the State House in 1981 resulted in a private fundraising drive that, with additional public monies, saw

the restoration of the Cedar Creek Room, including its long dismantled and stunning stained glass skylight, the legislative chambers and their vestibule, and other rooms, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 150th anniversary of the third Vermont State House, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Friends of the Vermont State House and the Curator of State Buildings.