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## PREFACE

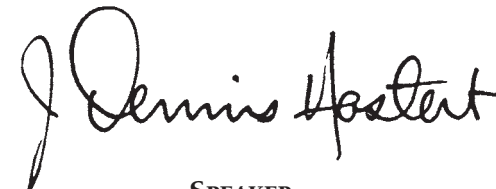
The United States Capitol Preservation Commission has been pleased to support the preparation of this new annotated edition of Glenn Brown's *History of the United States Capitol* as part of its mission to provide for the preservation of the Capitol. In addition to preserving and enhancing the building and the art collection, this mission includes preserving knowledge about the history of the Capitol and encouraging understanding of the building through research and publications.

The publication of this book is part of the celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States Capitol. The bicentennial period extended from 1993, the anniversary of the laying of the first cornerstone of the Capitol by President George Washington on September 18, 1793, to the year 2000, the two-hundredth anniversary of the year the Congress moved to the new national capital on the banks of the Potomac River.

The annotated edition of Glenn Brown's *History* follows a series of publications sponsored by Congress on the history of the Capitol. These include *The United States Capitol: A Brief Architectural History*, first published in 1990 and reprinted in 1994; *The Dome of the United States Capitol: An Architectural History*, 1992; "In the Greatest Solemn Dignity": *The Capitol's Four Cornerstones*, 1994; Barbara Wolanin's *Constantino Burmidi: Artist of the Capitol*, 1998; and William C. Allen's *History of the United States Capitol A Chronicle of Design, Construction, and Politics*, 2001. The Commission cooperated in the preparation of *The United States Capitol*, 1993, with outstanding photographs of the building by Fred J. Maroon. *Capitol Builder: The Shorthand Journals of Montgomery C. Meigs, 1853–1859, 1861*, edited by Wendy Wolff, 2001, was a collaborative effort. We commend the Architect of the Capitol for preparing these much-needed and informative publications for the use of the Congress and the American people.



PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
U.S. SENATE



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CO-CHAIRMEN, U.S. CAPITOL PRESERVATION COMMISSION