
CHAPTER XIII

THE WORK ON THE CAPITOL UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF EDWARD CLARK, ARCHITECT

EDWARD CLARK, who was placed in charge of the Capitol after the retirement of Thomas U. Walter in 1865, carried on the work to completion in accordance with the designs of his predecessor. In 1865 the eastern portico of the south wing was completed with the exception of the capping stones for the cheek blocks. Work was commenced on the enlargement of the Congressional Library, so as to include the whole of the central west extension. Iron and brick work was substituted for the old wooden construction, and the hot-air furnaces which heated the remodeled portion of the building were replaced by steam. In 1866 the northern and western porticoes of the north wing were completed. In 1867 all the porticoes were completed.

By act of Congress March 30, 1867, the central portion of the building and all repair work were placed under the charge of the Architect of the Capitol. Previous to this date the old portion of the building and repairs were under the Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds.¹

In 1867 hot-air furnaces were removed from the cellar of the old building and steam heating substituted in the Law Library, its office rooms and passages. The old vertical skylight over the Supreme Court

room was removed and a new light of small glass in cast-iron frames substituted.² March 2, 1867, the gas for illuminating the Rotunda was ignited by an electric current.

During the year 1868 all the balustrades and exterior marble work were completed and chimneys topped out and capped. A water-closet system was placed in the upper story of the north wing. Grading was done on the grounds and terraces. Mr. Clark recommended treating the Capitol grounds, the Mall, and the President's grounds in one comprehensive plan.³

By act of Congress March 3, 1869, all repairs, improvements, and extensions to the heating apparatus were placed in the charge of the Architect of the Capitol. All stables and temporary building constructions were removed from the grounds and the grading progressed.⁴

During the year 1870 all the work of cleaning and pointing the stonework was finished and the extensions were completed on the exterior. At this time the stone stairway leading from the Supreme Court at the northeast corner of the central building was removed, the

¹The office of Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds was abolished for practical and political reasons in 1867. The responsibilities were too extensive for one person to manage, and the incumbent Benjamin. B. French had stirred congressional animosity as a staunch supporter of President Andrew Johnson. The commissioner's duties for the Capitol were briefly transferred to the Army Corps of Engineers. "An Act to Provide in Part for Grading the Public Grounds, and for Other Purposes," 40th Cong., 1st sess., in *United States Statutes at Large*, vol. 15, 13. Within two weeks, the Corps of Engineers was relieved of its duties at the Capitol, which were transferred to the Architect of the Capitol Extension (15 stat. 13, March 30, 1867).

²The skylight was on the roof of the Capitol. See "Report of the Architect of the Capitol Extension," in *Report of the Secretary of the Interior, Part I*, H. ex. doc. 1 (40-2), Serial 1326, 524-530.

³Architect of the United States Capitol Extension, "Report of the Architect of the Capitol Extension," in *Report of the Secretary of the Interior*, H. ex. doc. 1 (40-3), Serial 1366, 889-894.

⁴"An Act Making Appropriations for the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Expenses of the Government for the Year Ending the 30th of June, 1870," 40th Cong., 3rd sess., in *United States Statutes at Large*, vol. 15, 284.

space in the basement connected with the Law Library, the corresponding space on the principal story fitted up for the Attorney-General, and in the attic for a storeroom.⁵ The painting and interior decoration by Brumidi was carried on from year to year in the halls and committee rooms of the House and Senate. Each year a few of the hot-air furnaces in the old building were removed and the steam heating apparatus extended.

The illustrations [Plates 220 to 223] show the subbasement, basement, and principal story and attic as the building was completed. Plates 224 to 253 show exterior and interior views of the completed building.

In 1871 the depressed floor between the Rotunda and old House of Representatives was raised to correspond with the other floor levels. It was found necessary at this period to relay the portico steps on the west. The foundations of these steps had been placed on made ground and the settlement required constant attention.⁶ It was found necessary every few years to paint the Dome and stonework of the old building. Steam heating was extended year by year in the central building, as well as yearly changes made in the details of the heating apparatus of the new building.

Thomas U. Walter, before retiring from the position of Architect, had several times recommended an extension of the eastern front of the central building. Plates 274 to 277 gives the plan and perspective view of a proposed enlargement of this part of the building made by Walter in the latter part of 1874.

By act of Congress March 3, 1872, the squares numbered 687 and 688, bounded by First street east and B streets north and south, were purchased and the buildings on them removed during the year 1873.⁷

⁵ "Report of the Architect of the Capitol Extension," in *Report of the Secretary of the Interior*, H. ex. doc. 1 (41-3), Serial 1449, 861-866.

⁶ "Report of the Architect of the Capitol Extension," in *Report of the Secretary of the Interior*, H. ex. doc. 1 (42-2), Serial 1505, 1125-1129.

Edward Clark, in 1873, as he had done in previous reports, recommended the employment of a landscape architect to lay out and ornament the grounds. The recommendations were finally approved by Congress June 23, 1874, and the improvement of the grounds was placed in charge of Frederick Law Olmsted.⁸ His first broad suggestions were for a plaza on the east and a marble terrace on the west of the building. From this period the grading of the grounds, setting curbing and dwarf walls around the grounds, ornamental flower beds, and lamp-posts, laying walks, and planting progressed from year to year, the north portion of the east park being completed in 1878. The greater part of all the stone boundary walls were finished in 1880 and work progressed on the walks on the west front.⁹

June 30, 1882, Mr. Olmsted reported all the entrances complete, together with the walls and coping; foundation walls for a parapet complete, and 24,000 feet of plain and 10,000 feet of mosaic artificial-stone flagging laid. In this report he makes a protest against the lack of appropriations for carrying on the marble terraces.¹⁰ Plate 256 shows the plan of the grounds and terraces as designed by Mr. Olmsted.

The terraces, stairways, and other architectural features connected with the landscape were designed by Wisedell, while Mr. Clark

⁷ "An Act Making Appropriations to Supply Deficiencies in the Appropriations for the Service of the Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30th, 1873," 42nd Cong., 3rd sess., in *United States Statutes at Large*, vol. 17, 537.

⁸ "An Act Making Appropriations to Sundry Civil Expenses of the Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30th, 1875, and for Other Purposes," 43rd Cong., 1st sess., in *United States Statutes at Large*, vol. 18, pt. 3, 214.

⁹ Olmsted outlined his plan in a letter to Clark, printed in "Report of the Architect of the Capitol Extension," in *Report of the Secretary of the Interior*, H. ex. doc. 1 (43-2), Serial 1639, 731-737. Progress reports were published in succeeding reports.

¹⁰ "Annual Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol" [For the Fiscal Year Ended 30 June, 1882], in H. ex. doc. 1 (47-2), Serial 2100, 907-925.

represented the Government in the supervision of the work. The space under the terraces was divided up into committee and storage rooms [Plates 258 and 259]. The north approach and terrace were completed in 1886. In 1887 the contract for the construction of the principal terrace and grand stairways on the west front of the Capitol was awarded to the Vermont Marble Company. The foundations for this terrace consisted of 194 wells, averaging in depth 20 feet, sunk to the solid ground and filled with concrete. The report of 1890 shows that the principal part of the stonework and the committee rooms which were provided in this terrace were completed. This portion of the work was finally finished in 1892, although the work of surfacing the top and filling up the foundation was not finished until 1894.¹¹

Modern innovations first made their appearance in the Capitol in 1874, by the introduction of a screw elevator in the Senate wing. This form of elevator caused so much noise that the contractor agreed at his own expense to alter it and have it run by cables, and in 1876 the elevator was changed to a hydraulic machine (see reports of 1876–77).¹² An elevator was built in the House wing and the one originally placed in the Senate was rebuilt in 1882. In 1883 a sidewalk lift was put in the Senate and a freight lift put in the north end of the western corridor. In 1888 an additional elevator was put in each wing of the Capitol by the Crane Elevator Company, and in 1890 a hydraulic one was placed in the east front, constructed so as to connect with the terrace rooms (see report of 1895).¹³

¹¹ “Annual Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol” [For the Fiscal Year Ended 30 June, 1886, 1887, 1890, and 1894], 4–5. In 1991–1993, the Architect of the Capitol directed a major project that repaired the Olmsted terrace and added further space in the Capitol by infilling the original light courts. See RG 40, Subject Files, Curator’s Office, AOC.

¹² “Annual Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol” [For the Fiscal Year Ended 30 June, 1877], 3.

In 1878 a committee was appointed to investigate the question of lighting by electricity instead of gas. Experiments were conducted with different electric-light patents. Mr. J. H. Rogers reported in 1880 that he did not consider the light steady enough for legislative halls. Electric lights were introduced during this year on the piers at the Pennsylvania avenue entrance, but they were not considered satisfactory as late as October, 1881. During the year 1882 A. B. Talcott was made the electrician of the House. Mr. Clark reported in July, 1884, that the United States Electric Lighting Company had placed lights at the north, south, and west approaches of the Capitol at their own expense, and that the Brush-Swann Company were allowed to put experimental lights on the Dome, with the intention of illuminating the grounds and avenues from this point. Electric lighting was further extended in 1885, the Edison company being allowed to put incandescent lights in the cloak rooms, lobbies, and stairways. About this time the arc lamps on the approaches were found to be undesirable, as they caused a disagreeable accumulation of insects around the building.¹⁴

The incandescent lights were found so satisfactory that by act of Congress August 4, 1886, six hundred and fifty were installed in the Senate wing by Royce & Marean for the Sawyer Electric Company, and the same company put two hundred in the House, which were in satisfactory operation in 1888.¹⁵ July, 1889, a committee was appointed

¹³ “Annual Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol” [For the Fiscal Year Ended 30 June, 1882, 1883, 1888, 1890, and 1895], 3.

¹⁴ Architect of the United States Capitol, “Annual Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol” [For the Fiscal Year Ended 30 June, 1878, 1881, 1882, 1884, and 1885], 3–5.

¹⁵ “Annual Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol” [For the Fiscal Year Ended 30 June, 1888], 4–5. The lights were installed in 1888. See also “An Act Making Appropriations for Sundry Civil Expenses of the Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1887, and for Other Purposes,” 49th Cong., 1st sess., in *United States Statutes at Large*, vol. 24, 239.

to consider the question of enlarging the existing plant and putting in a modern one, and the lighting was extended during the years 1889, 1890, and 1891. The latter year new dynamos were put in place. At this period the elevator machinery was rented from the electric-light company at the rate of \$200 per month.¹⁶ Each year the electric lights were used in a greater number of rooms until in 1895, when under the acts of March 3, 1893, and March 2, 1895, arrangements were made to purchase the machinery, and contracts were made with the Westinghouse company, who agreed to take out all the engines and dynamos of the original plant and replace them with modern low-tension machinery.¹⁷ They were to put in four direct-connecting engines and dynamos with a capacity of 1,250 16-candle-power lamps each. It was not until 1897 that electric lights were substituted for gas over the glass ceiling of the Senate and House of Representatives.¹⁸ This substitution prevented a constant source of trouble with the glass skylights, which, during cold weather, frequently cracked from the unequal heat caused by the cold on the outside and the great heat produced by the gas in the space beneath the roof.

¹⁶ "Annual Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol" [For the Fiscal Year Ended 30 June, 1889, 1890, and 1891], 3–4.

¹⁷ "An Act Making Appropriations for Sundry Civil Expenses of the Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1894, and for Other Purposes," 52nd Cong., 2d sess., in *United States Statutes at Large*, vol. 27, 591; and "An Act Making Appropriations for Sundry Civil Expenses of the Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1896, and for Other Purposes," 52nd Cong., 2d sess., in *United States Statutes at Large*, vol. 28, 935–936.

¹⁸ *Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol, together with Report of Prof. S. H. Woodbridge, relative to Improving Ventilation of Senate Wing of the Capitol, to the Secretary of the Interior, for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1897* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1897), 7–8.

Electric bells were first introduced in 1891, when they were put in the committee rooms and the offices, to ring in the House within easy hearing of the Doorkeeper.¹⁹ It was not until 1895 that electric bells were placed at each member's desk, with an annunciator in the cloakroom. Prior to this time pages were summoned by a member clapping his hands.²⁰

Another modern innovation was a complete system of plumbing and drainage, which was installed in 1893. There is nothing to show the character of the plumbing which was placed in the center building or in the wings from 1850 to 1860. The character of the closets and piping used at that period must have been extremely crude and decidedly lacking in sanitary qualities. The simple statement is made in various reports that water-closets, basins, and bath tubs were put in various places and moved from time to time. The original bath tubs put in the wings were cut from the solid marble. These were afterwards replaced by copper tubs, but later the marble tubs were reinstalled.²¹ These changes were made from time to time, whenever the committee thought it desirable to alter the location of the toilet rooms or when the space which they occupied was wanted for some other purpose.

Acting under instructions from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, George E. Waring and John S. Billings made reports on the drainage system of the Capitol May 28 and June 28, 1892. The execution of the recommendations contained in these reports was authorized by the sundry civil act of August 5, 1892, and a contract was made with the Durham House Drainage Company, of New York, for

¹⁹ "Annual Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol" [For the Fiscal Year Ended 30 June, 1891], 3.

²⁰ "Annual Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol" [For the Fiscal Year Ended 30 June, 1895], 3–4.

²¹ Marble tubs were installed only in the Senate wing (two of the tubs are still in place). See RG 40, Subject Files, Curator's Office, AOC.

drain, soil, and waste pipes for \$27,984.50, with W. H. Quick, of New York, for plumbing fixtures and marble work for \$36,475.01, and with H. I. Gregory, of Washington, for cooking fixtures for \$1,966.41. The tiling was contracted for by the square foot. This work was commenced August, 1892. The Durham system of wrought iron with screw joints and special fittings was used throughout for the pipe work. Each wing and the center building were provided with 8-inch galvanized-steel pipes suspended by iron straps in the brick sewer. Additional support was given this main by the branch lines which passed through and rested upon the brickwork of the sewer. Each of the main lines ran to a point beyond the trap of the sewer, and had a running trap of its own, with a fresh-air inlet on its upper side. In the Senate wing the 8-inch pipe continues to a point inside the main west wall of the building, where it receives a 6-inch branch which drains a large number of fixtures; beyond this point the pipe is reduced to 6-inch and later to 5-inch pipe. The main pipe in the center building and south wing are reduced in the same manner, in proportion to the waste matter which they receive. All the piping below the floor or in the cellar is of steel galvanized, and all exposed or accessible above the basement floor, continuing to the open ends above the roof, is of brass with screw joints. Where these pipes are visible they are run in single lengths, nickel-plated, and polished. Below the cellar floor the pipes were tested by hydraulic pressure and above the floor by pneumatic pressure of 10 pounds to the inch. All pipes which receive foul matter are extended full size to the roof, at which point they are enlarged and carried through the roof. Siphon (Dececo) closets were used. Grease traps were put on all sinks and anti-siphon traps on all other fixtures. No back venting was used in connection with the system. The following number of fixtures were put in: Wash basins, 174; bidets, 2; water-closets, 87; sinks, 25; urinals, 41; corridor sinks, 20; bath tubs, 16; drinking

fountains, 4; needle bath, 1; cellar-floor sinks, 41; vapor baths, 16; ice-box connections, 5. The work was completed October 1, 1893.²²

Repairs to and alterations of the Capitol have been continuously made, and will be so long as the nation lives and grows. When such alterations cease the nation will be on the decline.

Among the first changes introduced was the substitution of hot-air furnaces in place of open fireplaces in the old building, before the extension was commenced. These furnaces were gradually replaced by a steam heating apparatus. When the Library on the west was remodeled steam was put in this portion.

B. B. French, Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds, suggested, October 13, 1863, the installation of steam coils in place of furnaces to heat the Rotunda. In 1865, when the old Congressional

²²Information on the improvements made in reconstruction of the water, drainage, and sewer system of the Capitol may be found in a letter of July 1, 1893, by George E. Waring, sanitary engineer, reprinted in "Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol to the Secretary of the Interior, 1893" (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1893), 4–5. Waring and John Shaw Billings made reports on the drainage system of the Capitol on May 28 and June 28, 1892. Waring was an agriculturalist, public health official, and author of works on sanitary drainage, street cleaning, and waste disposal. Alexander Crever Abbott, a doctor of science and public health, was professor at the University of Pennsylvania and author of *The Principles of Bacteriology* (1892) and *The Hygiene of Transmissible Diseases* (1899). Waring and Abbott were assisted by John Shaw Billings, author of *Principles of Ventilation and Heating* (1886), who held various surgical posts in the United States Army from 1862 until his retirement in 1895. He was also a professor of hygiene at the University of Pennsylvania (1891), and was in charge of vital and social statistics for the Tenth Census (1890) and Eleventh Census (1900). Matthew C. Butler of South Carolina, Democratic senator, 1877–1895, submitted a resolution March 21, 1862, authorizing the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds to select two expert architects to make a thorough examination of the sanitary condition of the Capitol. The resolution was agreed to on March 22, 1892. The committee's report was submitted July 5, 1892 by George G. Vest of Missouri, Democratic senator, 1879–1903, and chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds in the Fifty-third Congress.

Library was enlarged on the north and south, the space was heated by steam. In 1867 the furnaces were removed from beneath the room occupied by the Court of Claims and the passages and halls of the sub-basement of the old building and steam introduced in their place. A similar change in the heating apparatus followed in the old Hall of Representatives and part of the Rotunda in 1869. In 1870 it was added to the northern half of the Rotunda and six committee rooms. Thus this gradual substitution of steam heat was carried on. Steam heating apparatus was placed in the galleries of the Supreme Court room in 1874. In 1876 the furnaces were all removed.

The roof of the old building, as well as of the extensions, was constantly causing trouble because of leakage in the covering, gutters, and skylights, necessitating almost yearly repairs from the beginning of the work to the present time. Another cause of constant change in the arrangement and fitting up of rooms in the Capitol has been the change of occupants and the increase of membership of the House, Senate, and Supreme Court, with the constant increase of committees, officials, and clerks. After the first session in the new House, the following resolution was passed: "The Superintendent of the Capitol Extension is directed, after the adjournment of the present session of Congress, to remove the desks from the House and make such a rearrangement of the seats of members as to bring them within the smallest convenient space."²³ To carry out this resolution it was necessary to reconstruct the floor and heat flues beneath the floor. New seats were arranged in concentric circles with aisles radiating from the Speaker's desk.

The report of John B. Blake, Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds, November 16, 1860, shows that the old Senate Chamber was

²³ Members complained that the House Chamber was too large and that they had to struggle to be heard. Benches replaced desks and chairs as a temporary measure in 1860. Some of this furniture is now in the Rotunda.

converted into a court room for the Supreme Court, the principal features being preserved; at the same time the Supreme Court room was fitted for a Law Library, the two being connected by a private stairway.²⁴

During this year two rooms were fitted up for the Court of Claims, and the naval monument was removed to Annapolis from its position at the head of the stairway on the west front of the Capitol.

In the years 1865 to 1867 the Library was extended so as to occupy all the west extension above the basement floor, and the old Hall of Representatives was retiled with marble.²⁵

During the year 1870 the stone stairway at the northeast corner of the building was taken out, the space in the basement being connected with the Law Library and in the principal story fitted up for the Attorney-General.²⁶

The depressed floor leading from the Rotunda to the old Hall of Representatives (Statuary Hall) was not raised to a level with the other floors until 1871.²⁷

The roofs and many of the partitions of the old building were of wooden construction when the Library was remodeled after the fire in 1851. This portion of the building was rebuilt of noncombustible material, and on its further extension in 1865 the fireproofing was carried on with the improvement. With few exceptions Mr. Clark has

²⁴ See "Report of the Commissioner of Public Buildings," in *Report of the Secretary of the Interior*, S. ex. doc. 2 (36-1), Serial 1023, 840-49.

²⁵ The floor of the House of Representatives was retiled in 1864. See "Annual Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol" [For the Fiscal Year Ended 30 June, 1865, 1866, and 1867], 3-5.

²⁶ "Annual Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol Extension" [For the Fiscal Year Ended 30 June, 1870], 3.

²⁷ "Annual Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol" [For the Fiscal Year Ended 30 June, 1871], 3-4.

recommended in each of his reports since 1873 fireproofing the whole of the old central building, taking occasion whenever improvements are made to fireproof the portion which is undergoing change.²⁸

By act of May 3, 1881, the gallery of the old House was made fireproof by removing the old wooden floor and joists and replacing them with brick and iron. The rooms beneath were fitted up as a document library.²⁹ During the same year the north part of the old building was reconstructed of noncombustible material as a document room for the Senate, and an iron stairway substituted for the wooden one. In the years 1883 and 1884 the roof of the colonnade in the old Hall of Representatives was made fireproof. The semicircular timber partition in the rear was removed and replaced by brick, and the timber ceiling was taken down and replaced by iron beams and brick arches, and the space fitted up with bookshelves. In the same years brick partitions were built in the crypt to accommodate the overflow from the Library.

In 1892 the Senate kitchen was extended under the pavement of the open court, and this, with the old apartment, was incased with glazed tile and brick and the whole supplied with an improved cooking outfit.³⁰ Coal vaults having a capacity of 800 tons were built under the pavement and the grass plat on the east of the building. The House restaurant was not enlarged until 1896.³¹

²⁸ "Annual Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol" [For the Fiscal Year Ended 30 June, 1873], 3–4.

²⁹ "An Act Making Appropriations for Sundry Civil Expenses of the Government, for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30th, 1882, and for Other Purposes," 46th Cong., 3rd sess., in *United States Statutes at Large*, vol. 21, 449.

³⁰ *Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol to the Secretary of the Interior*, 1893 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1893), 3.

On September 18, 1893, one hundred years after the corner stone of the original building was laid by George Washington, the centennial anniversary of that event was commemorated. The event was ushered in by all the bells of the city ringing centennial chimes. The procession moved from the Executive Mansion, with President Grover Cleveland escorted by orators, committees, distinguished guests, and United States and National Guard cavalry. Having the place of honor, next in line came Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, of Masons, from Alexandria, the lodge which had performed the Masonic ceremonies one hundred years before. Other Masonic and secret orders followed. Then came the different societies of the Revolution and Colonial Wars. These were followed by United States, District of Columbia, and Virginia troops and the procession of firemen from Washington and other cities.

A few minutes before 2 o'clock the United States Senate, preceded by its President, Sergeant-at-Arms, Secretary, and Doorkeeper, passed through the Rotunda to the grand stand on the east central portico. They were followed by the House of Representatives, preceded by the Speaker, Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Doorkeeper. When the members of the House had been seated President Cleveland was escorted to the platform by the Joint Committee of Congress.

The Right Rev. William Pinkney, bishop of Maryland, invoked the blessing of God upon the United States, after which a chorus of 1,500 voices, accompanied by the Marine Band, sang the "Te Deum." President Cleveland made a short address and William Wirt Henry made an elaborate oration. After this oration the chorus sang "The Star Spangled Banner."

Vice-President Stevenson, on behalf of the Senate, Speaker C. F. Crisp, on behalf of the House of Representatives, and Justice

³¹ *Report of the Architect of the United States Capitol to the Secretary of the Interior*, 1896 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1896), 3–4.

Henry Billings Brown, on behalf of the Supreme Court, made addresses. After addresses made by members of the committee the ceremonies closed by the singing of “America” by the chorus and thousands of the spectators.³²

A bronze tablet was placed on the southeast corner of the old Senate wing to commemorate this event, being above the point where the original corner stone was laid.³³ The following inscription was placed upon the tablet:

Beneath this tablet the corner stone of
the Capitol of the United States of America
was laid by

GEORGE WASHINGTON,

First President, September 8, 1793.

On the Hundredth Anniversary,

In the year 1893,

In the presence of Congress, the Executive and the Judiciary,
and a vast concourse of grateful people of
the District of Columbia commemorated the event.

Grover Cleveland, President of the United States.

Adlai Ewing Stevenson, Vice-President.

Charles Frederick Crisp, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Daniel Wolsey Voorhees, Chairman of Committee of Congress.

Lawrence Gardner, Chairman Citizens' Committee.

By virtue of an act approved June 11, 1896, S. H. Woodbridge designed alterations in the heating and ventilating apparatus of the Senate wing of the Capitol.³⁴ This work was carried into execution during the year 1897. The entire woodwork of the Senate Chamber floor

and gallery was removed and replaced by light iron framework, which was covered with an air-tight wooden floor. The space beneath the Senate and gallery floors was made into a plenum chamber. From these chambers the air was forced out at high velocities near the occupant of each desk, at points around the perimeter of the chamber, near the President's desk, and through the chair supports in the galleries. The high velocity of the air was reduced where it entered the chamber by large diffusing surfaces, 100 square inches being allowed for each.

³² For contemporary newspaper accounts of the centennial celebrations, see “A Century: The Capitol's Celebration Today,” *The Evening Star* [Washington, D.C.], September 18, 1893, 1–2; “One Century Gone: The Capitol's Centennial Fittingly Celebrated,” *The Washington Post*, September 19, 1893, 1–2; and “Reviewing a Century Past: Much Oratory and Music at the Capitol Building,” *The Washington Post*, September 19, 1893, 1; 5; 7.

³³ “Joint Resolution Providing for the Placing of a Tablet Upon the Capitol to Commemorate the Laying of the Corner Stone of the Building September 18, 1793,” 53rd Cong., 2nd sess., in “An Act Making Appropriations for Sundry Civil Expenses of the Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1895, and for Other Purposes,” in *United States Statutes at Large*, vol. 28, 581–582. A stone believed to be the cornerstone has recently been found located on the southeast corner of the South wing (Old House of Representatives, now Statuary Hall), which would be the southeast corner of the Old Capitol building.

³⁴ “An Act Making Appropriations for Sundry Civil Expenses of the Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1897, and for Other Purposes,” 54th Cong., 1st sess., in *United States Statutes at Large*, vol. 29, 432.