
AUTHOR'S PREFACE

THE Capitol having been under the jurisdiction of the District Commissioners, the special commissioners, and the State, Interior, and War Departments, as well as under the direct charge of Congressional committees and Architects, the Government records bearing upon its history are in various depositories. The controversies at different periods between the Architects, the superintendents, and the Departments in charge of the Capitol ended in many instances by the Architects taking possession of drawings and papers which should have been retained among the documents of the Government.

To obtain data for a clear understanding of the subject I have found it necessary to examine material available in the hands of the Government and of descendants of the Architects and superintendents. Many of the most valuable documents are in the possession of private individuals, who have come into such possession by inheritance or gift from descendants of those who were in charge of the building.

For the privilege of examining and making notes, extracts, and photographic copies I wish to thank the following Government officials: Hon. Daniel Lamont when Secretary of War; Hon. David J. Hill, Assistant Secretary of State; Mr. Edward Clark, Architect of the Capitol; his assistant, Mr. Elliott Wood, and Mr. Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress.

To the following private individuals I wish to tender my thanks: To Mrs. J. H. Bayard Smith for material relating to Thornton; to Mr. W. Stone Abert for data on Latrobe and Lenthal; to Misses Olivia

and Ida Walter for the privilege of photographing numerous drawings made by Thomas U. Walter, as well as to Mr. W. B. Bryan and Mr. James F. Hood for the use of their collections of material relating to the District of Columbia and the reproduction of old prints in their possession. I am indebted to the papers of Miss Ellen Bulfinch for data relating to Bulfinch.

The Maryland Historical Society was also kind enough to allow me to reproduce the old competitive drawings now in their possession. I wish also to acknowledge my indebtedness to my wife, Mary Ella Brown, for her unceasing assistance in the preparation of the history.

After a long and laborious search I have been unable to secure the competitive drawings for the Capitol extension, this being the only material point on which I have been unable to secure data to make a comprehensive treatment of the subject.

The material for the work I have gathered during the past ten years, and portions of the matter have been published in the *American Architect and Building News*, the *Architectural Review*, of Boston, and the *Architectural Record*, of New York.

The plates giving reproductions of old drawings and prints, as well as photographs of the existing building, have all been made especially for this work. Only original documents have been used in the preparation of the work, and old drawings have been reproduced as they exist today without any effort being made to work them over so as to produce more pleasing results.

GLENN BROWN.

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