

## Meeting Places of the Committee

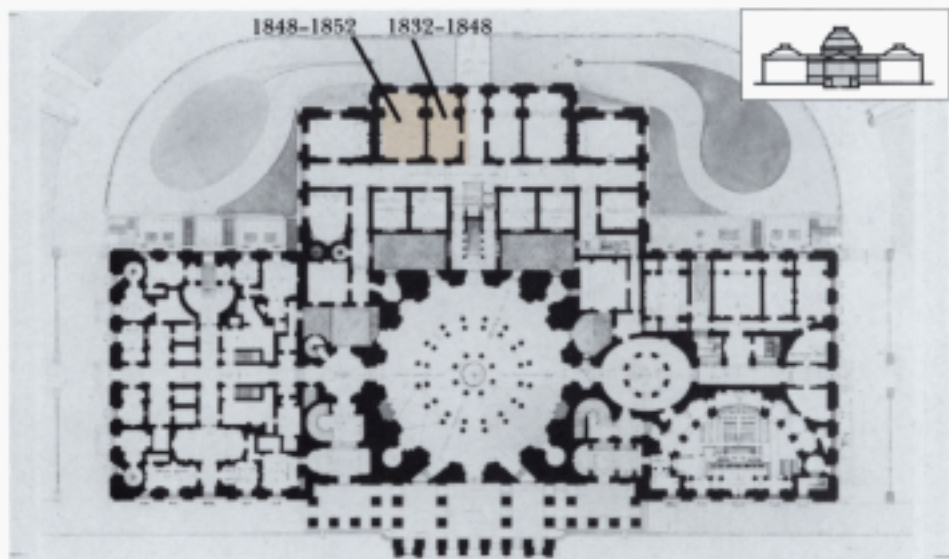
**Top:** This drawing depicts the east elevation of the U.S. Capitol as it appears today. In 1800, the House and Senate met in the Senate (north) wing, the first portion of the building to be constructed (inset). Committees of both Houses shared space until the old House (south) wing was first occupied in 1807. Latrobe's 1806 scheme (see page 40), which was partially built, suggests that Ways and Means had its own room in the old south wing. The fire of 1814 and subsequent repairs required the committee's temporary relocation until the reconstruction of the old House wing in 1819. The Annals of Congress indicate that the committee was assigned room space in the south wing, first floor, until the early 1830s.

**Center:** Charles Bulfinch's handsome wood and copper dome and other additions gave the Capitol this general shape and appearance from 1825 to 1856 (inset). Thirty-seven years after George Washington laid its cornerstone, the Capitol was finally completed in 1826. From 1832 until 1852, the committee occupied space in the central part of the Capitol directly under the Library of Congress.

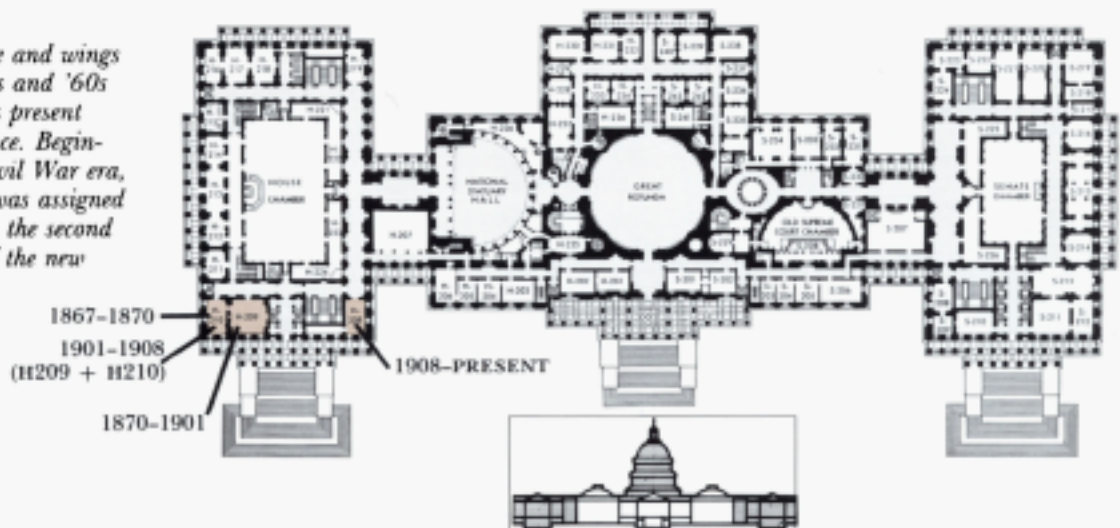
**Bottom:** The dome and wings added in the 1850s and '60s gave the Capitol its present form and appearance. Beginning in the post Civil War era, Ways and Means was assigned permanent space in the second (principal) floor of the new



EAST ELEVATION OF THE U.S. CAPITOL



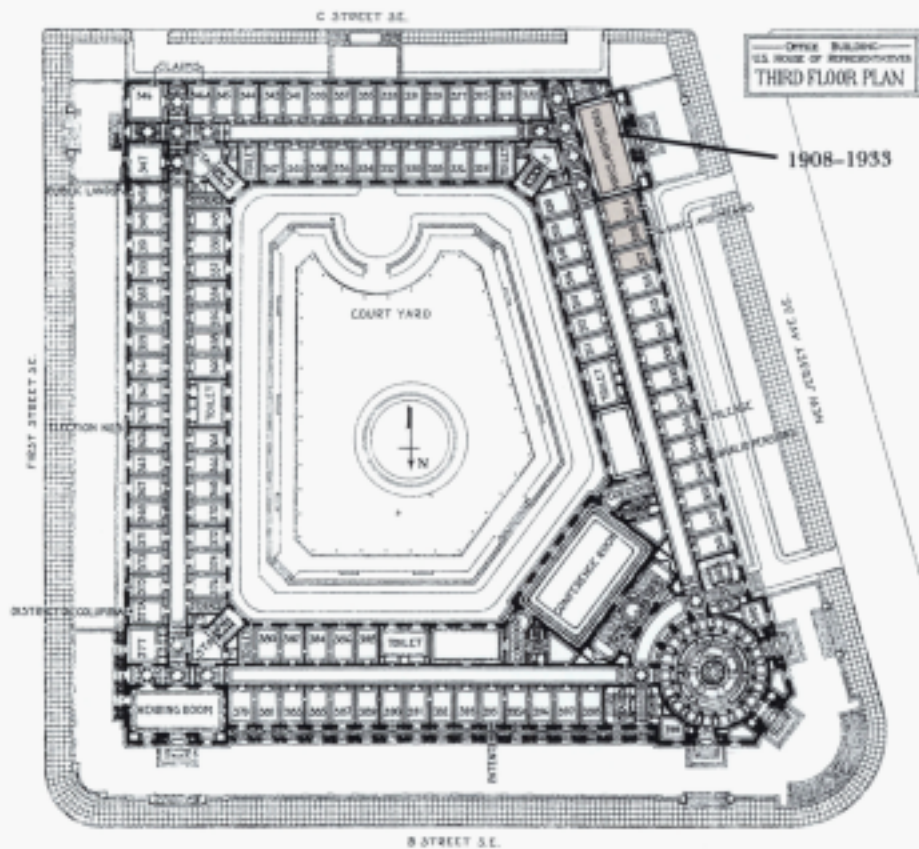
BASEMENT PLAN OF THE CAPITOL BY A.J. DAVIS, 1832



SECOND (PRINCIPAL) FLOOR PLAN, 1972



EXTERIOR OF THE CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING



THIRD FLOOR PLAN OF THE HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, 1926

south wing. It occupied H-210 from 1867 to 1870; then it moved to H-209, its assigned space for the next 31 years. In 1901, the committee was allotted an extra room (H-210), indicating its growth and prestige. The Speaker obtained use of this space in 1908, and the panel's room was changed to H-208, which it retains to the present.

**Top:** In 1908, the first House Office Building was completed. Today this structure is known as the Cannon House Office Building, named after Speaker Joseph G. Cannon. The building was designed by the New York firm of Carrère and Hastings and was built to accommodate all 391 Representatives then serving in Congress, as well as various committees and other support facilities. In February 1908, the committee was allotted four rooms in the southwest corner of the third floor.

**Bottom:** In addition to its space in the Capitol, the rooms shaded were utilized by the Committee on Ways and Means from 1908 to 1933. These rooms housed the chairman's office, the committee clerks' office, meeting and hearings space, and a library. By the end of the 1920s, many members recognized the need for a new office structure to ease overcrowded conditions in this building.

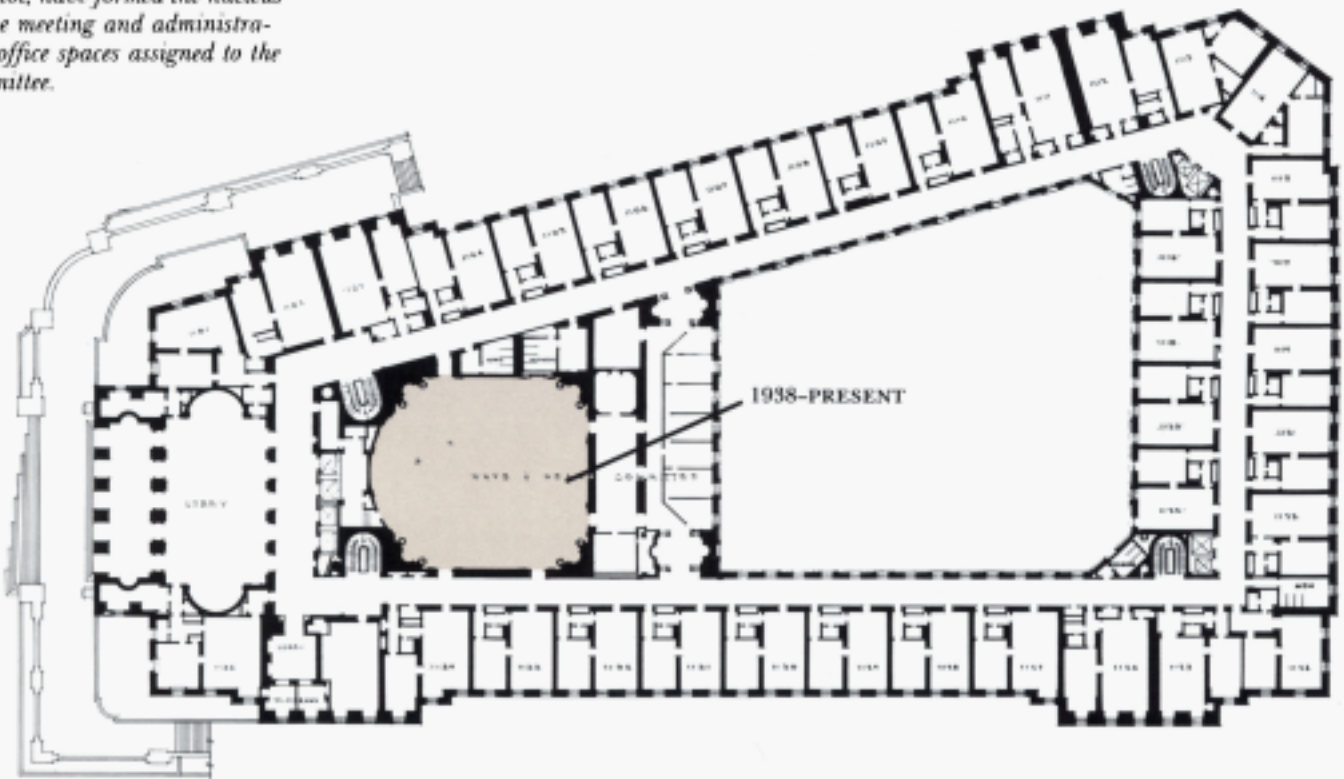
**Top Right:** Completed in 1933 at a cost of 6.5 million dollars, the building known today as the Longworth House Office Building (named for former committee member and Speaker Nicholas Longworth) was designed by the

Washington, DC, firm The Allied Architects, Inc. For a period of five years (1933-1938), the committee occupied Room 1301 on the third floor of the building, before relocating on the first floor.

**Bottom:** In the late 1930s, Ways and Means was allotted hearing space in the imposing Assembly Room (shaded area), on the first floor of the Longworth Building. In 1938, the committee's offices moved to Room 1102. This move accommodated a growing staff, which by this time included a majority and minority clerk, two assistant clerks, and two messengers. Since 1938, Room 1102 and the Assembly Room (1100), as well as Room H-208 in the Capitol, have formed the nucleus of the meeting and administrative office spaces assigned to the committee.



EXTERIOR OF THE LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING



FIRST FLOOR PLAN OF THE LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, 1969