



# ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

## **Committee for the Preservation of the National Capitol Records11904570**

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 27, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical sketch .....	3
Summary .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Controlled Access Headings .....	4
Publication Date .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	5
Request Collection: Committee for the Preservation of the National Capitol Records, 1949-1958 .....	5

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Committee for the Preservation of the National Capitol
<b>Title:</b>	Committee for the Preservation of the National Capitol Records
<b>ID:</b>	11904570
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1949-1958
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.25 linear feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical sketch

---

The Committee to Preserve the National Capitol, chaired by Julian Berla, was established in 1957 after plans were proposed to Congress to rebuild the central portion of the East front of the United States Capitol and thereby altering the original facade designed by William Thornton and approved by George Washington in 1793. The Committee, a non-partisan organization of citizens, united to save the East central front of the Capitol from plans to "destroy the historical integrity and architectural beauty" of the building.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical sketch

---

In 1905, the firm Carrere & Hastings was requested by Congress to prepare plans for enlarging the Capitol. The firm recommended two schemes. The first "Scheme A" would extend the portico 12 feet forward. In "Scheme B" the portico would be extended approximately 32 feet. In August 1955, an Act established a Commission for the Extension of the States Capitol to carry out the "Scheme B" extension plan as well as additional alterations. Despite the Committee's efforts, the East central front of the Capitol was extended with construction ending in 1962.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Summary

---

Collection consists of correspondence, clippings, reports, press releases, memorandums, memos, meeting minutes, printed material, notes, financials, and one photograph. The collection is arranged alphabetically in two series: Committee Records and Reference material. Reference material includes printed booklets and copies of the Congressional Record recording the proceedings and debates of Congress.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

### Restrictions on Access

This collection is available for use by appointment in the Department of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University. For further information, please email [avery-drawings@library.columbia.edu](mailto:avery-drawings@library.columbia.edu).

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession number--1000.107.

### Processing Information

This collection was processed by Nicole Richard, Drawings & Archives Assitant in 2016.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- Architecture -- Washington (D.C.)

- Cultural property -- Protection -- United States
- Historic buildings -- Conservation and restoration
- Berla, Julian
- Thornton, William, 1759-1828
- Carrère & Hastings
- Committee for the Preservation of the National Capitol
- United States. Congress
- United States. Architect of the Capitol -- : Management
- United States Capitol (Washington, D.C.)

---

## Publication Date

---

1949-1958

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Collection Inventory

---

**Request Collection: Committee for the  
Preservation of the National Capitol Records,  
1949-1958**

item  
Request  
Collection

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)