

## Examples of Georgia Marble

By Stephen E. Griffeth

The Georgia Marble Company signed its largest contract ever in September, 1958. This contract was for \$2,783,650 for the renovation of the East Front of our Nation's Capitol. Fifteen million pounds of Georgia Marble quarried from the Long Swamp Valley were processed for the job which included 24 Corinthian Columns. The base and plinths of the columns were one-foot nine and three-fourths inches in height. The shaft was twenty-four feet and nine and seven-sixteenths inches in height. The carving of these capitals was sub-contracted to the Vermont Marble Company in Proctor, Vermont. It was necessary to carve the capitals in two pieces due to the shape of the Corinthian capitals. The stock for these capitals was shipped to the Vermont Marble Company, and after they had completed the carving they were shipped from Vermont to Washington, D.C.

The original building was constructed of limestone. Pieces of this carved limestone were removed and shipped to The Georgia Marble Company at Nelson, Georgia, so the carving could be duplicated as near as possible. The entire project was shipped via rail from Nelson to Washington. The work took over two years to complete, and the completion date was to be in 1961 in time for the inauguration of the next President of the United States. Everything was in place and ready for President John F. Kennedy when he took the oath of office.

### RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

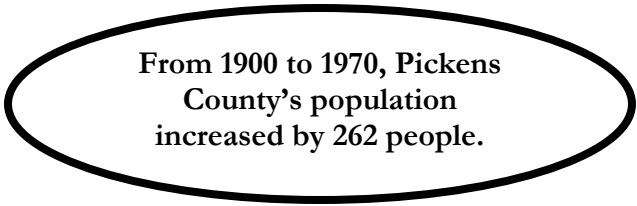
The Georgia Marble Company and the Vermont Marble Company were successful joint bidders in February, 1960 for the marble used in the Sam Rayburn Office Building. The Georgia Marble Company's part of this project exceeded the dollar amount of the renovation of the east front of the capitol building. It amounted to \$4,600,000.

The Rayburn Building had a large number of ionic columns. The base of each column measured approximately two feet, nine inches in overall height. The drums were approximately eight feet in height and five feet one inch in diameter. They were wire sawed to a cylinder at the Tate plant and finished to the exact dimension on the large carborundum machine at Nelson. The capitals were approximately two feet, nine inches in height. Mr. Jimmy Watt was the supervisor and chief carver of this project, assisted by Mr. Jim Bob Gibbs, Mr. Mac Stanfield and Mr. Winston Bruce.

The four segments that came off of the column drums were saved and reworked to make memorials (either war or individual memorials.) It was necessary to provide a base and urn to complete the memorial.

*This article is from the book, The Many Facets of Tate, Georgia by Stephen E. Griffeth.*

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From 1900 to 1970, Pickens  
County's population  
increased by 262 people.