

SDSL's Cornerstone Newsletter

South Dakota State Library's e-newsletter

September 15, 2022

September Federal Publication - Designing the Nation's Capital

According to the book *Designing the Nation's Capital* (2007), "At the turn of the twentieth century, the U.S. Department of Agriculture was a bustling and crowded scientific enterprise... located on the Mall, with jurisdiction over the block between Twelfth and Fourteenth streets and what are now Independence and Constitution avenues... The department had long sought expanded and improved laboratory space, but it was not until 1901 that Congress approved funds to plan a new building."

The cost of the new building could not top \$2 million, though there was hope to secure more funds in future legislative sessions. The request was for the design to be a simple, fireproof construction that was "classic in character." Architecture firms fought for the winning design, dealing with hostility toward spartan building plans, dimensions, and building placement.

DESIGNING THE NATION'S CAPITAL

THE 1901 PLAN FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.



Designing the Nation's Capital
The 1901 Plan for Washington, D.C.
FA 1.2:W 27/5
OC#83818593

The South Dakota State Capitol in Pierre, SD, is similar in nature to the US Capitol Building, having wings and a rotunda.

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[Architect of the Capitol: US Capitol Building](#)

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The South Dakota State Library provides leadership for innovation and excellence in libraries and services to state government.

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