

The United States Capitol



The Architect of the Capitol

- Build in 1793
- The Architect of the Capitol is responsible to the United States (U.S.) Congress for the maintenance, operation, development, and preservation of the United States Capitol Complex, which includes the Capitol, the congressional office buildings, the Library of Congress buildings, the Supreme Court building, the U.S. Botanic Garden, the Capitol Power Plant, and other facilities.

The Architect of the Capitol

Cont.

- Not Until 1989 this position was filled by Presidential appointment for an indefinite term. Legislation enacted in 1989 provides that the Architect is to be appointed for a term of ten (10) years by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, from a list of three candidates recommended by a congressional commission.
- Upon confirmation by the Senate, the Architect becomes an official of the Legislative Branch as an officer and agent of Congress; he is eligible for reappointment after completion of his term.

Architects

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- Born: May 20, 1759, Jost van Dyke, West Indies
- Died: March 28, 1828, Washington, D.C.
- Design selected by President George Washington, 1793

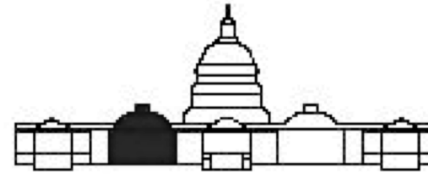
Dr. William Thornton



During Thornton's tenure the Capitol's north wing (shown in blue) was constructed.

Architects

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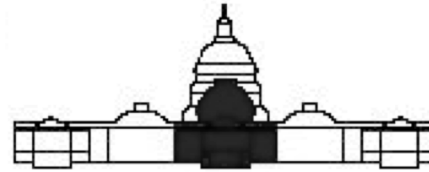
Latrobe constructed the Capitol's south wing
(shown in blue)
as well as rebuilding the interior of the north wing.

Benjamin Henry Latrobe

- Born: May 1, 1764, near Leeds, England
- Died: September 3, 1820, New Orleans, Louisiana
- Appointed by President Thomas Jefferson, March 6, 1803 - construction halted by July 1, 1811
- Appointed by President James Madison, April 6, 1815
- Resigned November 20, 1817

Architects

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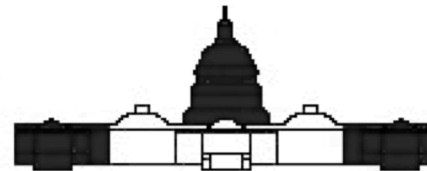
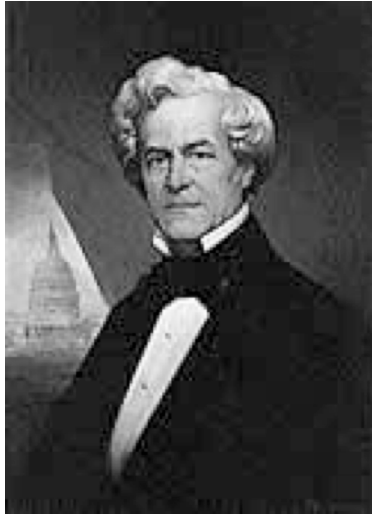
Bulfinch constructed the Capitol's central section (shown in blue), including the Rotunda and the original dome.

Charles Bulfinch

- Born: August 8, 1763, Boston, Massachusetts
- Died: April 15, 1844, Boston, Massachusetts
- Appointed by President James Monroe and the Commissioner of Public Buildings, January 8, 1818
- Office abolished June 25, 1829

Architects

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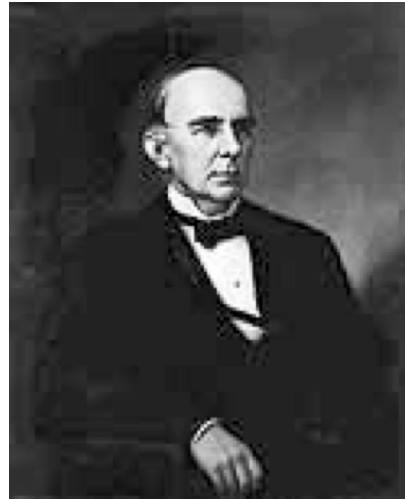
Walter added the present north (Senate) and south (House) wings and the present cast-iron dome (shown in blue).

Thomas Ustick Walter

- Born: September 4, 1804, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Died: October 30, 1887, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Appointed by President Millard Fillmore, June 11, 1851
- Resigned May 26, 1865

Architects

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Edward Clark

- Born: August 15, 1822, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Died: January 6, 1902, Washington, D.C.
- Appointed by President Andrew Johnson, August 30, 1865
- Died in office, January 6, 1902

Architects

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Elliott Woods

- Born: February 2, 1865 near Manchester, England
- Died: May 22, 1923, Spring Lake, New Jersey
- Appointed by President Theodore Roosevelt, February 19, 1902
- Died in office May 22, 1923

Architects

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David Lynns

- Born: November 10, 1873, Wheeling, West Virginia
- Died: May 25, 1961, Washington, D.C.
- Appointed by President Calvin Coolidge, August 22, 1923
- Retired September 30, 1954

Architects

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Stewart oversaw the extension of the Capitol's east central front (shown in blue).

J. George Stewart

- Born: June 2, 1890, Wilmington, Delaware
- Died: May 24, 1970, Washington, D.C.
- Appointed by President Dwight Eisenhower, October 1, 1954
- Died in office May 24, 1970

Architects

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George M. White, FAIA

- Born: November 1, 1920, Cleveland, Ohio
- Appointed by President Richard Nixon, January 27, 1971
- Retired November 21, 1995

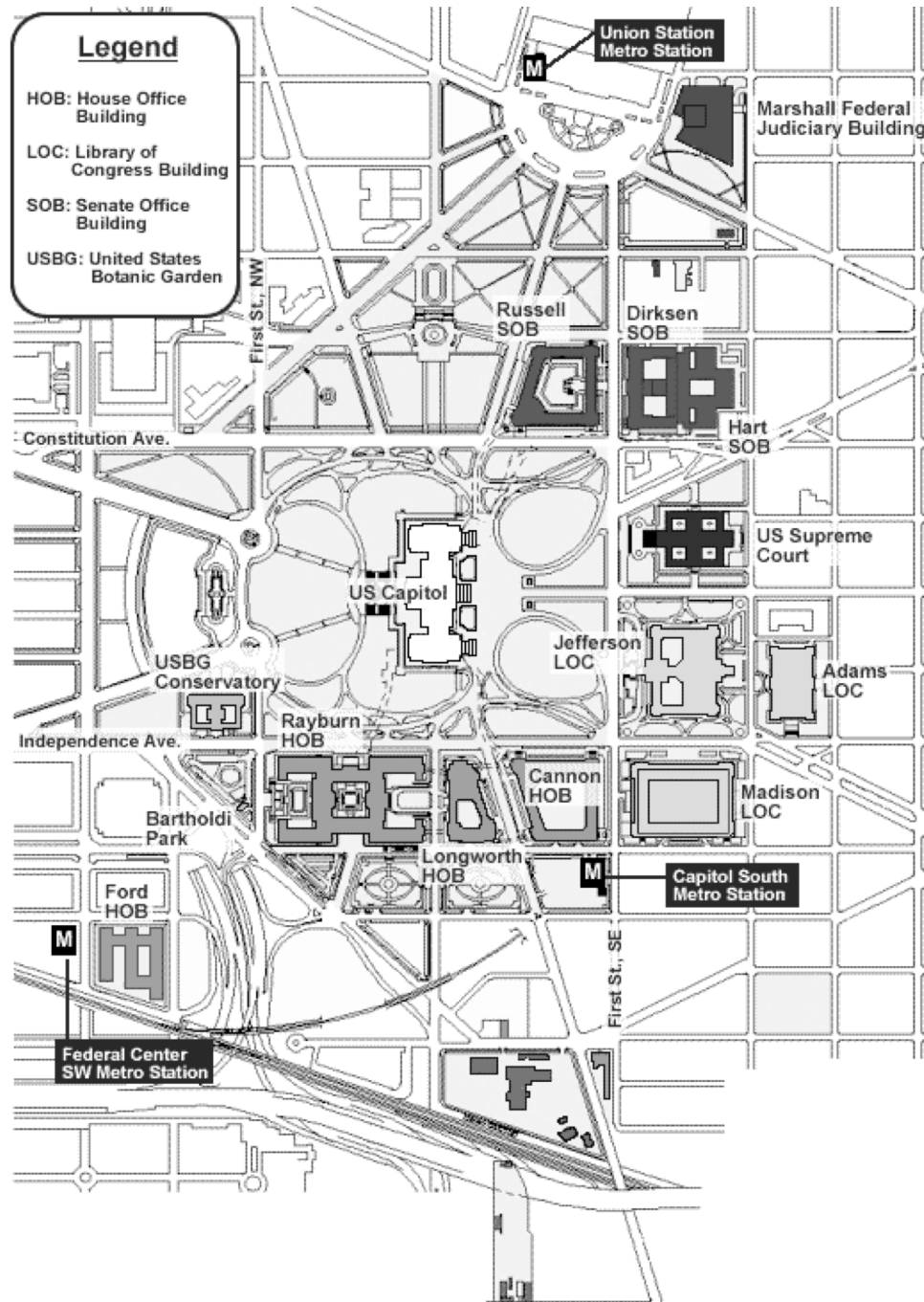
Architects

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Alan M. Hantman, FAIA

- Born: October 13, 1942, New York City
- Appointed by President William Jefferson Clinton, January 6, 1997; confirmed by the Senate, January 30, 1997
- Mr. Hantman is the first Architect of the Capitol to be appointed under the new selection procedure established by legislation in 1989.



Map of the Capitol

Dome

The cast-iron dome of the United States Capitol, constructed between 1855 and 1866, may well be the most famous man-made landmark in America. It is such a fitting finale for the building it crowns, so familiar and dignified, that it seems surprising that its design and construction came late in the Capitol's architectural evolution. Only the west front terraces (1884-1892) and the east front extension (1958-1962) are more recent additions to the Capitol than its dome.



(The Capitol Dome Viewed from the West)

Rotunda

The Rotunda is a large, domed, circular room located in the center of the Capitol on the second floor. It has been used for ceremonial functions, such as the unveiling of statues, inaugurations, and the *lying in the state* of distinguished citizens. Its lower walls hold historic paintings, and a frescoed band, or "frieze," depicting significant events in American history rings its upper walls. The Rotunda canopy, a 4664-square-foot fresco painting entitled *The Apotheosis of Washington*, depicts the first President of the United States rising into the clouds in glory.



(The Inner Dome and Canopy over the Rotunda)

Old Senate Chamber

CACC Standard 1G

This semicircular, half-domed chamber, located north of the Rotunda, was occupied by the Senate between 1810 and 1859. After the Senate moved to its present chamber, this room was used by the Supreme Court from 1860 until 1935.



(Old Senate Chamber
Viewed from the South)

Old Supreme Court Chamber

Until 1935, the Capitol housed the Supreme Court of the United States as well as the Congress. This semicircular, umbrella-vaulted room, located north of the Crypt, was used by the Court between 1810 and 1860.



(The Old Supreme Court Chamber Viewed from the Southwest)

Crypt

On the Capitol's first floor is the Crypt, which lies beneath the Rotunda and dome directly above. Despite its name, the Crypt has never been used for funerary purposes; it serves today for the display of sculpture and interpretive exhibits.



Halls of Columns

The Hall of Columns is a dramatic, high-ceilinged corridor over 100 feet long on the first floor of the Capitol's House wing. It takes its name from the 28 fluted, white marble columns that line the corridor. Since 1976, the hall has housed part of the *National Statuary Hall Collection*.



(Column Capital in the Hall of Columns)



(Hall of Columns Photograph)

National Statuary Hall (The Old Hall of the House)

The House of Representatives first occupied this space south of the Rotunda in 1809 and used it as their meeting room for almost 50 years. In 1857 the House moved to its present chamber, and in 1864 Congress invited each state to contribute two statues of prominent citizens to a for permanent display in the room, which was renamed National Statuary Hall. Today it houses part of the *National Statuary Hall Collection*.

National Statuary Hall - Photos



(National Statuary Hall Viewed from the South)



(The Car of History on the North Wall)



(Liberty and the Eagle on the South Wall)



(National Statuary Hall Viewed from the Southwest)

The Brumidi Corridors

The vaulted, ornately decorated corridors on the first floor of the Senate wing are called the Brumidi Corridors in honor of Constantino Brumidi, the Italian artist who designed the murals and the major elements. Brumidi first painted at the Capitol in 1855, and he spent much of the next 25 years until his death in 1880 decorating the building's rooms and corridors.



(Section of the West Brumidi Corridor)

The Brumidi Corridors



(The North Corridor
Viewed from the West)



(The Patent Corridor)



(Detail of a Squirrel
and a Mouse)



(The North Entry)

Minton Tiles

The richly patterned and colored tiled floors are one of the most striking features of the extensions of the United States Capitol. Architect Thomas U. Walter chose encaustic tile for its beauty, durability, and sophistication.



(Minton Tile Floor in a Capitol Office)

